

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

## The Editor's Desk

### Commitment to desegregation?

Dr. Robert Blanchard, Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools, stated in response to President Nixon's busing moratorium that "This Board of Education has assumed in the past, and it does at present, an affirmative responsibility to reduce racial isolation in our schools. Its commitment has been for ultimate desegregation and, hopefully as a result, integration."

Yet after seven years of "administrative transfers", which bus children out of the predominantly black schools, only 554 children are being transported for this purpose.

What kind of commitment is the one-way busing of 554 children? What commitment is there to the black children who are left in substandard schools? Although federal money has been poured into the Albina schools for seven years or longer, they are still among the lowest achieving schools in the city.

Money can provide better facilities and materials, but it is not the deciding factor in learning. For a number of years studies, beginning with the Coleman Report, have shown that teacher attitude toward the child is the deciding factor. And, contrary to the "combat pay" policy of the Portland Public Schools, money does not buy good teachers. The teacher must have a commitment to the child.

In the Portland school system, only 106 teachers and administrative personnel are black, out of a total of approximately 3400. Black children are denied the opportunity to identify with black adults in positions of authority in the school. They are denied the model that every white child, no matter how poor his school, has from kindergarten through college.

If the Board of Education is truly committed to desegregation, then let it get on with the job. Busing 554 children is "tokenism." If it is committed to quality education, let it actively recruit and train black teachers, staff members and administrators, so each black child will have black adults in his school to whom he can look for inspiration and security.

### Hatfield visits Moose

Senator Mark O. Hatfield of Oregon was the keynote speaker for the State Convention of the Loyal Order of the Moose. The Moose Lodge restricts its membership to Caucasians.

This is an election year. The Senior Senator from Oregon will be asking for black peoples' votes on the basis of his "record." But the record of a Senator goes beyond his public statements and his votes in the Senate. His record also includes this tacit endorsement of racist policies by his participation with this Lodge.

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.



He has risen as the Bible stated.

## To Be Equal



By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

When the Senate beat back some blatant anti-busing amendments and passed instead a plan that put milder limits on busing, there was a lot of cheering from liberals and civil rights supporters. There needn't have been. The compromise solution marks a halt in the drive to end school segregation, just as the far more restrictive proposals would have.

Under the plan that passed, federal aid for busing will only be permitted when local school officials request it. What is there to cheer about that? Until now the only way desegregation was achieved was through federal orders and court orders. Local school officials, fearful of pro-segregation white opinion in their communities, would often wait until the iron-clad order came down from above, and only then would they desegregate.

Now they will be in a bind. If they get a court order to desegregate the schools and if the only way it can be done is through busing, they face the choice of using money from their regular budgets - which are often too small to bear the added expense - or go hat-in-hand to Washington to ask aid, thereby getting themselves in hot water with the local people who pay their salaries.

There are other elements in the Senate plan, but what they all add up to is a full-scale retreat from the use of busing to help end segregation in the schools. The plan that all the cheering was about will only result in greater confusion, stiff resistance from districts that are segregated, and perhaps even a return to the unconstitutional dual school systems by districts that have already complied with the law.

So there was no great triumph here. Sure, the proposed alternatives were far worse, but the results will be similar. And we haven't heard the last of the busing issue yet.

Still to come, at this writing, is word from the President's top-level panel currently studying the issue, and action on proposed Constitutional amendments designed to end all busing to achieve desegregation. We are still faced with the prospect that the current withdrawal of support for the rulings of the courts will turn into a full-scale nullification of the 1954 Supreme Court decision that made segregated school systems unconstitutional and illegal.

The nation should be reminded that this decision is a landmark in our history, an indispensable element in achieving a more equal society. It should be reminded that in 1955 the Court ordered that desegregation move forward "with all deliberate speed". And it should be reminded that 17 long years have passed and what was then deliberate speed now constitutes illegal and unconstitutional defiance of the law of the land.

The busing issue has been simmering for a long time and has now burst upon us because of the hysterical grasping for backlash support in an uncertain political year. Opponents of busing have been far from honest with the parents and

children whose passions they inflame. There is constant use of the phrase "massive busing for racial balance" when the reality is a little more busing to achieve desegregation in compliance with the Constitution.

Lurid stories have been painted of little children from the suburbs bused en masse to squalid slums. Actually, black children have more often been bused from the ghettos to become minorities in previously all-white schools. When those same black children were

based past all-white schools to attend all-black ones on the other side of town, no objections were raised.

Black people are not believers in the theory that it takes a seat next to a white child to make black kids learn. What we want is equal access to equal education. And if it takes busing to achieve this, as the courts have ruled, then let those who oppose busing come out into the open and express racism openly instead of hiding behind code words and distortions of fact.

## Mitchell sees win in busing

New York - A spokesman for the NAACP served his notice that the civil rights organization will quickly challenge any law passed by Congress to halt court-ordered school busing. "I predict we'll win," Clarence Mitchell, chief Washington representative and lobbyist for the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, said President Nixon's proposed moratorium until mid-1973 on court-ordered busing was not constitutional.

Other opponents of either a legislative or Constitutional ban of busing also reacted sharply to Nixon's decision to

ask Congress to stop busing orders until mid-1973.

Most of those favoring a halt to busing to achieve racial balance in schools, hailed the President's action. Some of the more militant supporters of moves to prohibit busing by Constitutional amendment were not satisfied, however.

Mitchell, who called Nixon's action incredible, and a Nixon supporter, Sen. William Brock, R-Tenn., were interviewed on the NBC-TV Today Show.

Mitchell said Nixon "has precipitated a Constitutional crisis because he has taken a position that the constitution

## Free for the asking

Ron Hendren  
IN WASHINGTON

Washington - Having difficulty getting your income tax refund from Uncle Sam? Last year thousands of Americans experienced undue delays in receiving their checks. A few who complained to their congressmen and senators got fast relief.

This is just one of the many ways members of Congress can provide direct and prompt assistance to constituents (in this case by advising the Internal Revenue Service of the overdue refund and gently admonishing the treasury to pay its debts).

Every day hundreds of requests for help pour into congressional offices. Yet relatively few voters know of the services that are available or how to obtain them. A list of what your congressman can do for you includes:

- assistance in getting passports for Americans traveling abroad.
- free passes to the Senate and House visitors' galleries, and to special "congressional" tours of the White House and other federal buildings.
- cutting away red tape for citizens who encounter problems in dealing with federal agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, the Selective Service System and the Internal Revenue Service.
- obtaining free research materials through the Library of Congress for students, writers and others preparing term papers, reports, books and the like. (For those with deadlines, members of Congress can get these materials from the Library's Congressional Research Service often on one day's notice.)
- assistance to students in obtaining appointments to the military service academies.
- summer jobs in Washington for students.

\* help in arranging appointments between constituents and government officials.  
In addition, many publications are available free for the asking. These range from your representative's newsletter or his autographed picture (they especially like to send you those), to booklets describing how our government works ("How Our Laws Are Made" and "Our American Government: What is it and how does it function?"). Even a full-sized American flag which has been hoisted, at least momentarily on the Capitol flagstaff.

Copies of the Constitution and Pledge of Allegiance are also available, often in quantity to teachers, as well as a colorful and well-written pictorial history of the Capitol building ("Our Capitol") which many have found useful in teaching American history.

Other free publications include the hard-bound volume, the Agriculture Year Book, an almanac - Americana published annually by the Department of Agriculture. A myriad of "how-to" pamphlets are available (one packet for brides provides information on everything from how to buy meat to how to raise children).

Congressmen can even place a limited number of their constituents on the mailing list to receive the Congressional Record, the daily verbatim account of Congress' proceedings. Considered one of the most important government publications, its annual subscription rate is \$45 - but free if your congressman is willing to place you on his list.

Writing your representative is the best way to obtain these services and materials. Congressmen advise that letters should be short and to the point - be careful not to cover too many subjects in one letter whether you are giving your opinion on an upcoming vote or requesting help on some problem.

But by all means write. Believe it or not, mail to your congressman almost always is taken seriously. And if he can help you, he will be anxious to do so. After all, his job depends on you.

The General Services Administration recently released a list of some 40 categories of brand-name products - ranging from appliances to water pumps - which have been tested and meet government specifications. While these products are purchased for government use, the list does not constitute an endorsement of them. It does mean they have passed rigorous government tests. It is worth having and is available free from your Congressman.



The U.S. Supreme Court declared unconstitutional lengthy residence requirements for voting in state and local elections. The Court suggested a period of 30 days as a residence requirement. No state now requires a residence of only 30 days, so this decision could make 5.6 million persons eligible to vote that had previously been barred because of recent moves.

President Nixon denied the request of the House Government Information Committee for information about American operations in Cambodia.

Representative Shirley Chisholm has entered the Maryland primary.

## ACLU

The national director of the America Civil Liberties Union said President Nixon has "endorsed separate but equal education which was outlawed by the Supreme Court in 1954."

Aryeh Neier decried Nixon's call for a moratorium on busing to racially integrate schools, saying "presidential moral leadership is at its lowest ebb."

Neier said he believes Nixon is trying to trigger a showdown between the federal courts and the executive and legislative branches of government.

Neier said: "This Administration has waffled on residential segregation, on employment integration, on economic integration and on housing and residential integration. With this latest action Nixon has closed the full circle."

## Seattle

Seattle School Supt. Forbes Bottomly said that President Nixon's school busing message gives "legitimacy to segregation and to a certain extent, racial separatism..."

Bottomly said: "I think Mr. Nixon is trying to give a new definition to desegregation."

"It goes something like this. Segregation plus money equals desegregation. That way you can avoid using transportation to get children together."

## New York

The New York Board of Regents reaffirmed its strong, pro-integration policy despite defiance of busing orders by two cities and the efforts of some state legislators to freeze state busing orders. The state education commissioner said he would continue to issue desegregation orders, including busing where appropriate.

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