

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

**MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.**

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## The Editor's Desk

### Do your representatives represent you?

Three crucial votes were made in Congress during the week of December 16th.

President Nixon vetoed the bill extending the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) and authorizing a system of child care centers for low and middle income families. Children whose family income is low would have received free child care and others would have paid according to their income and family size. When the Senate attempted to override the veto, Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield voted against the veto, but Robert Packwood voted in favor of the veto.

The veto of the child care and OEO bill was welcomed by Representative Edith Green, who voted against the bill in the House. Mrs. Green, a Democrat, represents Albina and most of the low income areas of Multnomah County. She said she will never again vote to extend OEO. She called the child care program, which was designed to allow women to seek employment without jeopardizing their preschool children, "another case of reverse incentives". She said it would provide free child care for women on welfare but working mothers would have to pay.

But Representative Wendell Wyatt, a conservative Republican and a loyal supporter of the Nixon Administration, favored the child care bill and voted for it. About OEO he said, "I didn't think this was any time to disrupt the OEO program with unemployment what it is in Oregon and around the country."

The House of Representatives voted on a bill to extend Unemployment Compensation benefits. The bill would have allowed persons who have used their 26 weeks of regular benefits an additional 13 weeks in states where unemployment reaches a 6.5 per cent level. Oregon would have benefited from the bill, as would Washington and California.

Representative Green voted against the bill. Of Oregon's four representatives, only Representative Al Ullman voted for it. The Senate voted on the confirmation of William Rehnquist to the U. S. Supreme Court. He was opposed by the National Coalition on Civil Rights, the National Bar Association, the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Americans for Democratic Action and others including Senator Humphrey, Fulbright, McGovern, and Muskie.

Senators Mark Hatfield and Robert Packwood of Oregon voted for confirmation.

With elections coming in 1972, it is time to take a close look at the voting records of our representatives, both at the national and local levels.

Representative Edith Green has been elected again and again by Black People and by voters in low income and working class neighborhoods where there are heavy Democratic majorities. But how well does she represent those who elect her when she consistently votes against social programs which are designed to help the poor or the temporarily unemployed and when she joins with the Southern conservatives to stall desegregation and black rights.

Senator Mark Hatfield, a "liberal Republican" is also up for re-election this year.

Those persons elected on the state and local level seldom, if ever, present themselves to the people of Albina to determine how they can best represent our interests - even those who are elected specifically to represent this area. These people should not be returned to office simply because they have a familiar name or because they belong to the majority party.

## Conservatives control Supreme Court

When Richard Nixon was elected President of the United States, he promised to return the Supreme Court to a "strict Constructionist" philosophy. It is President Nixon's hope to reverse the humanist trend of the Warren Court which was responsible for far reaching decisions such as the school desegregation decisions and the broadening of legal rights to persons charged with a crime. Nixon has had the rare opportunity to appoint four Supreme Court Justices during his first term of office.

The liberal wing of the court has lost three seats, those held by Justices Warren, Fortas and Black. Nixon's conservative replacements are Chief Justice Burger, and Justices Blackman, Rehnquist and Powell. Already, even before the seating of Justices Rehnquist and Powell, the conservative trend is being felt.

The Supreme Court permitted a city to close its swimming pools rather than integrate them; low cost housing was kept out of a community; police were allowed to use illegally obtained confessions to discredit suspects.

Other important cases to be heard this session include: the legality of the death penalty, the legality of solitary confinement in prisons, anti-abortion laws, newsmen's right to protect their sources of information, and racial discrimination in private clubs.

Not only has the philosophy of the court become more conservative, but the judicial and intellectual caliber of its members has declined. The court has been discredited somewhat by the mediocrity of Nixon's appointees and his attempts to appoint Carswell and Haynsworth.

Civil rights and legal organizations do not have much hope for the decision of these important cases to favor the individual. They do not expect decisions that will further the cause of civil and human rights. Julian Bond said he believes the court will be cool to further demands for black rights and advised political organization as the solution for black grievances. Charles Morgan of the American Civil Liberties Union urged his organization to stop relying on the courts and to "get rid of Nixon and to obtain a new Supreme Court."

The end of 1971, but unlike the year, the war lingers on.



## WASHINGTON BRIEFS

The Congressional Black Caucus revealed that secret papers document official discussions that shaped the policy setting a ratio on the percentage of black service men sent to Iceland. Rep. Shirley Chisholm said the papers "show that racism has become institutionalized at all levels of the military."

Rep. Ronald Dellums said the caucus has been informed that the governments of West Germany, Greece and Turkey demand the same limitations on black GI's assigned to their countries.

The Defense Department has declined to comment on the documents. The Pentagon refused to release the number of blacks among the 3,000 servicemen stationed in Iceland.

The U. S. Food and Drug Administration admitted laws requiring declaration of use of artificial food coloring are seldom enforced against Florida oranges, red potatoes and sweet potatoes. The admission was made after allegations of three consumer groups that the agency was ignoring the law. It is believed that coloring used for citrus fruit is cancer producing.

## Observer's Intercom

A recent political survey by Sepia Magazine shows President Nixon running 7th in the field including all presidential candidates.

Senator Edward Kennedy is most popular with black voters, claiming 30% of the total. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey followed with 23%. New York City Mayor John Lindsay has 17%. Senator Muskie, still affected by his statements about a black Vice President, received 7% from those polled.

Senator George McGovern was 5th, with former Senator Eugene McCarthy and President Nixon both receiving 3%. Eight per cent were undecided.

Approximately 8 million blacks will vote in 1972 as compared to 6,300,000 in 1968. In the 1968 election, Richard Nixon received only 12% of the black vote.

A national conference on black health care criticized Nixon administration policies toward blacks and the poor. The conference, attended by 649 persons from 30 states at Meharry Medical College, opposed family planning as a means to control black population gains in a white society. It recommended child care programs instead.

The conference, which will be followed by task groups charged with carrying out the recommendations, criticized proposals to legalize marijuana as racist, recommended that care for the elderly be concentrated in the home and condemned the placing of the elderly in mental institutions.

Anti-American feeling is widespread in South Asia because of President Nixon's pro-Pakistan stance and his seeming insensitivity to the plight of the people of Bangla Desh. Being pictured in Washington as the aggressors, some Indians say, "He should read the American Declaration of Independence." Indians express disappointment that the U.S., a democracy, opposed the birth of a new nation under the leadership of India, Asia's most prominent democracy, while the Soviet Union supported India all the way.

## To Be Equal



VERNON JORDAN JR.

Africa is the invisible continent of American foreign policy, and it's about time we formulated a consistent policy of support for black African governments and liberation movements and withdrew our backing of colonialist powers and rump settler rule.

The British government recently announced that it reached agreement with the tiny white minority of 243,000 that rules over 5 million black Rhodesians who have no say in their country.

Black leaders have been jailed for their desire for independence and majority rule, and the black majority has been ruthlessly confined to poverty in laboring, farming, and servant's jobs.

The new agreement provides for independence, a new constitution, and more black representation in Parliament, but the catch is that blacks will have to meet financial and property qualifications to get the vote.

Ultimately, there would be a 50-50 white-black split in Parliament, and then the possibility of majority rule will be considered, but it will be subject to a white veto.

That the whole deal is a dodge to provide a veneer of constitutionality for continued white supremacy is made clear by the Rhodesian premier's statement that "they (blacks) will not be in control then and I don't believe they will be fit to be in control."

He couldn't say what the situation would be "in 100 years' time or 1,000 years' time."

Southern Africa is a powder keg that is bound to blow up in not too many years.

## Couples may face Tax Trap

For working couples, the income tax withheld from their paychecks this year falls far below their actual 1970 tax liability. The gap is much bigger than ever before at nearly every level of income.

It's so big, in fact, that the Administration is worried about the consequences - both political and economic - when unsuspecting couples find they must pay hundreds of dollars to the Treasury next spring. It could be a blow to the business recovery. And it could hurt politically in an election year.

The White House reportedly has asked the IRS to figure out some way to ease the impact, but there haven't been many bright ideas so far. Tax legislation, now working its way through Congress, will give a little help by raising the personal exemption retroactively for 1971.

But that won't help much, considering the size of the tax gap. A Washington certified public accountant did a little anticipatory pencilwork, and came up with these findings:

- Assume two children and income of \$300 a week for the husband and \$150 for the wife: They will have to write a check to the Treasury for \$923 on April 15.

- A childless couple in which the husband earns \$400 a week and the wife \$200 a week will come up against the deadline owing \$2,191.

At higher income levels the withholding never has come very close to matching the actual tax liability. Now the discrepancy exists for lower income families; it is mainly because of the Low Income Allowance which took effect this year.

The allowance excuses many persons from paying any tax at all, but there's a quirk in it which can penalize other taxpayers if they are unwary. The allowance is available to married couples only if they file joint returns, and each couple gets only one allowance.

But the tax-withholding tables which IRS supplies to employers are figured on the basis of one allowance per worker. Throughout the year, therefore, the paychecks of husband and wife reflect two allowances. When the tax day of reckoning comes, they are entitled to only one allowance and have to pay the difference.

## Crime's a problem in small Towns, Too

A national magazine recently pictured the travail of residents of the country's biggest city, showing how they have been forced literally to imprison themselves in their apartments behind barred windows and double-, triple- or quadruple-locked doors.

Even so, most of them have experienced break-ins despite their most elaborate precautions.

At about the same time, a newspaper in the same city described the problems of the residents of one fashionable street in the East 70s - specifically, the problem of finding parking spaces for their cars, as well as finding the cars themselves if they were left unwatched for any length of time.

New York, fortunately, is unlike any other place in the country. Yet the crime problem its citizens must contend with, while larger than that of any other city simply because New York is larger, is the same kind of crime problem more and more Americans are beginning to worry about and to know first-hand, even in small towns.

And there is a very startling truth which can be read between the lines in both these articles:

Just as there must be two dishonest people for any confidence game to work--the con man and his greedy victim--those who pillage apartments or steal cars or hijack trucks or rob stores would be stuck with their goods, which they really have no use for, were there not someone willing to buy their merchandise at an attractive discount.

For instance, one of the car owners in the newspaper article had two hubcaps stolen. He was advised to let it be known that he was in the market for two replacements, and he would have done so except that thieves would steal his two remaining hubcaps and try to sell them back to him.

Unlike confidence-game crimes, however, there is usually a third party involved in robbery and burglary--the fence, who is the middleman between the criminal and the supposedly honest citizen.

Throw in crooked cops, incompetent judges and revolving-door prisons and you have the ingredients of what is called the "crime problem."

How much simpler it would be if all we had to worry about were the criminals.

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