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PORTLAND OBSERVER

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A Black Owned Publication**

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the Portland Observer will be cheerfully corrected upon being brought to the attention of the Editor.

The Editor's Desk



Racism in Oregon

OSU gets caught

On December 9th, the Portland Observer predicted that the universities and colleges in the Oregon State System of Higher Education would soon be in difficulty with the federal government because of discrimination in hiring and the lack of black students and employees. Oregon's colleges have long had the reputation of unfriendliness toward blacks and other minorities.

Less than a month later, Oregon State University was charged by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare with discrimination against minorities and against women. Explicit in the charge is the threat of withdrawal of millions of dollars in federal education and research grants if the matter is not corrected immediately.

This comes at a difficult time for OSU because budget cuts are forcing the layoff of many faculty and staff members. It behooves public institutions to take a look at themselves and put their houses in order before a crisis situation develops.

Is Welfare racist?

Among the many other state institutions that require some looking into is the Welfare Department, much of which is now the Children's Service Department.

The federal government requires all agencies receiving federal money to make an affirmative effort to recruit and upgrade minority people. This is not being done by the Welfare Department. At the present time there are in Multnomah County, 1 black administrator, 2 black social workers, 1 black case-worker, 2 black assistance workers and 1 investigator. One of the assistance workers is leaving the county to accept a supervising position which was denied to her in Multnomah County. The administrator and the two social workers have masters degrees, the caseworker has a BA and fifteen years experience.

Qualifications for these positions are not so stringent as the statistics might indicate - four years of college for the caseworker position, high school and two years experience in related fields for the assistance worker. Ninety-six positions will be available in the near future - about 75% for assistance workers. What will be the excuse for hiring all whites this time?

A short time ago 14 investigators were sent to investigate all ADC recipients in the Model Cities area - this intense investigation was happening nowhere else in the state. Members of the Welfare Rights Organization called on Jacob Tanzer, director of the Department of Human Resources and the investigation was called off.

Operation of the welfare system is for the convenience of the administration and not for the client - whether black or white. A new office is opening to serve residents of the Southeast area. It will be housed in the Oregonian Building, downtown. When the administration was asked if they had thought about putting the office in Southeast Portland - no they had not.

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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OPER

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The Trimline Telephone

Pacific Northwest Bell



Look Who's Trying to Save Money

WASHINGTON BRIEFS

The administration will tell protesting Senators that it has no intention of changing new food stamp regulations to avoid cuts or loss of benefits to some recipients.

Twenty-eight Senators urged agriculture Secretary Earl Butz to make sure there would be no cutbacks. The new nationwide standard makes couples eligible if they receive \$222.00 or less a month, and the eligibility ceiling for a family of 4 is \$360 a month.

A black correspondent, Samuel F. Yette, who was fired by Newsweek filed complaints charging the magazine with racism and denial of free speech and press. He alleged Newsweek was guilty of "incipient racism" through his four years with the Washington bureau.

Rep. Paul McCloskey (R-Calif.) said he will introduce legislation to force federal officials such as J. Edgar Hoover to retire at age 70 or lose all benefits.

Absentee Senators "Greatest Disgrace"

Republican Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine said the Senate's "greatest disgrace" is the absenteeism of members who are away campaigning, lecturing, or simply junketing. She called for a Constitutional amendment designed to keep her colleagues on the job. The amendment would require automatic expulsion of any senator not present and voting on record roll-call votes 50 per cent of the time. Following are excerpts of Sen. Smith's indictment:

The United States Senate is in trouble. It is because growing numbers of its members no longer regard it as a high institution for dedicated and honorable service but rather only as a means to an end. It has become a mere spring-board to those who would use it - even abuse it - for their selfish interests, whether such interests be commercializing their position and title with the acquisition of high-price lecture fees or running for President.

I have no criticism of Presidential aspirations as long as those Presidential aspirations do not result in dereliction of Senate duties in representation of state and national constituencies. After all, having been a Presidential candidate in 1964, who am I to criticize Presidential ambitions? Yet, I never missed a Senate roll-call vote while I was running

for President.

A greater cause of Senate debilitation comes from the Senate "moonlighters" who regard the Senate as strictly secondary to their money-making activities in being offered high-paid lecture fees simply because they are senators. As the Republican dean of the Senate recently said, "being paid \$2,500 for \$50 speeches..."

Too many senators have chronic absences because they are on the lecture tour piling up annual lecture incomes that even exceed their Senate salaries - sometimes even doubling their Senate salaries. Their absences not only openly retard and postpone the progress of Senate business because of the difficulty of getting the necessary quorum present to do business - but as well, behind the scenes unduly delay the Senate schedule. Because repeatedly they go to the majority leader or the minority leader and beg them to call off a vote scheduled for a certain day simply because they can't be there as they are making a high-paid lecture hundreds of miles from Washington.

So the Senate procrastinates for the convenience of "the moonlighters." And what happens on the Senate floor, to a lesser degree, happens behind the scenes in the Senate committees.

In addition... there are those senators who are bent

upon squeezing out every bit of Senate-paid world travel ahead of the official duty to which they were elected. And they, too, ask the majority leader and the minority leader to hold off votes until they return from their world junketing at taxpayers' expense...

Why then doesn't the Senate do something about "absenteeism" instead of piously wringing hands?

Because the Senate is a club of prima donnas intensely self-oriented - 99 kings and 1 queen - dedicated to their own personal accommodation.

Observer's Intercom

Three top black legislators in California are supporting Sen. George McGovern for the presidency. They are Willie Brown, Jr.; Leon D. Ralph; and John Miller, who is the chairman of the California Black Legislative Caucus. Mrs. Coretta King is supporting Sen. Muskie.

Cincinnati will get its first black major next year when former OEO Administrator Ted Berry takes office. The charter Democratic Majority Coalition, The Cincinnati City Council elected four mayors, with Thomas Luken (white) to serve during 1972 and Berry to serve during '73.

Nearly half of Manila's elementary school pupils are classed as "severely undernourished."

A health department survey showed 43 per cent weighed less than two-thirds of the normal weight for their ages. Nearly all the others were undernourished to some degree.

Eugene McCarthy won his fight to enter the Illinois primary election without signing a non-Communist loyalty oath which he called "clearly unconstitutional."

"Sunday's Child", singing trio from Portland, joined Bob Hope on his annual Christmas show that entertained servicemen abroad.

Mayor Richard Hatcher was named chairman of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials at its annual meeting held in Honolulu during the annual Congress of Cities. Hatcher and Los Angeles Councilman Tom Bradley were elected to the 35 member board of directors of the National League of Cities.

The number of Blacks holding high school diplomas increased during the decade of 1960 - 1970. The proportion of blacks 20 years old and over having finished high school was up nearly two-thirds, from 24% to 39.7%.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I wish to appeal to your readers for support in what could be one of the most important and reassuring developments in the history of this nation - the peaceful and democratic revolution that is taking place in the American South. If it continues, some of the great injustices of this society can be eradicated, and this country can take a needed step toward its ideals. Your readers can help bring this about.

During the 1960's, black Americans in the South made remarkable gains in their struggle for the right to participate meaningfully in the political process. Registration of black voters more than doubled. The number of black elected officials increased over six-fold. And many white officials began to display greater sensitivity to black constituents.

These are extremely important accomplishments, but the goal of a truly representative government is still distant. If we fail to realize how incomplete this movement is now and do not attend to the remaining needs, the accomplishments thus far may turn out to be empty achievements. We must not allow this to happen. All of us who are concerned about the health and justice of this society must support this movement and see that its promise is fulfilled.

The Voter Education Project has been one of the prime forces in this movement.

Since 1962 it has worked to increase political participation throughout 11 Southern states. The Voter Education Project has assisted in over 1,000 voter registration drives in local communities throughout the South. VEP has also sponsored citizenship education programs for newly registered voters. And it has assisted newly elected black officials throughout training workshops, legal and technical consultation, and internship programs.

In September, the Voter Education Project had to suspend its registration programs because of the shortage of funds. Even though more than 100 projects had been supported in 1971, over 50 communities were applying for assistance when the program was suspended.

Please join in support of this crucial movement toward a more democratic society. Your contribution to the Voter Education Project, Inc. is tax deductible. It would be a marvelous way to start out the New Year on the right foot.

REP. JULIAN BOND (IND-GA)
FOR THE VOTER EDUCATION PROJECT
52 FAIRLIE ST., N.W.
ATLANTA, GA. 30303

Dear Editor,

Some feel that all too much has been made of the issuance of a "postage stamp" by the Independent Postal System of America.

No one denies John Doe has the right to deliver non-addressed advertising matter as long as it is not left in or on the mail box.

The claim by IPSA that it operates a "post office" is absurd. They cannot sell U.S. postage stamps. They cannot register or certify a letter. The public cannot rent of post office box from IPSA. They will not forward your mail when you move. They are simply an advertising deliverer.

The U.S. Postal Service performs many services besides delivery of mail.

They register aliens, sell federal duck-hunting stamps, help conduct the census, help with crop and livestock reporting, provide address correction service for business and governmental agencies and perform housing and occupancy surveys.

The postal service provides free letter mail service for the armed forces in Vietnam as it has done in all wars.

Many things in life cannot and should not be reduced to dollars and cents. The postal service we created to perform these and many other services, many without charge, for the public and not solely to make a profit.

Many of us feel that the postal service employees are public servants and that they deliver mail to people, not houses.

Charles Hudson

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