



Coalition selects Vann, Casson for City Council

Public schools expand desegregation program

An expanded administrative transfer program will be in operation with the opening of school this fall in the Portland Public Schools.

The administrative transfer program has been in existence since 1964. Under the seven-year-old program, students from schools with high concentrations of economically deprived families and low achievement can voluntarily transfer to other schools with higher achievement levels, provided the receiving school has the space to accommodate them. The program is expected to involve only about two per cent of the district's 72,000 students.

School officials said there are two main reasons for the anticipated increase in number this fall. First, due to the declining enrollment in the district, more space is available to accommodate those who wish to transfer; and, second, a team of community agents has worked for a somewhat longer period of time this summer informing parents about the availability of the program. Cost of transporting the students are paid from other than local property tax resources, school officials said.

Currently participation in the program is confined to students from inner city schools.

Black Caucus chooses Jones

(The following article is a special report to the Portland Observer.)

by Jim Rogers

In a historically significant meeting, Sunday, August 26th, 2 p.m., at the Vancouver Ave., First Baptist Church, Portland's first Black Community Convention elected Chalmers Jones, state administrator for special programs in the Department of Human Resources, as the Black community's candidate for the City Council post to be vacated Jan. 1, when Neil Goldschmidt becomes mayor.

Chalmers Jones, active in the Black community in social and civic affairs since 1943, defeated Black lawyer John Toran, community leader and member of the Executive Council of the Oregon Black Caucus.

The convention invocation and welcome was delivered by Rev. O.B. Williams, pastor of the Vancouver Ave. First Baptist Church. In his opening remarks, Rev. Williams charged the audience with the responsibility to work in harmony and unity for the greater good of the total community, since "too long have we lingered in the desert of indecision."

Attorney John Toran, the chairman of the convention, established the rules governing the nomination and selection of the candidate; and the contents of a pledge of allegiance to be signed by the candidate would serve the interests, needs, and desires of all members of the community.



CHALMERS JONES

Mr. Jones was nominated by David M. Nero, Black businessman; and the nomination was seconded by Dennis Payne. In his acceptance speech to the nomination, Mr. Jones said that "this was truly a momentous occasion in the history of the Portland Black community... and the Black community had two options now opened to them that related to their destiny; that (1) this was the beginning in

Portland of the first stages of operational unity; mandatory if the Black Community is to sustain itself; and (2) an understanding of the channels of power and progress to achieve an improved quality of life in our community." Mr. Jones said that he "was committed to both options." Mr. Jones added that he would "work hard to assure that the real needs, desires and

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, the NAACP and the Urban League have joined hands to present to the Portland City Council two Black men, C. Don Vann and Ellis Casson. The organizations are requesting that the council consider these men as appointees to fill the vacancy on the City Council created by the election of Commissioner Neil Goldschmidt to the position of Mayor.

The three organizations represent approximately 18,000 persons, the vast majority of whom are Black residents of Albina. The recommendations are part of a community effort to obtain the appointment to the city council for a Black. The Black people of Portland, having no elected city, county or state officials, are asking the city council to place a Black on the council.

AMA, NAACP and the Urban League did not consider the Community Convention, which met Saturday and chose Chalmers Jones, to have been representative of the Black community. The convention was poorly attended, and in the eyes of the spokesmen for the coalition, was not organized in the best way to achieve community support.

C. Don Vann is a Portland businessman, operating Vanns Mortuary on Williams Ave. Vann has been a resident of Portland for the past 18 years.

Vann attended Michigan State University, Northwestern School of Law, St. Louis College of Mortuary Science and Portland State University. He is licensed to practice Michigan, Oregon and nationally.

Active in the Urban League for many years, Vann is a Past-President of the Urban League of Portland and currently is a member of the Board of Directors. He is a member of the Executive Board of the NAACP, Portland Branch; the Board of Directors of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians, Inc.; the Portland Chamber of Commerce; and the Coliseum Kiwanis Club. He is a member of the Trustee Board of the Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church.

Vann is a former member of the Albina Citizens War on Poverty Committee and was among those instrumental in funding the Albina Multi-Service Center.

Ellis Casson is the Regional Civil Rights Officer for Region 10. He was previously Administrative Assistant for Intergroup Relations to the Superintendent of the Portland Public School. He is a former deputy director of Model Cities and was a field representative for the Civil Rights Division of the Oregon State Bureau of Labor.

Casson is currently President of the NAACP, Portland Branch. He is chairman of the Oregon State Commission on Intergroup Human Relations; and a member of the



C. DON VANN



ELLIS CASSON

State Youth Commission; a board member of the YMCA; a vice-president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Oregon Region; and a member of the board of directors of the

Portland Urban League. Casson received his BA from Seattle-Pacific College and his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Evangelical Seminary. He is assistant pastor of Bethel AME Church.

Congress of African peoples hold annual conference

On August 31 through September 4, 1972, the Congress of African People will hold its 2nd Bi-Annual International Assembly in San Diego, California. The Assembly will be hosted by the Western Regional Coordinator of the Congress of African People, Imamu Vernon Sukumu. The 1st Congress of African People International Assembly was in 1970 in Atlanta, Georgia, at which time the theme of "unity without uniformity" was the first put into action with speakers from a diverse background of ideological influence, from the late Whitney Young, Jr., of the Urban League, to Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation

of Islam. The 2nd International Assembly will focus more specifically on Nationalist and Pan-Africanist development not only in the U.S., but around the world. It will be using as its theme "Kazi (Swahili for "work") is the Blackest of all". Speakers for the 2nd Assembly will include Imamu Baraka, C.L.R. James, Owusu Sadaukai, and representatives from Organization of African Unity, TANU (Tanganyikan African Nationalist Union), PDG (Democratic Party of Guinea), FROLIZI (Front for the Liberation of Zimbabwe), Roy Innis of CORE, Nelson Johnson of SOBU, Malcolm X Liberation

University, Joe Waller of JOMO, Edward Vaughn of Pan African Congress.

Part of the overriding concern of the 2nd International Assembly is 1) the question of what should be the position of Nationalists and Pan-Africanists with regard to the newly set up National Black Assembly 2) What should be the role of Nationalists and Pan-Africanists regarding their leadership in relationship to the media created civil rights oriented leadership of Black people, and 3) how to proceed, if possible, with the concept of "unity without uniformity" when there are clear differences between the ide-

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'Education is the way'

by Nan Phillips

Last March 20, Mr. Harold Williams, director of the Portland State University Education Center at 2611 N.E. Union, left Portland for Zagreb, capital of Croatia, for five weeks of intensive study at the University of Zagreb.

The trip was made possible through a special fellowship grant and the help of Dr. Charles White, professor of History and assistant Dean for International Education at Portland State. Dr. White was Mr. Williams' advisor. (Please turn to pg. 8, col. 5)



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Senator Morse warns against Constitutional crisis

Senator Wayne Morse told law students of Northwestern School of Law that lawyers have an obligation to address themselves to the problems in this time of Constitutional crisis. "Unless we preserve and implement constitutional guarantees we are not going to save a system of constitutional government."

In speaking of the Brown decision that brought school desegregation, Morse said the American people are not being told the truth. The court has never ordered wholesale busing but has ordered that busing be used as a tool to promote desegregation. The Brown decision found that segregation violates the opportunity for equal education

of non-white children in the United States. Morse said political philosophy has no place in courts. In the Brown case the evidence was analyzed and the decision was made. Now an amendment to the United States Constitution to forbid busing and thereby deny to black children their constitutional right to equal educational opportunity is seriously being considered. He said, "there is no place in America for an apartheid society. This issue will play a great part in the coming campaign. They will seek to deceive the American people to believe that you can have apartheid in the schools and maintain domestic tranquility."

Senator Morse said the Supreme Court is not acting to guarantee the rights of citizens and warned against a coming constitutional crisis.

The last time the Supreme Court moved to prevent unconstitutional use of power by a president was when President Truman attempted to take over the steel mills during the Korean War. The court found there was no evidence of need because of the war effort.

That was the last time the court intervened against a president. It takes four votes to take jurisdiction and only three justices have been willing to consider allegations that presidents have over-asserted their powers. "The

American people have a right to have the Supreme Court protect their rights when the presidents exceed their constitutional powers."

The new Chief Justice has challenged the 5th Amendment and jury trials. He plans changes of procedure which could deny the individual his rights. "Substantive legal rights will never be any better than procedural rights. All bills should be examined as to the procedures they initiate and whether those procedures will deny rights."

President Nixon has placed himself in the position of a justice since "has stated that he will only appoint men to the Supreme Court who will interpret the law the way he

does.

The Supreme Court has refused to take jurisdiction in the case of the Vietnam War, yet the decision of whether or not the war is constitutional would settle many other questions. The Supreme Court has refused to determine whether Congress could pass the economic rule by the president. The Congress cannot legally legislate power to the president.

The Supreme Court should also determine how the president has the power to impound legislated funds. Only the Congress has the power to appropriate and direct the expenditure of funds. The President's only power in this matter is to veto appropri-

ations bills. But Presidents have been impounding appropriated funds and Congress has permitted it. The presidents have also used these funds in places for which they were not intended, such as the CIA. "Congress has been supporting a President rather than a Constitution."

Morse warned of a loss of rights through court procedures and admonished the legal profession to take leadership in this time of crisis.

Morse, a former Dean of the University of Oregon School of Law, is considered to be one of the nation's leading authorities on constitutional law.