

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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A Black Owned Publication**

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**The
Observation
POST**

Black businesses need support

The Bank of Finance, the only black-owned and operated bank in Los Angeles, has celebrated its seventh anniversary. The bank was founded in 1964 to serve the needs of residents of the Black community.

The bank has made over 100 Small Business Loans in the community to help promote black business. The Mortgage Investment Department is currently servicing approximately 800 real estate loans. The current assets are \$28 million, a growth of \$11 million in the last year.

Bank President, Edward E. Tillmon, said, "The first five years of any business are extremely difficult, and for a black business they are absolutely crucial. For the black business, especially a bank, community acceptance is always slow. Obtaining and maintaining qualified personnel is another major problem that plagues all banks, and, as we all know, without good, qualified help no bank can provide the type of service its customers want and deserve."

He attributes the bank's success to two factors. Many of America's larger corporations are becoming aware of their obligations to place funds in minority-owned banks so this money can be channeled into the black community. Also there is a growing awareness in the community that the only way black people will have a voice in the system is through the economic support and promotion of their own business.

Many black-owned businesses in Portland are having a difficult time financially. They often have higher overhead such as insurance costs, which are higher in the area where black businesses operate. They often are training their employees because blacks have not had educational and employment experience. They also are located in an area where many of their potential customers are unemployed or underemployed.

Black owned businesses could be helped through the tenuous first few years of operation by the investments and purchasing power of the large corporations and government, which could buy goods and services from them. They also could benefit from the interest and concern of customers who are willing to change their shopping habits to include black businesses, both those customers who are residents of the community and those from other parts of Portland who would go a little out of their way to help a new business get started.

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for the new 18-year-old
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Justice Denied

This article was written by Doris Krause, Sarah Scheuer, Florence Schroeder and Elaine Miller, the mothers of the four Kent State students killed by National Guardsmen May 4, 1970.

Last March President Nixon said justice delayed was not only justice denied but that it also was "justice circumvented, justice mocked, and the system of justice undermined." For eighteen months now we have patiently borne the emotional torment of losing our children to Ohio National Guard gunfire and witnessing the circumvention of justice by the attorneys general of the United States and Ohio.

This indefensible mockery of our judicial system by those charged with upholding the law has forced us to assume the distressing role of prosecuting attorney in behalf of our dear children's constitutional rights. Even in this financially costly forum justice has been denied by the dismissal of our complaints under the ancient doctrine of sovereign immunity. Nevertheless, we retain our faith in the judiciary. The denials, circumvention and mockery that justice has suffered in the "inexcusable" killing of our sons and daughters is not a reflection of any inadequacy in the judicial system but of the broadening intrusion into that system of political ideology.

Just last month our faith was justified by the 8th District Court of Appeals in Ohio when it upheld, in a 2-1 landmark decision, Arthur Krause's appeal against the dismissal of his suit charging the state with responsibility for the "wrongful death" of his daughter. The majority opinion held that "sovereign immunity cannot be supported in Ohio," and that denial of responsibility "for the tortious conduct" of the state's authorized agents "is unjust, arbitrary and unreasonable."

Despite the torment of the past year and a half we have managed to recognize a very human failing which, for too long, divided us and compounded our grief. The actions of our children on May 4th spanned the spectrum of student dissent from disinterest to involvement and we foolishly allowed ourselves to distinguish between walking to class and shouting an obscenity in terms of innocence and guilt, a failing we believe far too many Americans have revealed in their need to justify the killing of our children.

Observer's Intercom

Fifteen Black Muslim prisoners at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary have filed suit, charging discriminatory religious treatment and improper methods of judging alleged in-prison violations.

...

William T. King, who has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Nixon and other Republican candidates, will join the Democratic party and support Senator Edmund Muskie for the presidency.

Mr. King said, "If I were to sum up in one word my reason for supporting the senator from Maine as opposed to the President of the United States that one word would be Character. Mr. Muskie has it, Mr. Nixon does not."

Mr. King said the "last straw" leading to his defection was Mr. Nixon's proposal of Mildred Lillie and Herschel Friday for the Supreme Court, both of whom were found inadequate by the American Bar Association.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers, who are celebrating their one-hundredth anniversary, will perform at the John F. Kennedy Center of Performing Arts on December 2nd. The concert will be sponsored by the Afro-American Music Opportunities Association of Minneapolis.

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Civil Rights Commission raps Nixon

The U.S. Civil Rights Commission said President Nixon "has failed to develop and communicate to the public a sense of urgency over the need to end discrimination."

A 1970 survey found department heads and lesser government officials slow in starting civil rights programs in their own offices and weak on enforcement of civil rights policies.

In a follow-up study, the Commission found several federal agencies making progress but their over-all performance is lacking.

Of the 27 offices, agencies and departments surveyed, none was rated adequate. Only 15 were "marginal" and 13, including the White House, the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and the Veterans Administration, are doing a "poor" job.

The commission stated "The ultimate source for policy guidance... is the President White firm and unequivocal policy direction... is no guarantee of effective unit rights enforcement it is an essential precondition to vigorous... action."

The "net-effect" of the President's statement during the last six months - on housing, school busing and minority enterprise - "has not been to provide clear policy direction."

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Mississippi Blacks fail to gain control

Mississippi's grass-roots black political movement fell far short of its goals in the Nov. 2 general election. Blacks failed to bring a single Mississippi county under their control, to increase significantly the number of black local officials, or to add to their token representation in the state legislature.

Of 284 blacks who sought office on the local level, only 44 were successful, on the basis of incomplete returns. Twenty nine of those candidates beat white opponents, while 15 were unopposed for such offices as constable and justice of the peace. Blacks won only a handful of countywide offices.

Among the defeated were civil rights leaders Aaron Henry and Fannie Lou Hamer, and incumbent Claiborne County Chancery Clerk Geneva Collins. Among the few winners in the generally abysmal election were Robert Clark, the only black member of the state legislature, a black tax assessor and circuit clerk in Claiborne County, and a black corner in majority-white Clay County.

At this time, it is impossible to explain fully the lack of success, but a number of contributing factors may be cited:

• The white power structure

ran scared, campaigned harder than ever before in a general election, and turned out a larger percentage of the white vote than in any previous general election.

• Blacks were subjected to physical and economic intimidation, both before and during the election.

• Black candidates were denied certain rights and privileges, such as adequate number of poll watchers and challenges on election day.

• Many local slates of black candidates suffered from badly organized, under-financed campaigns.

• In some counties, such basic items as sample ballots listing the names of black office-seekers were not available.

• The campaign strategy that projected Charles Evers' candidacy as a mechanism for pulling out the black vote was unsuccessful.

Immediately after the election, Evers, and civil rights attorneys began investigating alleged abridgments of the rights of black voters and candidates in several majority-black counties, with an eye toward challenging those elections. The focus of the investigations is on Humphreys (continued p. 6 col 1)

Urban Homestead Act Urged

Sol M. Linowitz, Chairman of the National Urban Coalition, called today for the creation of an Urban Homestead Act that would give the people of America's inner cities the opportunity to create decent communities for themselves.

In an address presented before a dinner session at the Hotel Madison of the annual convention of the Public Relations Society of America, Linowitz called the inner city the nation's new frontier.

"I see the people living there as our real pioneers - brave, determined, angry men and women... who want to make out of the material of their destiny a place of self-respect, a home, a job, a neighborhood, a community."

Linowitz, former Chairman of Xerox Corporation and U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States, said that:

"Over a century ago we passed the Homestead Act to help open up new lands in the West by offering 160 acres or more of unoccupied land to those willing to work it... I think the time has come to offer a modern urban homestead opportunity to the pioneers of our inner cities."

He said the prime objective of an Urban Homestead Act would be to show the people of the nation's inner cities "that they can have a stake in carving communities for themselves out of the urban wilderness, and that we all have a very large stake in encouraging them to do so."

He noted the growing demands by public housing tenants for a greater voice in the management of public housing projects and called it imperative that the nation begin to meet these demands "in the only practical way possible - by enabling public housing tenants to take over more and

more of their own homes and neighborhoods."

"The abandonment of privately owned housing in the inner city, much of it basically sound, reflects the disintegration of this sector of our economic system," Linowitz said. "Yet, as a nation, we sit idly by, almost paralyzed by the speed of a cancer-like disease eating away the core of our cities. With clear evidence that private money is fleeing the central city, it is disturbing to see that public resources are dwindling at precisely the point when they are most needed to slow, if not reverse, this tide."

"In some cities we simply wait to take title to the abandoned property years later in an effort to liquidate the delinquent taxes. By that time the property is hopelessly vandalized and sold to the highest bidder, thereby throwing it once again onto the speculative land market."

"Clearly, something must be done to halt this depressing cycle of deterioration and speculation. Clearly, this is going to require investment in much improved municipal services, new home financing and property maintenance tools and new forms of ownership that will give residents a new stake and confidence in the viability of their neighborhoods," Linowitz said.

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