

# Religion in the News

## Black churchmen challenge Administration of Benign Neglect

The Africa Commission of the National Committee of Black Churchmen calls upon all concerned people to understand, challenge and struggle against the Administration of Benign Neglect in the ghettos, suburban as well as urban, of America. The responses must be made from every level and segment of the population including the church. The Africa Commission of the National Committee of Black Churchmen recognizes that if a religion lays stress on human values, upon honesty in commercial relations, love, freedom, and the equality of opportunity, it will be helpful to growth of a people. If it is hostile to these values it is hostile to human life and unworthy of the name "religion."

In an era which finds the church on the wane, especially among young people; in a time when the church is supporting apartheid in South Africa; in a time when the church is a willing partner of government in the suppression of millions of people around the world; N.C.B.C. calls upon the churches of America to close ranks and to declare their allegiance and support for the crowning achievements of humanity, love, freedom, peace, happiness and abundant life which Christ came to bring.

We are now witnessing the waning of the church. Can religion admit the existence of a sharp antithesis between personal morality and the practices which are permissible in business? Does the idea of a Christian church involve the acceptance of a particular standard of social ethics? Should not the church enforce such an ethic among the obligations incumbent upon its members? These questions present the most pressing problems of our time.

The Book of Revelations speaks of Armageddon or the apocalyptic struggle between good and evil. The forces of both sides are busy today positioning themselves for the battle. The evil forces will be known by several names, among them are the Haves,

Rich, Oppressors, and Racists. The battle will be the scene of terrible retribution upon a faithless church as well as a sinful world.

It is possible that the ultimate tragedy may be delayed, speeded up, altered, or transformed by new programs of church involvement. It is clear that the belly comes before the soul, not in the scale of values, but in point of time. Churchmen of America: "We are part of the problem or part of the solution." The decision rests with us. Groups and individuals denying the human rights of others can claim none themselves. Once the oppressed have set themselves to liberation goals, nothing, not even the church can stop them.

The grim reality in 1972 for Black people in America is to be seen in the continuing policy of colonialism and neo-colonialism in Africa and its relationship to the muzzling of the drums of freedom on that continent. It involves an understanding of the indivisibility of African people around the world. It involves the understanding that Attica and Sharpsville are caused by the same forces. It involves an understanding that Marks, Mississippi and Namibia are exploited by the same forces. It involves an understanding that the forces that murdered El Haj Malik and Lumumba are the same. It involves the understanding that the backbone of the American dollar is the bloodstained, down-trodden shoulders of the people of Harlem, Selma, Latin America, South America, Asia and Africa. It is because of this reality that the African Commission of the National Committee of Black Churchmen calls upon all concerned people to raise the cry of African Liberation and to support the movements against colonialism, apartheid and neo-colonialism.

Therefore we call upon all people of good will in America to demand that the American Government implement the vaunted humanism of its Declaration of Independence,

its Constitution and the United Nations Charter on Human Rights by:

1. Calling for an end to the sugar quota for South Africa and other forms of economic support for that apartheid government.
2. Taking the initiative in calling for a United Nations Task Force to drive South Africa out of Namibia.
3. Repealing the Chromium Ore Agreement with Rhodesia.
4. Denouncing and rejection of the Home-Smith Agreement.
5. Cancelling the proposed \$437 million loan to Portugal.
6. Extending the minimum wage and other domestic worker benefits to foreigners who work for American corporations abroad.
7. Beginning now to pay reparations for the slavery of African people into a general fund for the liberation and development of the colonial possessions presently being fought for by the African movements.
8. Withdrawing immediately all its military personnel and armaments from Vietnam, Southeast Asia and Africa.

The echoes of history and the drift of domestic and international politics of the United States Government compel African people in America to make a profound decision about the destiny of our people and to challenge this nation to redress the grievances of oppressed peoples throughout the world who have been directly and indirectly victimized by American racism and imperialism.

Close ranks in 1972. We are an African People.

Contact: Rev. Maynard L. Catchings (212) 870-2056 or Rev. Metz Rollins (212) 862-9628.

Philadelphia Proclamation of 1972 of the African Commission of N.C.B.C.  
40 East 125th Street, Room 503  
New York, New York 10035

## Hunter featured at Zodiac Tea

By Jeraldine Bright, Chairman Public Relations, First AME Church, Seattle, Wash.

The Zodiac Tea Committee and members of First Church are aiming for an all time high this year: spiritually, financially, culturally, and mentally. Yes, the mental processes are at work. Matter of fact they are in very high gear (for the high goal).

All that is centered around the Zodiac is ecstatic and catching on throughout the church and the community. Our chairman, Mrs. Valie Monroe is asking for \$15,000 and the membership are making a tremendous sacrifice in a depressed economy. But remember, the possibilities of a vital and dramatic Christian Witness by this great church are unlimited.

First of all the church is an organism, requiring organizational techniques, and these techniques are being used to their greatest potential. First Church's Zodiac Tea is the highlight of the year in the beautiful evergreen state. First of all it highlights worship, service, fellowship, and stewardship and finally the opening of the Spring Fashion Season in the Pacific Northwest. Therefore to do these things we aim our efforts. Thus a high degree of teamwork is necessary. The twelve months of the year are represented by a chairman and committee of workers born in the respective months, in strong competition in fund raising and decorating according to the Zodiacal Sign. The chairmen are chosen by the members of their month.

When we understand our budget and the operations of the General Church (support of colleges, hospitals, mission outreach, etc.), then we find that the \$15,000 is a meager fund, considering that some



Dr. Richard C. Hunter

\$7,000 goes toward our assessment to the General Church alone.

Our guest is the Dr. Richard Hunter, Dr. Hunter is the Assistant Superintendent of the Central Region Schools, of Seattle, Washington. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska, received his M.A. from San Francisco State, and

his Doctorate from the University of California.

Dr. Hunter has a rich history in the progress of quality education as well as many other accomplishments. He has proved to be an asset to our community, and First Church is pleased and proud to sponsor him in introduction and our presentation.

## YWCA, YMCA join Project Equality

Portland YMCA and YWCA have both joined Project Equality of the Northwest, according to Mary Ann Buchanan, state coordinator for the program.

Project Equality seeks to use the purchasing power of religious institutions to bring

about equal employment opportunity for racial and other minority groups.

More than 100 Pacific Northwest organizations have joined and have promised to purchase goods and services from firms which are practicing equal-employment opportunity.

Mrs. Buchanan said that most of the major church judicatories in the Northwest have joined Project Equality, and that the emphasis is now on securing participation by church-related institutions.

In announcing YWCA participation, Mrs. Raymond Vester, President of the Board of Directors, said "As a participating member, the YWCA would urge those companies which they do business with to subscribe to equal opportunity practices. This action is in accord with The One Imperative: The Elimination of Racism, which is a national YWCA priority and was accepted as such by the Portland YWCA Board of Directors."

## Catholic Church forms committee on Human Relations

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland (Western Oregon) announces the formation of a Committee on Human Development, composed of poor or recently poor people nominated from the parishes and communities across Western Oregon. The Committee's main assignment will be to solicit proposals for self-help projects from the area's poor and make decisions on funding.

Mr. Frank Ojeda of Independence, Oregon, chosen by the forty-five nominees as chairman said that written ideas of self-help projects may be submitted to the committee until March 15, 1972. After this the group will review and screen, call in representatives of the more realistic proposals for interviewing and then make its funding decisions.

Money the CHD will administer is 25% of the local funds raised in the annual Bishop's collection to "Break the Hellish Circle of Poverty" known as the Campaign for Human Development, now in its second of ten projected years of appeal. In its first year the National Campaign raised 8.5 million dollars and funded some 217 different projects across the country including one in Oregon, the Centro Chicano Cultural, Inc. Returns on the second national appeal are incomplete and proposals on that fund are being re-

ceived at the Campaign for Human Development Headquarters in Washington, D.C., until February 29, 1972 with funding decisions to be announced this summer.

The local money (\$5,000 from last year's collection and approximately an equal amount from the current appeal), according to Mr. Ojeda, will be banked at Portland's Freedom Bank (a minority-owned banking enterprise) until programs are funded by the committee. Mr. Ojeda stressed that applying self-help groups need not be Catholic Church members to be considered for funding. He pointed out that a number of committee members are not Catholic and several other Church denominations and congregations around the country are contributing to the Campaign for Human Development and urged any prospective donors, large or small, to send their offerings to C.H.D., The Chancery Office, 2838 E. Burnside St., P.O. Box 351, Portland, Oregon, 97207. All written requests for funding from the Archdiocesan Committee should be sent to that address as well. Committee for Human Development members were nominated by Pastors, Parish Councils and Social Concerns Groups including Oregon's Council of the Poor and individual committee

members hail from wide areas of rural and urban Western Oregon. Convened by the Diocese's Social Action Commission which is represented on the committee by Father William Curtin of inner-city Portland's Immaculate Heart Parish, the committee has used the advice of Mrs. John Little of Mt. Angel, Oregon, a member of Campaign for Human Development National Executive Committee of the campaign.

The officers elected by the committee on Human Development include Mr. Ojeda chairman, Mrs. Magdalene Schoof, secretary and Mrs. Helen Bales, treasurer.



Pictured above are participants in the Bethel AME Zodiac Queen Contest -- from left to right are: Myrtle Ford, Mary Hooker, Ann Butler, Elizabeth Taylor, Martha Davis, Sandra Clay, Sharon Booker, Edna Miller and Kim Pool.

The girls met at the home of Mrs. Elnetta Scott to make plans for the contest. They are selling tickets and plan other fund raising activities.

The contest will end on April 7, 1972. The girl chosen will reign at the First Annual Zodiac Tea to be held at the Hayden Island Thunderbird on April 30, 1972.

Mrs. Elnetta Scott and Mrs. Perlene White are advisors for the contest.

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C. Don Vann  
**MORTUARY**

**5211 N. Williams Avenue 281-2836**  
Portland, Oregon

## Volunteers needed

Volunteers needed to work on a hot line soon to be in operation in the Albina area.

For more information, call The Albina Family and Community Service project at 288-9145, or stop in at 73 N.E. Morris, and talk to Janet Sweet or Annie Allan.



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Masses: 9:00 am, 10:30 am on Choir  
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Rev. Thomas Strayhand, Minister

**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
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5828 N.E. 8th  
A. Lee Henderson, Minister 288-5429  
Ellis Casson, Associate Minister

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Sunday School 9 a.m.  
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Vesper 5 p.m.

Let us enter to worship and depart to serve.

**Vancouver Ave. First Baptist Church**  
3138 N. Vancouver Ave.  
Phone 282-9496

Sunday School 9:00 A.M.  
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.

**Dr. O.B. Williams, Pastor**  
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Pastor Bible Class 9:15 am  
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Church Office 288-7241  
Youth Office 288-7243

Bible Study Hour Tue. 7 pm  
Hour of Prayer Power  
Wed 7 pm to 8 pm  
Youth Meeting Fri 7:30 pm

**Reverend Wendell Wallace Pastor**  
All things new in 1972