

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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A Black Owned Publication**

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The Editor's Desk

Another successful year in Vietnam

Every year for six years the White House has assured the American people that during the next year an objective would be reached in Vietnam. The objectives change from year to year. Now the message is that our troops are being withdrawn and the casualty rate will reach zero in 1972. In 1970, Americans invaded Cambodia, chasing an enemy that either had not been there or that had fled. In 1971 the South Vietnamese, funded by the U.S., invaded Cambodia.

There is no legitimate government in Cambodia now and none in Laos. This year the government of Thailand became a dictatorship. At one time our goal was to produce a democratic government in South Vietnam, but the October election ended that dream and it was followed by a statement by the President of the United States that the U.S. will not tolerate the overthrow of the dictatorship that rules South Vietnam.

Legality and truth fare little better in this country than in the war zone. The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to consider the legality of the war. The U.S. Senate has made feeble attempts to limit the President's war-making powers, but the President has said he will ignore any mandate from Congress that sets an ending date for the war.

At home the government continues to invade the privacy of and to harass war resisters including elected officials and to investigate reporters and others who attempt to reveal the history of the war.

The President promised an increased air war in Southeast Asia. Renewed bombing of North Vietnam took place this week. The Pentagon said the bombings were in retaliation for North Vietnam's violations of "understandings". The so-called understandings, that have not been acknowledged by Hanoi, were that U.S. reconnaissance planes would not be fired on, that shelling of South Vietnamese cities would be halted, that Hanoi would stop infiltrating troops through the demilitarized zone and that Hanoi negotiate meaningfully in Paris.

How long would we allow a country with which we were at war to send reconnaissance planes over our territory to check our movements and supplies before we would respond by attempting to destroy them? If an invader occupied territory we consider to be part of our nation, would we agree to stop attempting to liberate our cities?

At a time when the President talks about getting out of Vietnam and having concern only for the prisoners of war held by North Vietnam, we are adding to the number of these prisoners.

Two scientists who visited Vietnam revealed that the Air Force is using a new bomb that kills every living creature, including plant life, within 3,280 feet. It has been used to destroy personnel as well as to clear land. The two scientists said the weapon "provides a concussive blast surpassed only by that of a nuclear bomb."

And what is to be accomplished by these bloody raids? Enemy action is increasing and military analysts are talking about a new enemy offensive.

As another year comes to an end, the Administration tells us that we have come through a triumphant year and are heading to another - another year of war and blood abroad and of deceit and decay at home.

Notice

The Observer's official position is expressed only in its Publisher's Column (The Observation Post) and the Editor's Desk. Any other material throughout the paper is the opinion of the individual writer or submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer.

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C. Don Vann

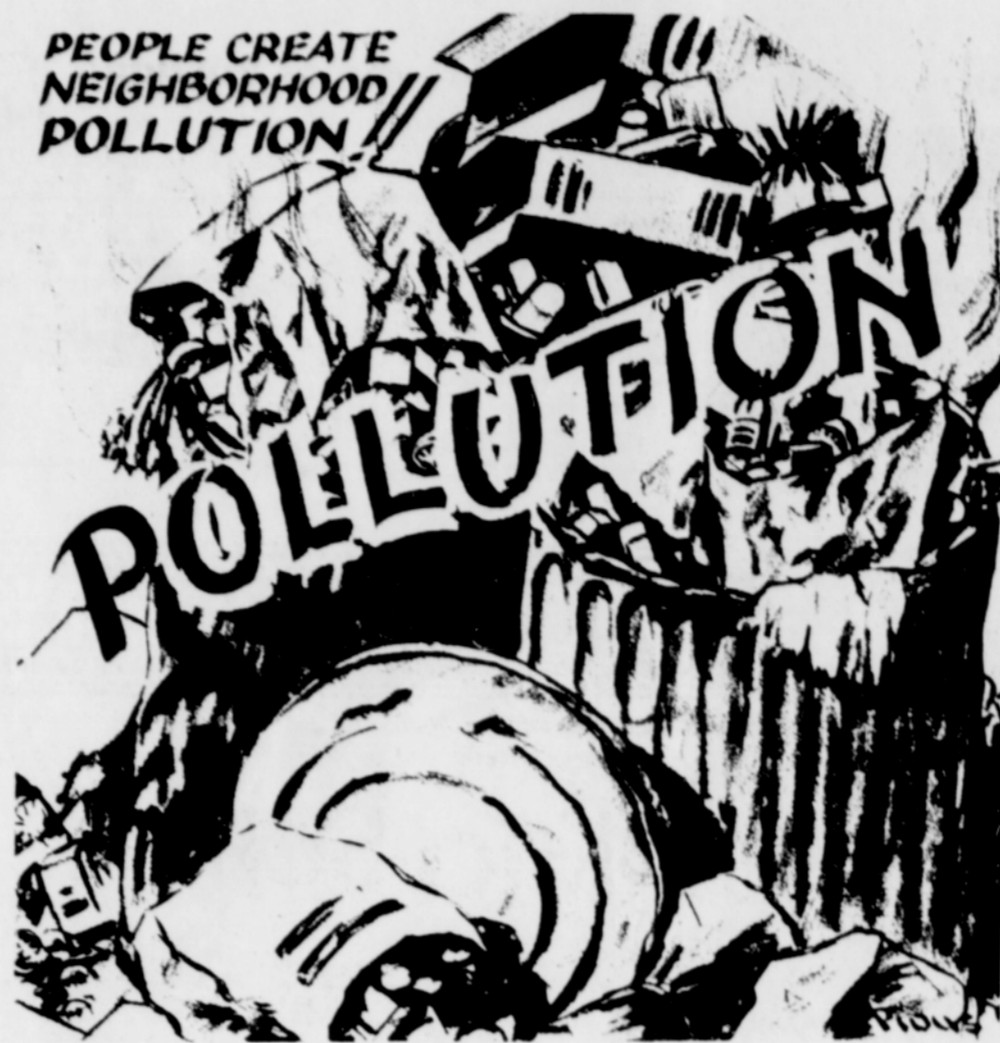
VANN'S

MORTUARY

5211 N. Williams Avenue 281-2836

Portland, Oregon

PEOPLE CREATE NEIGHBORHOOD POLLUTION



Fight pollution—use wind

Wind is overlooked as a source of power. On the high desert in Eastern Oregon stand abandoned windmills, a reminder that wind once was and could again become an important source of energy.

It is strange that wind should have passed from the scene as a source of energy, for it meets most of the modern-day requirements. It is abundant. It is cheap. It is clean. America today demands increased production of electricity. At the same time, environmentalists object to new power plants because of the dangers of pollution. Use of wind could satisfy the demands of both.

In the early 1940's, the federal government financed experiments in utilization of wind power to generate electricity. It was the conclusion of these studies that wind turbines could produce electricity on an efficient and economical basis.

Although the findings have never been implemented, they assume new importance in light of the nation's current energy crisis. Wind turbines could supplement other forms of electrical production, providing the country with the energy it needs while doing little or no harm to the environment.

Perhaps this is a matter on which producers and environmentalists alike can collaborate.

President Nixon and working mothers

by Dr. Benjamin E. Mays

President Nixon has vetoed the child development program. The Senate voted 63 for and 17 against. The House voted 210 for the child care program and 186 against. In essence this bill, if the President had not vetoed it, would have provided child care for the children of all working mothers: Free day care for the poor and the middle income people would pay according to their income. It is this bill that the President vetoed. It may be the President vetoed this bill partly because the Congress has not approved his re-organizational plan to change the structure of welfare.

This child development program proposed by Congress had attracted unusually broad support from labor, religious groups, women's liberation and public interest groups. The advocates of this bill and the senators and representatives who voted for it argued that such support was a necessary response to the great change in our society resulting from the large number of women who must work - not only the poor but the middle class women as well.

In vetoing the bill, the President pointed out that he had a \$750-million day care component in his welfare reform plan. And yet I do not believe that the President's arguments against the bill are convincing. The initial cost of \$2-billion would not have been excessive and that the bill would soon call for \$20-billion a year was largely an assumption.

The President's reference to bureaucratic control probably meant that the state and local governments should be administering such a program rather than the Federal gov-

ernment. However, a wide variety of public and non-profit agencies would have been involved in the program approved by the Congress. The weakest argument the President put forth was the charge that the family ties between parents and children would be weakened. He spoke of his desire to enact a welfare reform whose objective would be to bring the family together. To quote the President: "This child development program appears to move in precisely the opposite direction."

I think the following quotation from an editorial in "The New York Times" of Dec. 11 is an adequate rebuttal to the President's charge:

"The President's charge that day care weakens the family ignores the realities of much of modern family life. Poor and working-class families normally have to leave their children improperly supervised or entirely unattended for much of the day; families at virtually all other income levels rely heavily on baby-sitters and, in the upper brackets, on a variety of domestic help."

Mr. Nixon is right in raising the question about the availability of trained people. But this is hardly a just criticism because much of the \$2-billion for the first year of the program would be used to train people to handle to train people to handle the program.

I cannot accept the President's views that the plan is too costly, that it is administratively unworkable, that professionally we are ill-prepared for the program, and that the bill passed by Congress will undermine the American family. This bill would have been a fine Christmas present for the poor.

Observer's Intercom

Polsom Prison officials have been accused of locking black prisoners, including Black Panther Party Chief of Staff David Hilliard, in "dark, dingy" cells because of their political beliefs. A petition filed in District Court in San Francisco said eleven black inmates have been punished for "vague offenses."

The American Anthropological Association repudiated statements appearing in the U.S. that Negroes are biologically and mentally inferior to whites.

WASHINGTON BRIEFS

Russia will aid Bangladesh with trade and will send technical advisors. The Soviet Union will supply cotton for Bangladesh cotton mills and will attempt to revive the jute industry.

Conservative Republican Representative John Ashbrook of Ohio announced that he will run for the presidential nomination in the New Hampshire and Florida primaries as a protest against Nixon's "leftward drift".

President Nixon said his most important decision of 1971 was to open communications with the People's Republic of China.

Senator William Proxmire (Dem. - Wis.) said he was forced to cancel hearings of the Senate-House Committee on Unemployment because the Nixon Administration declined to send any witnesses. He said, "I'd be reluctant to appear also, if I had to defend the kind of record this Administration has made."

Eugene McCarthy, presidential candidate, urged the resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba. He also said, "I think the Democrats could pick a black man or a Spanish-American for Vice President."

Mrs. Ruth V. Washington, a black woman from New York, was appointed to the 14 member Federal Advisory Council on Unemployment Insurance. The Council will make recommendations for changes or improvements to the Secretary of Labor.

To Be Equal

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.



VERNON JORDAN JR.

The bright lights of Christmas are shining. The season of faith, hope and trust is upon us. But there seems to be a flagging of faith, a lessening of hope, and a growing mistrust abroad in this great land.

A number of surveys taken last spring and summer confirm the divisions and loss of optimism among the American people. Another, issued by University of Michigan researchers last month finds this trend continuing. It says there is "a massive erosion of the trust the American people have in their government." Barely 40 percent of the people surveyed believe that the government is run for the benefit of all people and not just for "big interests looking out for themselves."

Even the most optimistic among us would be hard put to argue with those results, especially after some recent actions such as the granting of hit tax benefits to corporations at the same time that a massive child development program was vetoed.

Christmas is considered to be a time for children, but this year children join poor people, the elderly and jobless veterans as part of the huge numbers of forgotten Americans. This is indeed the Christmas of the Forgotten.

The child development program was part of a broad package of anti-poverty legislation. It would have set up a nation-wide system of day care service centers run by parents and neighborhood groups. The children of the poor would have been assured of nutritional and educational benefits. Their parents, especially their mothers, would be free to re-enter the labor force.

Many families, now threatened by financial stress, would be better able to cope with their problems and hold to-

gether. The day care centers would have been integrated facilities, because the federal government would have paid the costs for the poor while other families would be charged reasonable amounts. There are now some 11 million working mothers, and nearly half have pre-school children. But the lack of nursery schools and day care centers, and the high costs of those that do exist, mean that very few children get the kind of care they should have.

So it's a lean Christmas for America's children. Elderly people too, constitute a formidable portion of the country's forgotten men and women. The black elderly have three strikes against them - they are black, they are old, and they are disproportionately poor.

Half of elderly black live in poverty - about double the percentage for older white people. Higher social security payments will not help many blacks. Life expectancy for black males is only 60 years, meaning that the average black man will not live long enough to collect the retirement benefits he's paid for all his working life.

And the young men back from Vietnam also constitute a large part of the forgotten. They were asked to fight a war no one wants. They're coming back from the battlefields now to find that the country that sent them 10,000 miles to fight, doesn't have jobs for them now.

Their unemployment rate is far higher than the rest of the country's workers. Is their plight due to the national distaste for the war, or is it due to what seems to be a total lack of human concerns in our policy-making?

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