

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

Portland/Observer Thursday, April 13, 1972

**The Northwest's Best Weekly
A Black Owned Publication**

Published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, 2201 N. Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217
Subscription \$5.25 per year in Tri-County area by mail. Outside the Tri-County area - \$6.00 per year by mail.
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INPA

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.



"Watch the Birdie now"



The Editor's Desk

No not one

Soon we will once again see the candidates for public office coming to Albina to ask for our vote. They talk about citizen participation and the "grass roots." But where are the roots - not in Albina. A look at their staffs, their advisors, their campaign committees does not show many black faces.

Occasionally we are asked to support an official's idea, to testify at his hearing, to endorse his bill, to sit in the audience to show there is public interest. And this seems to be the meaning of citizen participation to public officials. We are not asked to participate in the planning, in the decision making - even when the decisions affect our very lives. No officials come to Albina to ask us how they could best represent us.

Not one candidate is known for his commitment to or involvement in the black community. Not one candidate is a familiar face on the streets or in the meeting halls of Albina. Of those elected four years or two years ago, who have you seen in your neighborhood?

No public official has hired blacks. A few have made token appointments. Some will say, "But I will do better when I hold this office." These are the candidates that will come to you to ask for your vote.

Then there are those who will take the black vote for granted, who will expect your vote without even making the effort to come to your community and discuss the issue. They will spend their time and money where numbers are larger or votes less secure. They will expect your vote on the basis of past promises not yet fulfilled.

Other candidates will write off the black vote. They will cater to the middle class white neighborhoods. They will use slogans and tactics that will insure the votes of those who fear change. They will sacrifice the needs of the minorities, the poor, the welfare clients, the dependent children in return for the vote.

We must examine carefully the statements and actions of the candidates. We must find what, if anything, they have done for the black community, either officially or privately. Every man, whether in office or seeking office, has a record that can be examined. It is up to us to examine that record before we vote.

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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Coming May 24

WASHINGTON BRIEFS

As I See It A Bureau of Human Resources for Portland

Part II

By Lenwood G. Davis

"Considering that Congress has passed the Equal Rights Amendment," said Representative Dick Shoup of Montana, "it's about time the House of Representatives strikes down a few sexual barriers of its own." So saying, he nominated 17-year-old Kathi Dayton of Stevensville, Mont., to be the first girl to serve as a page in the House. The House is a few steps behind the Senate in that department. Four girls are Senate pages.

B.B. King was applauded in the House of Representatives last week for his efforts to make prison life a little easier.

Representative Robert Tiernan of Rhode Island told the House that the "King of the Blues" is well on his way in setting an unparalleled personal example for thousands of other public figures who could be instrumental in helping to reshape our correctional institutions, and in easing the despair of inmates.

Along with Lawyer F. Lee Bailey, B.B. King is trying to get other singers, lawyers, athletes and public figures into the prisons to teach, talk and entertain the prisoners.

Senators Jacob Javits of New York and Harold Hughes of Iowa may introduce their version of a new Marijuana Law as early as next week.

Though still being written, their bill would make private use and possession legal but also all activities necessary to do this, would be legal, Javits aide Ben Conboy said. Trafficking and commercial sale would not be legalized, but any non-profit sale would be covered.

Representative Charles Diggs of Detroit resigned from the chairmanship of the Congressional Black Caucus. Rep. Louis Stokes of Cleveland was elected to the position.

Nixon appointee, Chief Justice Burger has dissented in eight major cases in the last two weeks and Justice Harry Blackman, also appointed by Nixon, has dissented in four.

Letters

As I See It

Dear Editor:

I was very interested in the article that the Portland Observer carried on March 23, by Lenwood G. Davis. I think Mr. Davis is a very informative person and I wish him the best on his article "As I See It". Mr. Davis will have many that will agree with him and many that will disagree. Nevertheless, I sincerely hope he will continue to write things "just as he sees them."

Sincerely,
Armentine Banks
Indianapolis, Ind.

I would like to preface this article by stating that I will discuss all concerned parties' points of view in subsequent articles. One of the main purposes of "AS I SEE IT" is to inform the public of certain issues that affect them. I have tried to present the pros and cons of all sides and let the reader draw his own conclusions. And I will continue to write in that same vein. The public has a right to be informed of what is occurring in and out of the community and how it is or can have a major impact on their lives.

One of the major political issues in the forthcoming mayoralty and city council races will be the proposal for a new Bureau of Human Resources. Already politicians are lining up allies. It is inescapable that the candidates running for public office in Portland MUST take a stand on this vital issue. In fact the public must demand to know their position.

According to the proposal the Human Resources Bureau can be an important step in moving disadvantaged people into the city government. Model Cities' CDA letter #11 has established this policy with regard to the Model Cities employees. The proposal stated that if PMSC employees can benefit by becoming part of civil service, this would be one way to begin that process. The proposal does not spell out how PMSC employees can benefit by becoming part of civil service. It should be pointed out that civil service in the United States is a MERIT system based on an examination for

TASK	RESPONSIBILITY	DATE OF COMPLETION
Pass ordinance creating Bureau and initial staff positions	City Council	March 29
Assign new Bureau to Dept.	Mayor	March 29
Appoint initial staff	Comm. in charge	March 31
Give notice of public hearing on Green Amendment to PMSC, delegate agencies, MCCA	City Auditor	March 31
Receive recommendations on structure	Model Cities & PMSC Boards	March 31
Preparing OEO application, including: Form 370 "Application for Recognition" Form 5 "Community Information" Preliminary Transition Plan	Bur. Hum. Res. staff & Comm. in charge	April 11
Form 11 "Notice of Civil Rights Compliance" Form 372 "Attorney's Certification"	City Attorney	April 11
Form 373 "Local Civil Service Agency's Certificate"	City Attorney & Civil Service Board	April 11
Form 375 "Certif. of Compliance w/Section 211"	Bur. Hum. Res. staff & Comm. in charge	April 11
Obtain informal advance approval of State EEO	City Council	April 13
Public hearing & act on resolution designating City as CAA		



Lenwood G. Davis

employment and satisfactory performance for promotion. Needless to say, the merit system has seldom worked to perfection and the disadvantaged have usually been the victims of abuses in the system. Furthermore, what about the persons that cannot pass the Civil Service Examination? The proposal makes no provisions for those employees!

The proposal stated that the new bureau can be created by ordinance immediately, with a position created for a director. Commissioner Goldschmidt proposed that Charles Jordan be designated as Acting Director at the outset. I have examined OEO guidelines in vain and nowhere have I been able to find that OEO requires the names of staff members be stated. As I see it, it was absolutely unnecessary, inappropriate, improper, and a major political blunder to

name anyone to a position that does not exist. The usual procedure is to have the job FIRST and get the man SECOND. To do otherwise leaves one open to allegations.

Charles Jordan is probably the best person to fill that position and may be the logical choice for it. No one is questioning his abilities. What most people are questioning is the method in which the whole proposal was drawn up. As everyone well knows, there have been numerous charges and countercharges, allegations, and counter-allegations, alleged deals and promises. There have been unfounded rumors of individuals "selling out," and I will discuss that sensitive and delicate issue in a forthcoming article.

The general public is not aware that this bureau could be created immediately by the City Council passing a resolution or ordinance to that effect. The original proposed timetable was as shown below.

It should be pointed out that Commissioner Goldschmidt did ask the City Council to extend the timetable for an additional 60 days, which was granted. However, it was only after he was requested by the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee (PMSC), representatives from the Black Community, and the outcry from the general public that Goldschmidt consented to ask for a 60 day extension.

Part III of "A Bureau of Human Resources for Portland?" will appear next week.

"Keep the faith, Baby" You lose

Ron Hendren
IN WASHINGTON

Adam Clayton Powell is dead. His achievements in Congress were great, and he should be remembered for them. As chairman of the powerful House Education and Labor Committee he pushed 56 major bills through Congress, including much of the legislation on education, the war on poverty, vocational rehabilitation, the school lunch program and other pieces of social legislation passed during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. Every education bill carried the Powell Amendment - forbidding the use of federal funds in segregated facilities.

President Johnson wrote, "Only with progressive leadership could so much have been accomplished by one committee in so short a time."

But Powell's activities were not appreciated by Congress, where he rose to the chairmanship of a major committee at the peak of the civil rights revolution. Because he was elected again and again by the people of Harlem, Powell's seniority placed him in contention for the position of Speaker of the House, the position that was next in the line of succession to the White House, a dangerous position for a black man.

Congress' unseating Powell and stripping him of his chairmanship upon the pretense that he was breaking some kind of ethical code of morality was ridiculous when official Washington was racked with all types of political scandals including the unprovoked assassination of a President, all kinds of lies about Vietnam, Congressmen and their wives on world-wide junkets at the taxpayers' expense, misuse of campaign donations, and Congressmen refusing to release bills for a vote. Powell was unseated by his fellow Congressmen because he openly lived in accordance with the patterns set by his white counterparts. This flaunting of the excesses in which many Congressmen are involved by a black man was more than they could endure. So blatant was their action that it was finally reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Of the 364 members of the House of Representatives who voted against him, Powell said, "... they are the biggest bunch of elected hypocrites in the history of the world."

Measured against the records of the rest of Congress, Powell did a commendable job. Measured against the needs of his district and of black Americans across the district, he did less than should have been expected. But he leaves a host of legislation that will help his people for years to come.

Washington - John Calvin Coolidge, governor of Massachusetts and thirtieth President of the United States, was one of a rare breed of American politicians not known for talkativeness.

Rumor has it that he was approached at a White House party by a willing socialite who bubbled enthusiastically, "Mr. President, I've just wagered I can make you say three words tonight." President Coolidge's response was simple and direct: "You lose."

But those days are gone and, no matter the negative aspects of the Coolidge administration, Americans are justified in longing for leaders who possess his verbal restraint. Among the brayings of a score of national contenders of both parties in the 1972 23-primary circus, not one sentence this writer has read to date stands out as memorable or historically significant.

The overall result so far is rather a picture of candidates uncertain both about themselves and the electorate they are frantically scrambling to please. As they struggle to stake out identities, their positions have become almost as elusive as the issues themselves, rolling and bumping from day to day and state to state like so many marbles on waterbed.

Perhaps there are just too many candidates. Perhaps the television age of instant wisdom in which we live simply has reduced American politics to meaningless slogan-slinging and calculated evasiveness.

But these answers are as shallow as the campaign show itself. What is increasingly obvious is that there are too few contenders who believe, as Jefferson wrote, that "it is

more important to be human than it is to be important."

Thus the new maxims are that important people worthy of the Presidency mustn't make mistakes and if they do, mustn't above all admit them. And that on issues it is better to project what you think the people want rather than what you believe the nation needs.

The latter maxim is not altogether bad: Responsiveness to the people is at least one-half of what traditionally we have expected of our elected officials - the other half being leadership.

And so, in this era when politicians are competing on the basis of who is most responsive, it is doubly ironic that the consensus of voters, according to every reliable poll, should be that the American government is at an all-time low in reacting to the wishes of the people. The result is that we get neither responsiveness nor leadership from the majority of our elected officials.

"What you are," Emerson observed, "thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary." And the verbal din of the current political tempest, loud though it is, does not cover the sad truth. The fact is that no one, from the present administration down to the lowliest contender, has demonstrated the qualities of responsiveness and leadership which could stir the best that lies within the American people and claim their enthusiastic support.

As President Coolidge told the withering dwager, "You lose." The prospects for the American people in 1972 don't look much brighter at this point. Perhaps what is needed on this year's ballot is an extra box marked "none of the above."

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