

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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A Black Owned Publication

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Mailing address - P. O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher/Editor

Verna L. Henderson

Asst. Publisher/business manager:
Helen Hendrix
Personnel and Production Manager

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The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

Press freedoms in danger

Thomas Jefferson said, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

The press is now under one of the most vicious attacks in its history. Not only is there Vice President Agnew condemning the press when it differs with his opinion, but now the Supreme Court has found that the sources a reporter uses in seeking information are not privileged but must be revealed in court. There is also the Ellensbury trial, regarding the release of the secret Pentagon Papers to newspapers.

At the same time the Postal Rate Commission of the U.S. Postal Service is considering another rate increase that will make the cost of mailing newspapers and magazines prohibitive.

All of this in spite of the constitutional guarantee of freedom of the press. We know that the press is not free, however. Aside from the government harassment is the dependence of the press on advertising, which pays the bill for the newspaper's production.

More than ever before the press needs the support of the people. The press is the voice of the people, your spokesman; its primary goal is to reflect your goals and aspirations. In return it needs your support.

Since the founding of Freedom's Journal in 1880, more than 2000 "ethnic" publications have been born, yet less than 160 exist today. They have been victims not only of economic pressures and government restrictions, but of community apathy!

Letters to the Editor

Foster homes needed

Dear Sir:

Did you know that there are over 300,000 children in foster homes in the United States? In Multnomah County, there are 850 foster families providing care for 1,400 children. These are children who are temporarily in need of a substitute family because they are unable to remain in their own homes.

Many delinquent and pre-delinquent children could also be helped by foster care and kept out of institutions and deeper criminal involvement. Experts in the field of delinquency prevention advocate neighborhood programs to combat growing juvenile delinquency.

In order to implement this concept, the Model Cities Foster Care Project has been established. This project is a pilot program to help children and young people who are in trouble or who are headed for trouble, get intensified help in specialized foster care homes.

We, the staff of the Project need your help! We are now

recruiting foster parents for this project. We are looking for families who are concerned about young people with problems, willing to be personally involved in helping them and who will be receptive to education, training and casework support. This is an opportunity for people to help keep these children out of institutions and give them a chance to remain in the neighborhood that they know.

If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested in being a part of this program, we would be happy to explain it to you. Call us or come in to see us at the Multi-Service Center.

Members of the staff of the Foster Home Project are available to talk to individuals, groups or organizations who would like to know more about the project.

Sincerely,
Lewis L. Winchester, Director
Children's Services Division
Model Cities District

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.

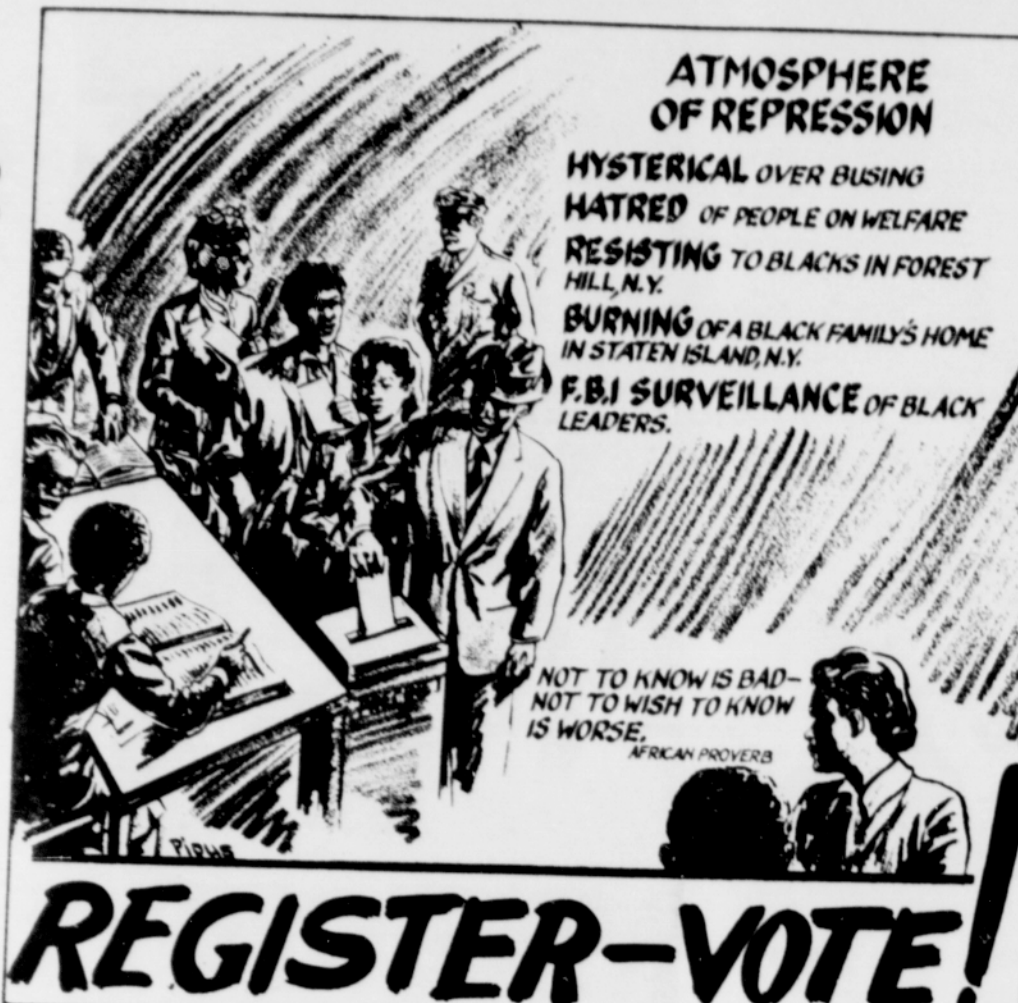
To select appointee

Editor:

I concur with the position taken by the Oregon Black Caucus concerning its calling for a community convention to select a Black person to be recommended to the Portland City Council. Since this person will have the support of the community he will be representing the community. This type of move may seem somewhat unusual to some. However, similar community conventions have been held in San Diego, Newark, Baltimore and Atlanta and they were most effective.

Furthermore, we must let our public officials know that we are holding them to their election pledges that all people should be represented by government. This community convention that will be held within the next few weeks will give unity to the Black community because every Black organization, club, and group will be asked to participate in this convention. It is time for Black Portlanders to seize the time, for it is ours!

Lenwood G. Davis



REGISTER-VOTE!

As I See It White Businesses in the Black community Part III

by Lenwood G. Davis



Lenwood Davis

If Blacks in Portland cannot get white businesses in the Greater Model Cities area to change their attitudes about us it may become necessary for us to establish more Black businesses in the Black community. A policy of building up the economy in the Black community can bring definite economic and social advantages. It can increase the number of job openings, provide new avenues for advancement, and encourage the development of skills and the ownership of resources. Last, but not least, it can help the Black community achieve access to power and privilege. It must be pointed out that Blacks should not be under any illusion about Black businesses because the for-

mation of Black businesses in the Black community will not lead to flowering of the community, nor will it solve all our (Blacks) problems. However, that could not deter us.

We must always be mindful, that political power is paralleled by a degree of economic control. Therefore, none of the economic rewards of that power can be reaped without the other. Blacks are rapidly achieving enough political power to demand that large (public) contracts be given to Black Businesses. However Blacks must first have those businesses. But unless we have under our control businesses that are capable of delivering the required goods and service, the political demands are meaningless.

Marcus Alexis surmises that "the 'Black Experience' - that totality of environmental effects and internal response common to most Blacks - affects the Black man's assumption as well as his political and social act." We must constantly be aware of that supposition. HENCE WE MUST "BUY BLACK" AND SUPPORT BLACK BUSINESSES! Black businesses must also have certain responsibilities to their Black NESSES! Black businesses must also have certain responsibilities to their Black and white customers by providing them with the BEST services and products possible. Black Business must be willing to expand and increase their knowledge and skill in the fast paced business area. Black businesses must become aware of the many programs that can assist them in becoming stable. The Small Business Administration has loan and technical assistance programs that can be utilized by present and aspiring businessmen. MEDIA in the Black community in Portland also assist minority businesses.

Since white businesses in the Black community apparently are not sensitive to the needs, desires and aspirations of Blacks, we must establish and support Black companies. If we do not take the initiative to do certain things for ourselves, no one else will. Therefore, we must not only "talk Black", we must also "BUY BLACK".

Life. Perhaps it is not unreasonable to suggest that we did not give it and that it is not ours to take, whether in the case of the criminal who murders an innocent victim or the state which then takes the life of the murderer. That we are obliged to protect ourselves from those sick enough to threaten the lives and safety of others, there is no doubt. But it is to our credit that we have finally realized that obligation does not include the right to inflict death in the name of justice.

It is an altogether reasonable and moral conclusion which presents no cause whatsoever for alarm, but rather an important occasion for renewed faith in the maturity of civilization and in the growth of humanity toward man.

Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (D), when he was attorney general of Missouri, wrote that "We know from our experience in Missouri that the death penalty hits hardest those who are poor in material wealth." He went on to say that of 32 state prisoners executed in Jefferson City since 1937, only one was able to pay for his lawyer. The patterns of executing poor people and members of minorities can be seen to prevail throughout the nation. As Warden Lewis E. Lawes of Sing Sing put it about the 151 people he escorted to the death chamber, "All of them were poor and most of them were friendless."

Suffice it to say that among the 70-or-so other jurisdictions in the world -- including a number of state governments in this country -- which abolished the death penalty before the Supreme Court acted, not one experienced an increase in the rate of capital crimes committed. (In America, when neighboring states are compared, those without the death penalty do not have higher homicide rates than those with the death penalty.) One is led to the inescapable conclusion that punishment's effectiveness must lie primarily in its certainty, not in its severity.

What about equal justice in capital punishment cases?

WASHINGTON BRIEFS

President Nixon promised in a letter to Michigan Congressman William Broomfield that his Administration will "leave no stone unturned" to prevent busing in the Detroit area.

A coalition of 12 public interest groups petitioned the Federal Power Commission to eliminate discrimination against women, blacks and Spanish-surnamed persons employed by gas and electric companies. An EEOC report for 1970 charged gas and electric utilities with the worst employment record for blacks and below average for Spanish surnamed Americans.

By a 6-3 liberal-conservative split, the Supreme Court extended the power of police to "stop and frisk" suspects on the street for dangerous weapons. The opinion was written by Justice Rehnquist.

California Secretary of State Edmund G. Brown, Jr. will sponsor legislation to counteract the Supreme Court ruling allowing states to issue liquor licenses to racially discriminating private clubs. Calling the High Court's ruling "an invitation to bigotry" Brown said his proposal would revoke liquor licenses of private clubs guilty of racial or religious discrimination.

"I shall ask for the abolition of the punishment of death until I have the infallibility of human judgment demonstrated to me."

This was the conclusion of Thomas Jefferson nearly two hundred years before the Supreme Court of the United States virtually struck down capital punishment late last month.

It was a close decision and one which raised both praise and scorn on Capitol Hill and across the land.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) viewed the Court's action as "one of the great judicial milestones in American history," and a decision which gives "new life to our democracy and to the quality of American justice."

At the same time, according to a report in The Washington Post, Lt. Governor Lester Maddox of Georgia called the ruling "a license for anarchy, rape and murder."

These extraordinarily divergent reactions reflect the wide schism dividing American public opinion on punishment by death. There is, on the one hand, the abhorrence of a punishment which is both ultimate and irrevocable; and on the other, the recurring fear that crime rates, already high, will now soar without the threat of the gas chamber.

Putting aside for a moment the moral issues raised by execution, there are essentially two questions we should ask about capital punishment. The first: Is the threat of execution more effective than the threat of imprisonment in preventing kidnaping, rape, murder and other crimes previously punishable by death? The second question: Regardless of its effectiveness, can the death penalty be applied equally and fairly to all persons convicted of capital crimes? Some representative case histories might help to provide answers to those questions.

As long ago as the reign of Queen Elizabeth I of England, during an era when even picking pockets was punishable by death, criminals were "found to cut pockets and pick purses even at places of executions while executions were being done..."

In the earlier days of our own country, ten men were hanged for murderous conspiracy in Pennsylvania on June 21, 1877 -- a mass execution which might have served as an example and a warning to all would-be criminals. Indeed, the New York Post editorialized at that time, "We may be certain that the pitiless severity of the law will deter the most wicked from anything like imitation of these crimes." Yet, the night after the executions of these ten men, two of the witnesses at the trial were murdered and within two weeks five of the prosecutors had met the same fate, according to records of the National Society of Penal Information.

With Ron Hendren A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON



Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (D), when he was attorney general of Missouri, wrote that "We know from our experience in Missouri that the death penalty hits hardest those who are poor in material wealth." He went on to say that of 32 state prisoners executed in Jefferson City since 1937, only one was able to pay for his lawyer. The patterns of executing poor people and members of minorities can be seen to prevail throughout the nation. As Warden Lewis E. Lawes of Sing Sing put it about the 151 people he escorted to the death chamber, "All of them were poor and most of them were friendless."

Finally, there is the moral question. Thomas Jefferson, who opposed capital punishment nearly two hundred years ago, also gave us in the Declaration of Independence a phrase memorized by every school child: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

People politics

by Rev. Jesse L. Jackson

For the past several weeks we have been involved in the challenge to the Daley selected Convention delegates. This has immersed us in a direct confrontation with the mayor and the 59 persons whom the Democratic organization of Cook County slated to take seats as delegates and alternates to the Democratic National Convention in July.

The Alternate Delegation has contended that the selection of the Delegation was fundamentally undemocratic, and in diametric opposition to the McGovern Reforms which had been adopted by the Democratic National Committee over a year ago. We have contended that the procedures used to select the delegates were designed to exclude blacks, women, other minorities and young adults under the age of 30.

What is important to understand is the real issue behind the challenge. There is much talk by so-called political experts about McGovern being a "loser."

What they are really saying is that this year the question of who will control the Democratic Party is the issue. The old Democratic warhorses have already suffered setbacks during the recent primaries... and the Delegate challenges have served to point up the Neanderthal character of the party's apparatus.

The leaders of both political parties have been running them like private clubs. A reform challenge in New York

removed from the primary one of the oldest members of the House, Emmanuel Celler who heads the House Judiciary Committee. He was defeated by a young woman 30 years of age.

The question of who will get a piece of the action is now very real and open to options and possibilities that did not previously exist. If party control shifts, then the composition of those who represent the Party at every level, including the national legislative level or the House and Senate, will also have to change. As far back as a year and a half ago, Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary was paving the way for the adoption of these reforms by using his skillful leadership to guarantee that blacks would be given at least 20 per cent of all committees, committee chairmanships, floor positions and housing... in other words 20 per cent of everything since blacks could demonstrate a consistent record of support for the Democratic party which had been little rewarded by the party itself.

Since we are not a majority in the electorate in any but a strategic few cities and counties, it is necessary that we would work in coalition with those whose interests and concerns are similar and who, for the most part, have been locked out of the political process, and especially the party apparatus. It is

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