

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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The Northwest's Best Weekly  
A Black Owned Publication

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## The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

### It's your move, Governor McCall

For the past year the Observer has been pointing out the absence of blacks and other minorities on the state's many policy making boards and commissions. These boards, which actually make the policies, determine how the money is spent and supervise the operation of state agencies and departments, are vital in the operation of state activities. They not only control state action, but they also provide the philosophy which governs attitudes.

Now the Governor's Human Rights Commission has reported that only one third of one percent (.3%) of the members of all state commissions, councils and policy boards are minorities and only one percent are women. On 104 of the 106 state policy boards, there are only 23 minority members and 72 women out of 718 members. The others are white men. Some of the most influential state commissions, the Liquor Control Commission, the Highway Commission, the Fish and Game Commission, the Environmental Quality Commission - all are made up of white males.

And who is at fault? The Governor is at fault. It is the Governor who appoints the members of the state's commissions, councils and boards. It is true that these boards existed before Governor McCall came to office and that many of the members were appointed by Senator Mark Hatfield who was then Governor. Hatfield's record is no better than McCall's, but the fact remains that Governor McCall has been in office for six years and that during that period most of these terms have come up for reappointment. So the current make up can hardly be blamed on predecessors.

Governor McCall has made some minority appointments - Clara Peoples to the Agriculture Board, Ellis Casson to the Youth Commission and Faye Lyday and Dr. Lewis to the Welfare Advisory Committee. But this is insignificant when we consider the hundreds of appointments he has made in the last six years.

Governor McCall has long had the reputation of an advocate of civil rights. He was an early supporter and board member of the Portland Urban League. He has profited from this affiliation. He knows the importance of minority participation. For him, there is no excuse.

The Governor must now give serious consideration to filling every vacancy that occurs during his remaining two years in office with a minority person. Only in this way can past omissions be corrected and minority people be placed in their rightful place in state government.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir:

I have read the many articles in your paper about what Blacks, middle class and lower class are not doing. Continuity is one of the answers which seems to be obsolete according to what I have read in your paper. Traditionally Black people have been demoralized by Black and white. Whites have placed Blacks in administrative positions, knowing they would fail, and Blacks have criticized them for failing. Portland Blacks have not supported nor helped prepare schools for proper education for their children, yet they are the loudest voices every June when they finally find out where and how to get into the schools.

Those liberals, both Black and white, can make significant changes by insisting that those Blacks who are in administrative positions, either do their jobs as required or fire them. We have many young

Blacks who can do the same job at a lesser salary and will be vociferous where the ones we now have lost their voice and usefulness for the Black community as administrators or self-appointed spokesmen. The white administration must be made to realize the disservice they are doing to the Black people, consciously and unconsciously, by appointing some of these older insecure Blacks to positions they cannot fulfill beneficially for Black people. Because Blacks have been pushed by Blacks and whites, no wonder our Black children are frustrated.

Some of our Blacks are doing an effective job helping Blacks and others. Because of their successes and truthfulness, many Blacks and whites seem to fear them.

Walter F. Morris, Jr.  
5628 N.E. 22nd  
Portland, Oregon 97211



## As I See It Oregon Black Caucus, NAACP, Urban League and Others

By Lenwood G. Davis

In the past I have been extremely critical of the Portland Branch of the NAACP, Portland Urban League, Black Panther Party and other community and civic organizations. However, I believe in giving credit where credit is due. The NAACP and Urban League leadership have supported the Oregon Black Caucus, not only in spirit, but also in practice. I, for one, was glad to see the leaders of the NAACP and Urban League participate in the recent Oregon Black Political Convention, as well as their presence at the recent meetings. And this is more than what I can say for the "alleged" leadership of the Black Panther Party, although they did stop by briefly for the convention. However, they have not been attending the meetings.

The leaders of the NAACP and Urban League have shown their good faith to the Black Caucus and are supporting it and its programs. This only goes to prove, to disbelievers, that different segments of the Black community can come together for common causes. In this writer's opinion, the

Black Panther Party has not been as active in the Black Caucus as it should be. However, since the Survival Conference is over, perhaps, it also will become more involved. Needless to say, the Black Panther Party and other organizations cannot be isolated from other groups in the Black community. It would be asinine and suicidal to try it. Obviously, the Black Panther Party in Portland, like the Black Panther Parties all over the United States, desperately need MORE members. Furthermore, the Black Panther Party in Portland can ill afford to write off any support from the other Black organizations in the community. In fact, it must strive to have a more congenial relationship with those groups. The Black Panther Party, here, is doing its part for the cause, but since its membership is near nil it can only do so much.

Since some of the other Black leaders in Portland have shown their good faith to the Black Caucus, the Black Caucus must likewise show its good faith by supporting them.



Lenwood Davis

There is no doubt in my mind that the Black Caucus will actively support the other Black organizations, if asked.

Since the Black Caucus has recently issued the Oregon Black Agenda, all Black people and all Black organizations, groups, clubs, must work for its implementation. These organizations MUST incorporate the Black Agenda into their over-all programs. The Black Agenda stated its position for Black people in the State of Oregon: "We have our program. We have our challenge. Let us (Black people) now proceed with the chore at hand. Let us seize the time - for the time is ours!" The role of all Black groups MUST be to see that every platform and every resolution is adopted and fulfilled!

## The choice is yours ...

### Bond rebukes Blacks for Nixon

In one of the sharpest attacks to date on black supporters of President Nixon, State Representative Julian Bond of Georgia termed black Republicans "political prostitutes."

The young black legislator was the featured speaker at the closing session of the 63rd annual convention of the National Urban League.

Mr. Bond warned against those black supporters of President Nixon who would urge blacks to vote Republican or not vote at all in November.

"Those who urge us not to vote are the willing accomplices of the fascist forces in America who believe the only good black voter is one who does not vote."

"Those blacks who urge us to vote for the man who gave us Carswell and Haynsworth and 'benign neglect' are members of a new American political party, neither Democratic nor Republican nor independent," he said. "These new political prostitutes belong to the Small Business Administration party, the Housing and Urban Development party, the Health, Education and Welfare party, the Washington Rent party."

"They praise the President as 'the greatest savior since Jesus Christ'; they applaud the wizard of the wiretap, the architect of law and order, the former Attorney General; and wonder of wonders, they attend a formal dinner honoring the old Dixiecrat himself, Strom Thurmond."

Mr. Bond added, "It is imperative that we come together now to drive Richard Nixon from the White House. He says he will get 20 per cent of the black vote in November. That's 100 per cent more than he deserves."

The first Congressional contest in Tennessee between a black and a white was assured by the state primary election. State Senator James O. Patterson, Jr. has become the first black to win major-party nomination for Congress. He routed three white opponents in the new Eighth (Memphis) District, which is 46 per cent black.

Mrs. Florence S. Gaynor has been named chief administrator of the largest hospital in Newark, New Jersey, Morland Hospital of the State medical school. She will be the first black woman to head a major teaching hospital.

The Federal Communications Commission has refused to block broadcasts of racist political announcements of a Georgia Senate candidate despite fears the words "nigger, nigger" might provoke violence in Atlanta.

The FCC turned down a request filed by the Atlanta NAACP that it order an exception to Federal broadcast regulations that make it illegal to censor political ads.

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## To Be Equal

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

There's been a lot of criticism recently, about the role of private foundations in fostering projects designed to bring about social change.

The idea has taken root that foundations are fueling social change by massive infusions of money and are acting irresponsibly. This attitude was part of the rationale for the 1969 law that tightened federal restrictions on foundations and for current warnings by some social scientists and university administrators that still more regulations are in store unless foundations go slow on social projects.

But the truth of the matter is that private foundations have, if anything, been going too slow. Considering their enormous potential for encouraging responsible social change in a society that needs

to channel resources to the less-favored segments of the nation, foundations could and should be doing a lot more.

They've always been late. In the dim, dark earlier years of this century, a bare handful of foundations supported black causes and black efforts at building viable educational institutions. Even in the early sixties, at the height of the civil rights movement, there were only relatively few foundations supporting southern voter registration efforts and similar activities.

More recently, the numbers of foundations exhibiting social concerns have grown, but funds made available to black institutions are still limited and the foundation community is still split between the few who are involved and the many who con-

tinue to sit out the struggle for equality on the sidelines.

Despite this, there has been a backlash against supposedly excessive foundation involvement in the social arena. While black people are still just getting crumbs from the table, foundations are accused of heaping our plates too full.

A recent research study by the National Urban League indicates just how far foundations have yet to go before complaints about "excesses" can be judged as being ration.

Analyzing grants compiled by the Foundation Grants Index for 1970 and 1971, the League found that less than 20 percent of all grants for all purposes went into social welfare programs. And of those social welfare grants, only about a fifth went to black agencies. Less than a fourth of the money allotted for social welfare went to programs serving black and other minority communities. Grants in the field of race

relations, which includes civil rights agencies, amounted to only ten percent of the social welfare grants. Only three percent of grants for assisting the aged found their way into the black community, as did less than ten percent of the grants for youth programs and five percent of child welfare grants.

In the field of education, the picture was more bleak. Of all grants to colleges and universities, the struggling black colleges received only six percent of the total.

There is, then, little doubt that foundations have barely scratched the surface in funding programs of importance to the black community. Unfortunately, the foundations don't deserve the accusations that they are too deeply involved in social change. They do deserve to be reminded that they exist to root out social evils and that they must use their wealth and power to help the poor and the powerless.



With Ron Hendren  
A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

### A BILL OF RIGHTS: NEW HOPE FOR THE MENTALLY RETARDED

By Ron Hendren

WASHINGTON—This session, Congress will act on a Bill of Rights which responds to the plight of the more than six million mentally retarded persons in the United States.

Life for these Americans is, at best, bleak. For the 200,000 who are institutionalized in residential facilities it is often a hopeless nightmare. Willowbrook, the world's largest institution for the mentally retarded, was built in New York in 1941 to house 3,000 patients. Today Willowbrook has a population of 5,200. Half of the patients are under the age of 21. For a good number of those under treatment, Willowbrook is little more than a depository: a place capable of providing only shelter and the barest of essentials for those whose families are unable—or unwilling—to care for them.

The staff at Willowbrook is so overworked that there is little time for rehabilitative treatment. "It just kills me," commented one attendant, "We're so busy that we can't do anything that really helps them."

Willowbrook is more often the rule than the exception. In Alabama, an emergency court order described the 2,300 mentally retarded inmates housed at the Tuscaloosa Partlow State School and Hospital as living in "acute physical danger." Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., declared that the evidence "vividly and undisputedly portrayed Partlow as a warehousing institution which, because of its atmosphere of psychological and physical deprivation, is wholly incapable of furnishing treatment to the mentally retarded and is conducive only to the deterioration and debilitation of residents."

In the words of Senator Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.), "How can we, the richest nation in the world, treat innocent hu-

man beings in such an inhumane fashion?"

Javits, with the enthusiastic support of Senator Harrison A. Williams (D-N.J.), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, has introduced legislation which has been called a "Bill of Rights for the Mentally Retarded." It would create a partnership of governmental agencies, professional organizations, practitioners, and consumer representatives working together to improve services to the mentally retarded while encouraging states to develop plans for regional and community programs. Funds would be provided to help develop alternatives to traditional residential care facilities which have often proved to be little more than prisons.

The bill has received acclaim from leaders of the United Cerebral Palsy Association who described it as a "landmark in the restoration of full citizenship" for the retarded. Labor leaders see the legislation as "a major step forward toward the goal of fully protecting the rights of millions of handicapped citizens," according to a statement issued by AFL-CIO representatives.

The bill is likely to pass. Most legislators apparently feel it represents the least America can do for her mentally retarded. As one Congressman put it, "This measure does not provide all the answers. But it will herald a beginning. And God knows, for the mentally retarded that beginning is long overdue."

And while the talk goes on, 120,000 mentally retarded infants are born each year in America.



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