

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher/Editor



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The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

An Agenda for Oregon

The Oregon Black Caucus has presented to the black people of Oregon its Black Agenda - pointing out the elements of oppression prevalent in Oregon and proposing specific methods of implementing change.

Oregon is a state that has throughout its history excluded black people from its political, economic, educational and social life. It has over the years refused to deal with the problems of its minorities - to the point of denying their very existence. Although there has been lip service to equality, brutal discrimination and racism are still rampant. A quick look at the elected and appointed officials of government and the employees of state and local government reveals without question that this policy of exclusion still exists.

The white people of Oregon need have no fear as they look at the Oregon Black Agenda, for the Agenda deals with the political, economic, educational and social evils of our society. It deals with the oppression of the masses of the people by the institutions devised to restrict and exclude the few.

A strong and united black political force in Oregon may yet bring the salvation of our state for no one is free until all black people are free!

Seniority system breeds incompetence at top

The death of Senator J. Allen Ellender, who was the President pro-tem of the U.S. Senate, points out once again the evils of the Congressional seniority system. As the system operates, a Senator or Congressman only needs years of service to place him at the head of powerful Senate Committees.

Senator Ellender was the third man in line for the presidency of the United States. At the death of the President and Vice President, he would have become the President. Senator Ellender was the most travelled of American Senators. He visited nearly every nation in the world at government expense--often taking his family and friends. He visited countries that could not conceivably have been of interest to the Senate committees of which he was a member. He was not even a good representative, often causing embarrassment to his government. On one occasion he was expelled from an African nation because of his racist comments while a guest. Yet this man could have become the President of the United States.

After Ellender's death, Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina was elected to fill his position, merely because he had the most seniority of any member of the Senate. Thurmond is best known for his opposition to Civil Rights legislation.

As long as the Senate of the United States is operated on the seniority system, the positions of power will go to the older men of the South who have kept their seats for years and years and who abuse this power to their own ends. Unless the seniority system is eliminated, we will be oppressed by these old men until they die off--one by one--and we could end up with one as our President.

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**C. Don Vann
MORTUARY**

VANN'S
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Portland, Oregon



Add these to your list of violence, Mr. President...

To Be Equal

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

The question of America's policy toward the criminal states of Rhodesia and South Africa needs to be cleared up. A number of recent actions make it seem that we are being backed into a corner by supporting these corrupt regimes whose existence is dependent upon ex-

ploitation and oppression of the majority black population.

These are countries that rule by terror and commit grave violence against their black majorities. In South Africa, for example, the system of apartheid means that black people must live in designated areas, cannot organize unions or political parties, cannot be members of political parties at all, and cannot strike.

South Africa is currently engaged in a diplomatic offensive to win full acceptance in the family of nations. So it has mounted a vast public relations campaign designed to show that it's really not such a bad place. Yet this prison-country can only be compared to Hitler's Germany or to Stalin's Russia in its denial of basic human rights and in its oppression.

The prisons of Southern Africa are full of black people whose only violation was to fail to conform to the inhuman pass-laws or other infractions of the code of apartheid. Don't forget this is a country that defines acts of terrorism as "acts

embarrassing to the administration of the state" or "striving to bring about any change."

It is painful for any American, but especially for black citizens, to see our government take any steps favorable to such an outlaw state. Yet the U. S. sells jet planes to South Africa and agrees to let that country sell gold to the International Monetary Fund, gold that has the blood of black miners on it.

We're also selling jets and extending dollar credit to Portugal, which is using both the planes and the money to make war on liberation movements in Mozambique and Angola. At the same time, we are buying chrome from Rhodesia in defiance of a U.N. boycott on trade with the rump white settler government there.

There should be a demonstration of our moral abhorrence of the system of apartheid, too. The most visible and powerful such demonstration would be the appointment of a black man as U.S. ambassador to South Africa. Such a step would be

Portland's young Black middle class aspirants

Part III

by Lenwood G. Davis

I was pleased to observe that at the last Black Caucus meeting, there were in attendance a number of the young Black middle class aspirants that I have been writing about over the past few weeks. It will be interesting to see if they will attend the forthcoming N.A.A.C.P., Urban League and etc., meetings. It goes without saying that your participating in community affairs is long overdue. However, it appears that SOME of you young men and women are finally getting the message. That is to say, we as Blacks either swing together or hang separately. And until this is unequivocally understood by you young middle class aspirants, it will be necessary for me older (over 30) Blacks to constantly remind you of your commitment to the Black cause.

The Young middle class Blacks in Portland must keep abreast with what is occurring on the national scene and see

what other young Blacks are doing to bring about changes within the system. I, personally know of no dynamic young Black man or woman in Portland that has emerged to give leadership to that segment of the population. There are however, a number of potential individuals that have the necessary abilities to be forceful leaders. I would include in this group persons such as Harold Williams, Dennis Payne, Glenn Williams, Bill Wilkerson, Julius Stokes, Clarence Berry, etc., to name a few. However, due to a multiplicity of reasons, none of the above-mentioned, in this writer's opinion, has reached anywhere near their full capabilities. There are also other young Black men and women who are arriving in Portland almost daily that may emerge to help give direction to these young Black middle class aspirants.

Portland does not need another Lee P. Brown, Leon Harris, Charles Jordan, Ellis Casson, Cleveland Gilcrease, Chamber Jones, E. Shelton Hill, George Rankin, Bill McCoy, etc., because there is ONLY one of each and they are doing their thing in their own unique way. However, I do surmise that you young Blacks consult these individuals because they deal with the "establishment" daily and they may



Lenwood Davis

help you young Blacks to avoid some of the pitfalls that they may have encountered. Most of the men mentioned will gladly give any assistance that they can to Black young men and women. You young men and women must first reorient yourselves to the total Black experience. Next, you must reassess and redirect your long range aims and objectives. In the meantime you should not neglect to take a stand on what is happening to our Black brothers and sisters TODAY. It is alright to have fine cars, clothes and apartments; however those should not become obsessions with Black people because these are the things that the white man has used to deter us from our own identity-by brain-washing us to pattern ourselves after him and his value system. What I am saying in essence is that it is fine to have those material things, but we MUST NEVER FORGET THAT NO BLACK IS FREE UNTIL ALL BLACKS ARE FREE!



WASHINGTON BRIEFS

With the United States abstaining, the United Nations Security Council voted to condemn "all acts violating" its embargo against Rhodesia.

The United States maintains economic relations with Rhodesia in violation of the U.N. embargo by importing Rhodesian chrome and nickel ore in trade allowed by the 1971 act of Congress on strategic materials.

The council adopted the condemnation in a resolution sponsored by its three African members - Guinea, Somalia and Sudan.

The resolution barring trade with Rhodesia was first adopted by the Security Council in 1966 and strengthened later as a means of pressuring the rebel white minority regime to allow more political rights for the eastern African territory's black majority.

The National Bar Association will hold its 47th Annual Convention in Miami from August 1-5th. James W. Cobb, president of the 4,500 member organization said the convention theme is "New Dimensions for the Black Lawyer."

The main thrust of the program will deal with positive approaches for solving the problems of the poor and minorities within the law enforcement and judicial processes.

Mrs. Gloria G. Vernon, a veteran government economist, has been named director of the Office of Foreign Economic Policy in the Labor Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs.

In her Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs, in her new position, Mrs. Vernon will direct the activities of the office, which is responsible for formulating trade policy for the Labor Department as it affects the American working force and for administering the U.S. trade adjustment assistance program.

The Durham, N. Carolina native, is a graduate of Howard University.



With Ron Hendren
A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

THE LONG ROAD TO LASTING PEACE

By Ron Hendren

WASHINGTON-The names Vladimir G. Turkhanovsky, a middle level official in the Russian government, and Franklin A. Lindsay, an American businessman, are not exactly household words in either of their respective countries.

And although these two, together with other citizens of the two superpowers, participated in the culmination recently of a milestone in improved relations between the United States and Russia, it is no surprise that the occasion slipped by without the attention of many Americans.

But the event was nonetheless an historic one, because it marked the first major agreement on nuclear arms control to be concluded and published, not by the governments of the two nations, but by private citizens. The group's statement, released simultaneously in Washington and Moscow on July 19, is the initial accomplishment of a program of parallel studies launched in 1970 by the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) in cooperation with its counterpart in the Soviet Union.

UNA-USA is a private research and educational institution whose membership includes prominent businessmen, scholars, scientists and the like. The Russian group is comprised of representatives of large public educational institutions, the trade movement, and the various Institutes of the Academy of Sciences. Not one of the participants in either country is directly connected with the higher echelons of government.

Their published studies highlight agreement on steps to be taken by the two nations to curb the spread of nuclear weapons and to control the proliferation of materials which are essential to the manufacture of nuclear devices.

The groups agreed that nuclear competition between the U.S. and Russia should be terminated, and further recommended joint efforts to enlist other nuclear weapons countries, including China, in nuclear arms control measures.

Agreement was also reached on the need for additional measures to achieve the objectives of the Nuclear Non-Pro-

liferation Treaty which came into force over two years ago. Although 71 nations have ratified the treaty, two of the major nuclear powers--France and China--have yet to agree to its provisions. Moreover, six of the eight "near-nuclear" countries have failed to join in the agreement: West Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, Israel and India.

The report differs in several respects from official government policies both of our country and of Russia, and this is the first time the Soviet authorities have permitted opposing views to be published inside the Soviet Union. This new openness will permit the Russian people to see an alternative perspective--in fact, an American perspective--to official Soviet policy.

And this step is only a beginning. In the words of Cyrus R. Vance, chairman of the UNA-USA Policy Studies Committee and former Deputy Secretary of Defense, "The objective of parallel work is to see whether new areas of common ground can emerge--common ground which could have some impact on national and international decision-making."

Two more joint programs have already been launched, one of which is concerned with common interests in environmental protection. Soviet scholars in America say that this is the first time the Russians have ever proposed a joint assessment of national environmental laws and regulations in the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

Thus while their efforts were generally ignored by the press, the United Nations Associations of our country and of the Soviet Union have nonetheless taken an important step in the direction of achieving increased understanding and cooperation at all levels, essential ingredients in the President's own efforts at relaxing tensions with the country which has been America's chief rival for more than two decades.

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