

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

Black children lose again

Representative Edith Green has introduced and had passed by the House of Representatives two important amendments to the anti-busing bill. The first amendment limits the busing of children to the school nearest or second nearest their homes. For most cities with large concentrations of blacks, and even in portions of Portland, this will make busing to achieve desegregation impossible. The second amendment will allow all school districts that are already under court order to reopen their cases. These amendments can only show Black people that Congress is no longer committed to desegregation. The reopening of court cases as far back as 1954 can only create chaos and discontent, even in areas where busing has been successful for all concerned. And what is Mrs. Green's motive behind all this? Portland has not bused enough children to be concerned about. There has been no compulsory busing in Portland, and as far as anyone knows there is no plan to bus white children into Black schools in Portland. Yet, Mrs. Green is more violent in her fight against busing than many of the Congressmen whose districts are directly involved and seeks even more restrictions than President Nixon himself.

Mrs. Green has spent much time and energy fighting desegregation and busing during the past few years. But this cannot be out of concern for Black children or even for white children in Portland.

Mrs. Green was elected to represent the people of East Portland and East Multnomah County - including most of Oregon's Blacks. She was not elected to protect the white neighborhood's of the nation from invasion by Black school children. She was not elected to protect the nation's white children from contact with Black children. She had better get off the anti-busing kick and turn some attention to planning programs, including busing where necessary, to provide quality education for all of the children of her own district rather than carrying on her crusade against Black children.

Tragedy comes to Mississippi

Mound Bayou Community Hospital, which serves the all Black community of Mound Bayou, Mississippi will soon be closed. Mound Bayou, located in the Mississippi Delta, is completely controlled by Blacks, as is the hospital.

The hospital has been operating on OEO grants during the past few years, but this year Mississippi Governor William Waller has vetoed the hospital's application for a grant.

The Office of Economic Opportunity could override the veto and refund the hospital, but apparently President Nixon is not yet ready to risk losing those white Mississippi voters. As a result, the Mississippi Delta is about to lose the only hospital where Blacks can be assured of receiving quality care.

The median income for Blacks in the region is \$1,000 per year. Medical care is at a premium. The hospital has survived many racist attempts to close it, but it cannot survive without money.

If President Nixon is as concerned about the well being of American citizens, and especially of poor Black citizens, he should direct the OEO office to fund this hospital.

Sacrifice for freedom

The young Black men and women of the United States Olympic team are faced with the difficult decision of joining the Black nations of the world in boycotting the Olympic Games because of Rhodesia's participation. If they join the boycott they will be giving up the goals and dreams of a lifetime. They will also be demonstrating more courage and commitment to freedom than their government, for the United States is one of the few nations of the world that ignores the United Nations economic boycott of Rhodesia.

Not only is Rhodesia a country ruled by a small minority of whites, but it has a brutal tradition toward Blacks. Recently the government used dogs to drive Black Rhodesians off land that had been declared "white". When Tangwena farmers who claimed the land was theirs tried to move back onto land claimed by whites, their children were removed by the government and sent to institutions.

The government and the people of the United States will be angry if the Black athletes do not compete, and if this brings on an American defeat, but we must be proud of the sacrifice they make for the liberation of all Black people.



NO WORK!

YESTERDAY
"IT IS AS IMMORAL TO STOP A MAN FROM GETTING A JOB FOR WHICH HE IS QUALIFIED AS IT IS TO ALLOW A WORKER TO BE ROBBED OF HIS MONEY BY INFLATION."

PRESIDENT NIXON TODAY

"THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS ENDED ALL PRESSURE ON FEDERAL AGENCIES TO STEP UP EMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF MINORITY GROUPS," SAYS ROBERT E. HAMPTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

N.Y. TIMES

"GUSTED RIGHTS AIDE SAYS NIXON FAILS TO GIVE MORAL LEADERSHIP, IT HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE CLEAR THE ADMINISTRATION IS GOING TO CATER TO THE VOTERS OF THE DEEP SOUTH."

EX-AIDE, LEONE E. PANETTA N.Y. TIMES

Minimum family income needed

By Benjamin E. Mays

Recently the Census Bureau made a report on the median income of the American family. It was \$10,285 in 1971. This means that half of the American families are below \$10,285 and the other half are above that line. If there are 225,000,000 Americans and there is an average of four to a family, we have approximately 56,000,000 families in the United States; 28,000,000 receiving \$10,285 or more per family and 28,000,000 families are receiving less than that amount.

This looks very good for 112,000 people for those above the median are receiving income reaching all the way from the median to the million dollar bracket and above. Those are the fortunate ones and, I might say, the lucky ones.

I say lucky because many factors are involved as to whether one is above or below the median line: Race, class, education, poverty, family and many other factors determine where one falls in the economic scale. The well-to-do families usually perpetuate themselves and the poor families tend to perpetuate themselves.

The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. The family above the median line of \$10,285 stands a good chance of having their children educated and the parents of well-to-do families can pass their business and their wealth to their children.

Parents of children below the median line have very little, if anything, to pass on to their offspring. This doesn't mean that children of poor homes and uneducated homes cannot make it, but it does mean the percentage of the poor who make it up the economic and educational ladder is smaller.

If I had the figures before me, I am sure that I would find a few million families with incomes below \$2,000 for a family of four. It is difficult for me to understand why it is so hard to get Congress to enact a bill that would guarantee every family of four a minimum income of \$5,000 a year.

Yes, it would cost the taxpayers more, but it would make a more healthy economy. A family with \$5,000 will spend more than the family with \$2,000. The education of the children will improve with the increase in income. In the long run we would have a better educated people and a more economically secure people. To guarantee a minimum of \$5,000 a year for every family of four would increase the wealth of the nation, reduce crime and illiteracy, and develop pride in the nation.

Of course it should be noted that the median income rose above \$10,000 for the first time in 1971 but the gain was wiped out by inflation. When we become as concerned about people as we are about defense we will be a better nation and a stronger nation.



With Ron Hendren
A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

REASON VS. RHETORIC IN MIDDLEBURG

By Ron Hendren

MIDDLEBURG, VA.—In the old days this peaceful little community in the rolling Virginia countryside was a favorite stopping place for travelers on the way to and from Washington. National leaders, it is said, frequented its taverns and inns as far back as the days of Washington and Jefferson.

But life's pace, for better or worse, has accelerated rather sharply since the 1700's and today Middleburg is a mere 40 minute drive from the Capital and a quiet relic of the past. Much of the town, including one old tavern dating back to 1728, has been faithfully restored and maintained in the tradition of 200 years ago.

The inn, dark and a little musty, is filled with the mixed aromas of good food and that faint campfire odor which old fireplaces manage to give off even in the midst of summer. Its hand-hewn beams, whitewashed walls and wide oak plankings are down-to-earth and real. Its walls are solid and somehow courteously impervious to that roaring stream of rhetoric which comes just a few miles away to flood the land every four years during national elections. Indeed, the building has witnessed and withstood the pledges, plans and programs of 92 Congresses and 37 Presidents, the promised lands and the primrose paths, and somehow has survived it all — a profoundly comforting realization.

But that comfort is somewhat diminished by the equally profound feeling one gets in Middleburg that everything along the way has not been progress, that somewhere between George Washington and Richard Nixon, a good deal of what is worthwhile about life has been misplaced.

A jetliner, passing over Middleburg on its way to Dulles International Airport, illustrates the point. The Federal Aviation Administration announced a few days ago that pollution from jet aircraft — a matter of no small concern to those who live near major airports — would soon be a thing of the past. Officials said that a new device installed on jet engines would

virtually eliminate the smoke stream and thereby go a long way toward solving the pollution problem.

Hardly had the ink dried on this pronouncement when one of Ralph Nader's committees said the whole thing was bunk, that in fact the new devices would take care of only one percent of the dangerous gases in a jetliner's exhaust trail.

Now the truth, as is generally the case, probably lies somewhere in the middle. But a phenomenon more disturbing than the exhaust trail itself is that neither the FAA nor the Nader group was willing to give the benefit of so much as one adjective to the other.

The result is that little room was left for discerning the truth because each side backed the other into an emotional corner from which there was no comfortable escape.

Unfortunately the jet stream incident is but one small scenario on the modern-day stage of confrontation politics where honest, reasoned, objective thinking is the exception rather than the rule.

Not that anybody expects politicians to be completely honest. Perhaps they never were, for if politicians weren't to a degree self-serving they probably would not be in the business in the first place. But there was a time in Middleburg and Washington when issues and personalities were more often discussed in an atmosphere of calmer understatement, clearer reasoning, respect and courtesy. Something there is about hand-hewn beams, whitewashed walls, wide oak floors, fireplaces and good food which encourages those virtues.

A return to them would be welcome. It might not solve more problems, but in these days of escalating superlatives it would at least make the rhetoric a little more bearable.

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As I See It The Oregon Black Agenda

Part I

By Lenwood G. Davis

This document, the Oregon Black Agenda, is the official platform developed and adopted at the first Oregon Black Political Convention held in Portland, June 30, and July 1, 1972. It represents the outcome of four workshops - Education, Political, Health and Social Services, and Economic. The platforms and resolutions, as well as the Agenda were approved by the General Assembly of the Convention.

Needless to say, the Oregon Black Agenda is addressed primarily to Blacks in the State of Oregon. This Black Agenda represents the emergence of a new political consciousness for Black Oregonians. It also outlines some crucial issues that Blacks will organize and move in the coming weeks and months.

This Black Agenda for the Seventies sees as its challenge unity and organization. It rejects as meaningless those who only engage in rhetoric and have no program for Black survival or social change.

The Oregon Black Agenda calls for support of forces that transcend color lines including liberalizing our Brown, Red and Yellow brothers because they also are oppressed. Indeed, even those white Americans who TRULY believe in freedom, justice and equality will join Blacks in forming a beautiful kaleidoscope of colors, moving like giants into this decade, sweeping away injustice before us.

The Oregon Black Caucus, sponsor of the First Black Political Convention, adopted the Oregon Black Agenda and stresses the point that its programs will bring about fundamental changes in this decadent system. Therefore, the Black Caucus begins with a Black Agenda. Blacks must now work towards its implementation.

The Oregon Black Caucus addresses itself to four main areas: Education, Politics, Health and Social Services, and Economics. Of these areas, Economics is perhaps the most essential. In the preface of the Economic section the Agenda surmised that since Black people in Oregon are the victims of economic exploitation, it is important that Blacks address themselves to positive methods through which Black people may gain economic liberation.

Moreover, the income of the Black community must be increased. Businesses in the Black community must be controlled by the community. Businesses in the community must be operated ultimately for the benefit of the community. A larger share of the wealth in Oregon must go to Black Oregonians.

In addition, businesses essential to the support of a viable community must be established and maintained in the geographical area in which Black people live. Black businessmen and industrialists must be provided adequate dollars, skilled labor, sufficient land and materials, and the necessary managerial expertise to compete in the market place. Businessmen, both Black and non-Black, who operate as producers or marketers in the Black community must be made accountable to the Black citizens. Pressure

must be applied upon the city, state and federal governments to distribute a greater portion of their resources to the Black community.

The Black Caucus believes that the following model will improve the economic situation of Black people in Oregon. Therefore, it calls for:

1.) Support and development of competitive quality Black businesses whenever and wherever economically feasible.

2.) Strengthening and developing the managerial and entrepreneurial expertise that exists within the Black community.

3.) Recognizing the need to increase the overall income level of the Black community, particularly that of individuals and families.

4.) Bringing dollars from the non-Black community into the Black community, particularly that of individuals and families.

5.) REVISING THE ECONOMIC VALUE SYSTEM OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

6.) Establishing a systematic process which will cause Black Oregonians to think and act together in such a way that their collective long term economic gains will be maximized.

7.) Linking the business and industrial activities of the Oregon Black community with those of Black communities in other states and other countries, especially in Africa.

8.) Developing the means to influence and audit the affairs of government at all levels to assure equitable treatment of Black businesses.

9.) Keeping the Black consumer informed of the available goods and services of Black businesses.

The economic program can be implemented if we take positive steps to do the things outlined below:

Support and develop competitive quality Black businesses whenever and wherever economically feasible.

1.) Buy Black.

2.) Communicate to Black businessmen as to how their product or service meets competitive standards.

3.) Check out good ideas for businesses or ways to manage business and make sure Black businessmen learn about them.

4.) Establish lobbies at the national, state and local levels to look after the interest of Black businessmen in Oregon.

5.) Assure the development of viable Black financial institutions that will bring financial resources into the Black community.

a.) Banking-commercial
b.) Insurance
c.) Mortgage banking
d.) Investment corporations
e.) Mutual funds

Strengthen and develop the managerial and entrepreneurial expertise that exists within the Black community.

1.) Support the existing training programs designed to develop the skills of Black persons.

a.) Support their operation.
b.) Support them when they are seeking funds.

2.) Secure expert assistance for Black businessmen from whatever sources are available.

3.) Support the collectivizing of inefficient competing Black businesses.

4.) Make it attractive for Black persons who have developed managerial and profes-



Lenwood Davis

sional skills to use those skills in the community.

a.) Let them know where their services can be used by Black businessmen.

b.) Purchase their services for Black businessmen when necessary.

c.) Work out contracts with management trainees from the Black community to return to the Black community to work for specified periods of time after they have been trained in schools and businesses outside of the community.

5.) Make it possible for Black businessmen who are operating marginal business to pursue formal training and education that will help them manage their business more effectively.

To accomplish our economic objectives, we must:

1.) Inventory businesses and industries in our geographical area; find out how many jobs they have—GET SOME.

2.) Work on firms with affirmative action programs.

3.) Develop new entrepreneurs in other communities.

4.) Funnel unemployed persons into jobs.

5.) Monitor training programs and processes.

6.) Employ Black building contractors.

7.) Support joint ventures by Black contractors.

8.) Assist Black service entities to control the markets in their area.

9.) Support and develop the artistic capabilities of the Black community.

10.) Control distribution area for goods sold in the Black community.

11.) Develop our own advertising.

12.) Create business that will meet emerging market needs in the future, especially consumer services, child care, etc.

13.) Sponsor workshops for Black consumer education.

14.) Provide alternative resources for the Black consumer.

15.) Create viable models for Black people to follow in developing their economic institutions.

16.) Control of the media so that the information received by Black people is positive.

17.) Use existing media outlets for educational purposes.

18.) Work with any and all sources that are trying to stamp out the narcotics trade in the Black community.

19.) Develop a camaraderie among Black people in their work and stress pride in their work.

Because of the historical significance, the Oregon Black Agenda is one document that ALL Black people in the State of Oregon MUST read. Needless to say, many white Oregonians will read it. Furthermore, ALL Black people in the State of Oregon MUST see to it that every item in the Oregon Black Agenda is fulfilled!

(NOTE: Part II of "The Oregon Black Agenda" will appear next week.)

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

The past weekend, I had the pleasure of attending the Cathedral Park Festival in St. Johns. The events there impressed me as being indicative of the type of spirit that could benefit other communities throughout Multnomah County. St. Johns residents have rallied behind an idea that, when realized, will greatly enhance the whole community.

Underneath the east side of the St. Johns Bridge, one can stand and look toward the river

through the ten graceful footings that support the bridge. The feeling is similar to that of looking into a cathedral; hence the name. A few people and then many decided that the undergrowth and blackberries that now cover this land should be cleared to create a park so that people can enjoy the sight, and plans for Cathedral Park were underway. A simple idea has been developed into a viable project that involves the entire community.

All Multnomah County can

learn from the successful launching of the project. It shows how a commitment that involves people can get things done. People are not powerless when they collectively work toward a common goal as the residents of St. Johns are doing. I welcome this kind of determination and heartily applaud the people of St. Johns. Congratulations on a good beginning.

Sincerely,
Donald E. Clark
Mult. County Commissioner