

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

Governor, please broaden the circle

Governor Tom McCall has appointed eleven blacks to state boards and commissions and one black judge in his six years in office. Four of the appointees are on the Commission on Human Rights. Out of 718 board and commission members, this is a poor record, but it is better than his predecessors.

A glance at Governor McCall's appointees shows that most are employees of the state, the federal government or of federally funded programs whose funds are controlled by the state. Faye Lyday and Charles Jordan are employed by Model Cities and Clara Peoples by a Model Cities funded agency. Hazel Hays works for the Portland Development Commission, which is funded by the city and operates mainly on money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Ellis Casson works for the U.S. Highway Department. Chalmers Jones, Ron Stratton and Terry Johnson work for the state. Mercedes Deliz was employed by the state at the time she was appointed to the District Court, then while a state judge, was appointed to the Commission on Human Rights.

Only Herb Amerson and Conrad McConnell are in private industry. The white appointees are seldom public employees, but are people in business and industry, farmers and ranchers, professional people and even housewives.

We would not infer that these black appointees can be controlled because they are public employees. It is proper that they received these appointments. But the circle should be broadened and a larger segment of the black community represented. Possibly the appointments have been largely confined to agency people because they are the ones that come to the attention of the Governor. If so, then he and his advisors must seek out other blacks who could serve ably, because there are many qualified and responsible black people who do not make the headlines.

Green writes off Blacks

The U.S. House of Representatives, approving 282 to 102 a shameful bill which seems to curb the federal court's authority to deal with one of the central issues of American life --- school desegregation and equal opportunity in education --- represents a truly disguised return to the old code words for Jim Crowism, "separate but equal," and a direct attack upon the powers of the courts.

What makes it shameful is its resurrection of the busing issue as a cynical election-year tactic. It represented a text book example of shoddy political handling of a crucial issue. It opens old wounds and provides no constructive solutions.

The people in Portland were ill-served by Representative Edith Green who joined in the attempt to limit the power of the federal court system.

Not that the solution to the problems of school segregation is an easy one. It may be the most difficult issue facing this country since the Civil War. This is precisely why the country should expect, even in an election year, responsible and conscientious action from its elected representatives.

Representative Edith Green has written Albina off her list. If she really comes to campaign in Albina (Black Community), it will not be out of duty to this community, but because of "Political expediency". Her views on busing are much worse than President Nixon's. Time and time again Edith Green has shown not only to Blacks in Oregon but to Blacks and minorities across America that she is really "The Enemy" for Justice and Equality for Blacks and minorities who live across the tracks.

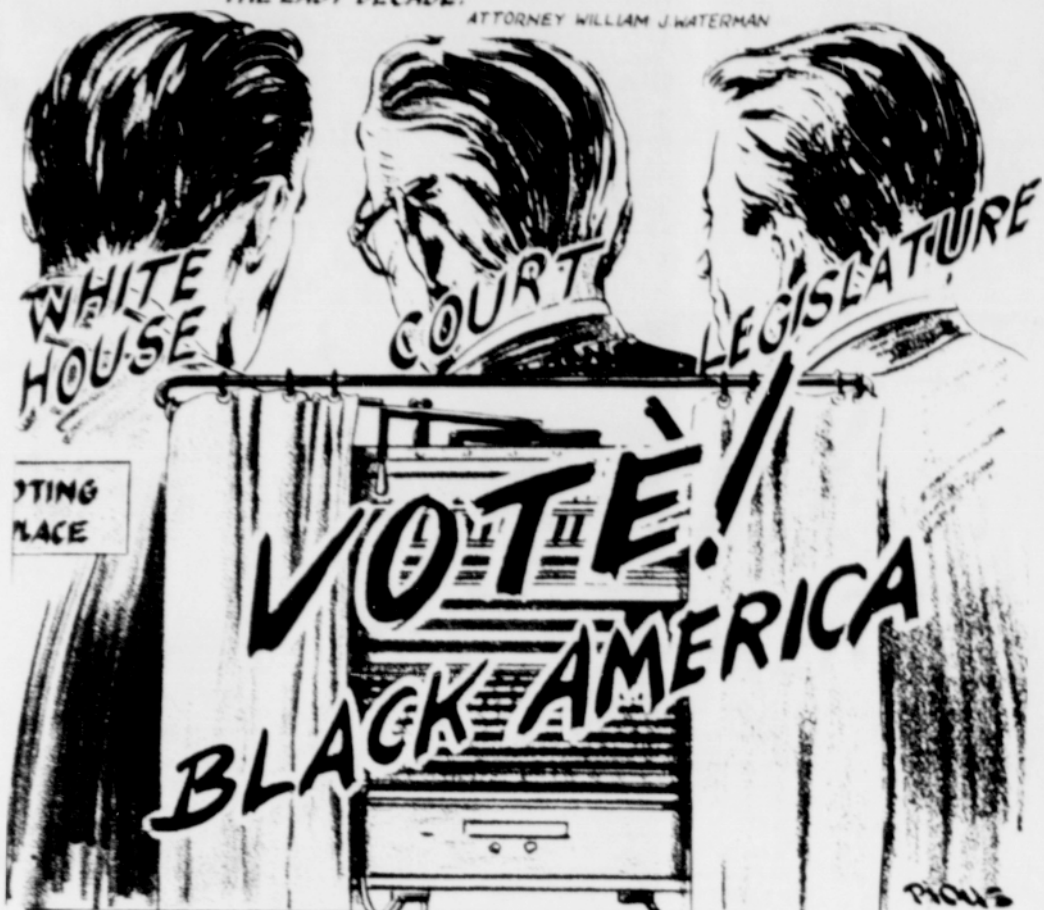
The debate centered around the question: Can a reasonable program of busing be a proper and constitutional tool for dealing with segregated schools?

Back in April of 1971, the U.S. Supreme Court said it can. The courts were forced into a central role in school desegregation over the years because other branches of government defaulted. Edith Green was a prime factor in the movement. She also wants to do away with OEO program. She does not believe in the poor having a voice about their own destiny.

Finally, the bill unwisely would force a confrontation between the courts and the legislative and executive branches of government. It should be defeated summarily by the Senate.

"THE WHITE HOUSE OF THE 1960'S IS GONE, ALONG WITH THE COURT AND THE LEGISLATURE OF THE LAST DECADE."

ATTORNEY WILLIAM J. WATERMAN



Unity in diversity

(Reprinted from the August 31 issue of the PORTLAND OBSERVER by popular demand.)

Representatives of the Albina Ministerial Alliance, the NAACP and the Urban League selected two black men to be presented to the city council for appointment to Commissioner Neil Goldschmidt's seat. In selecting two candidates, the organizations sought to avoid giving the commissioners an easy way out if one candidate does not meet their approval.

There is some advantage to uniting behind one candidate and presenting a solid front on his behalf. There is also advantage to providing a number of acceptable candidates from among whom the commissioners can make a selection. With three or more candidates, each with the support of a portion of the community, it will be difficult for the city commissioners to say a qualified black cannot be found.

The white press and the white power structure can use this opportunity to say the black community is divided. But the black community is not divided -- it is united in its goal to be represented on the city council. It is only natural that in a diversified population of over 20,000 persons there would be differences of opinion as to who would be the best person to serve in this capacity. And we can no longer govern our actions by what we expect to be the reaction of the white press.

The action of AMA, NAACP and the Urban League are in no way a reflection on the Black Caucus or on Chalmers Jones. The Black Caucus is an organization of individuals and each person who attended the Community Convention, whether a member of the Black Caucus and/or other organizations, voted as an individual. Attendance at the Conference was small, but the vote reflected the opinion of those present. This vote could in no way be binding on all black citizens.

The Black Caucus is an important movement for the future of black people in Oregon. We look to it with great hope, particularly in the political area. But it is a young organization and at this time cannot speak for the black community with one voice.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, representing nearly 50 churches, the NAACP and the Urban League, through their elected officials, represent approximately 18,000 black people and a number of whites. These three organizations have a long record of accomplishment in Portland and have a reliable constituency.

AMA, the NAACP and the Urban League are not attempting to negate the action of the Community Council or to force their wishes on the community -- they merely want to be involved in the political life of the community.

The important issue is that the city council knows that we, the black people of Portland, want and believe we are entitled to representation and that the only way that representation will come in the foreseeable future is through appointment. If any of these black men, or any other black person is appointed, the community must unite behind him to provide the encouragement and support he will need. And the appointee, on the other hand, must understand that he was put in his position by the black community and that his decisions must reflect the needs and aspirations of black people as well as the overall benefits of the PEOPLE of Portland.



The Observation POST

A little-noticed change in the National School Lunch Act may force close to 1.5 million youngsters currently receiving school lunch off the rolls.

A Senate Agriculture subcommittee, headed by Senator James Allen, D-Ala., has approved a change in the Act which would not reimburse states that have school lunch eligibility standards higher than 15 per cent above the federal poverty guidelines, or 30 per cent above the guidelines for reduced price lunches.

The House in late June approved a bill which contained limits of 25 for free lunches and 50 per cent for the reduced price lunches, allowing children that are a little better off to take part in the School Lunch Program.

But the Nixon Administration has asked for the figures contained in the subcommittee bill.

The poverty guidelines for the school lunch program beginning in September will be \$4.00 per year for a family of four, as set by the Department of Agriculture.

But under the subcommittee's proposal, states could raise that to \$4.76 for free lunches, and \$5.34 for reduced price lunches.

Those ceilings, however, are lower than ceilings already set in most areas.

"It will cause some problems to some states," said an assistant to Senator Herman Tammage, D-Ga., chairman of the full Senate Agriculture Committee.

Earlier this year, Senator George McGovern's Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, estimated that more than 1.5 million children would have to be dropped from the program, if the Administration guidelines are followed.

The Agriculture Department said slightly more than 8 million children were participating at the end of the year in the program. More than 10 million children are currently eligible for the program.

As I See It The Oregon Black Agenda

Part III

By Lenwood G. Davis

The Oregon Black Agenda addresses itself primarily to Black people in the State of Oregon. PRIMARILY is the key word. We Blacks fully realize that even though Black people are oppressed we are NOT the only group in America that is oppressed. Therefore, as the Agenda states, as Blacks move toward fundamental social changes, we do not march alone, for forces of oppression transcend color lines. Furthermore, the changes which this Agenda calls for also liberalize Brown, Red and Yellow brothers. Even some whites who sincerely believe in freedom, justice and equality will join us in forming a beautiful rainbow, moving like proud warriors into the 70's, sweeping away inequalities before us.

The political section shows one avenue of how Blacks in the State of Oregon can sweep away the inequalities against Blacks - gain political power. After all, the political, economic and educational systems are so intertwined that it is absurd to believe that we can combat one without attacking all of them. Hence, as one statesman declared, "Seek ye the 'political kingdom' first and all others will come later."

The preface of the political section of the Agenda states the position of the Oregon Black Caucus, namely: "The plight of Black people in the State of Oregon has been

sanctioned and perpetuated by Oregon's political system. This is because the state's political system is one that is dedicated to the preservation of White power. It was this White politics that made Oregon one of the most anti-Black states outside of the South. It was this White politics that was responsible for the disfranchisement of Black people. White politics is the politics of racism."

The Black Agenda continues to emphasize that Black people must now obtain political power and use that power to further the goals of the Black community. Unlike those who have no program for Black survival or social change, the Oregon Black Caucus does have programs for Black survival and social change. One of the programs is in the political arena. Therefore, Black people must now "obtain political power and use that power to further the goals of the Black community. It is our intention to present a plan of action designed to create a political awareness within the Black community aimed at alleviating the existing political condition. To that end:

(a) We must educate Black people that, short of revolution, the political arena is the last place where they might legitimize their fight for freedom; (b) We must undertake a program to educate our people about the most fundamental aspects of local, state and federal government; (c) We must mobilize Black participation in the political process, by a voter education program and follow through with vigorous voter registration drive; (d) We must define the responsibilities of Blacks running for political office; (e) We must urge unity in our voting practice. Black bloc voting is essential to the presentation of Black political hope; (f) Black people must become a viable force within the exist-



Lenwood Davis

ing political system, operating from an independent power base; (g) We must eliminate the requirement that elected officials have an automatic right to be a representative for the National Black Assembly. This provision breeds divisions in the Black National Assembly and frequently is the basis for misrepresentation of Black opinion nationally. It also sustains the present two-party system which may not be in the best interests of Black people nationally; (h) We must devise a community liaison between elected officials and the community; (i) We must establish a political relationship on a statewide basis with all minority groups to form a viable coalition of third world unity.

Blacks in the State of Oregon are less represented in politics than in any other area. To date, there are only four Black elected public officials in the state, even though Blacks number nearly 30,000. In other words, if all 28,316 Blacks had a city of its own we would be the seventh largest city in Oregon, which means that all towns with less than 28,316 have elected officials representing them and Blacks do not. Therefore, Blacks in Oregon MUST register, MUST vote, and MUST support ONLY those white candidates that support bills and programs that can benefit Black people!

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

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Another point of view

From the
Eugene Register-Guard

The old, the new, the paradoxical Nixon

Six weeks ago, George McGovern looked out upon America and saw it going to hell. He asked it to come home.

Wednesday night, Richard Nixon looked out upon America and saw it closer to heaven than ever before. He urged it to keep going.

That's how it seemed from this side of the television screen, anyway.

These two men who want to serve as President during the four years that will lead to the nation's 200th anniversary make the same set of facts on issue after issue add to grossly different sums.

They do agree that they are in almost full disagreement. In attacking what he detects as the man's alien and radical philosophy, Mr. Nixon made it clear that he will make McGovern the leading issue of his campaign. McGovern likewise was even more explicit: "I never underestimate the power of Richard Nixon to bring harmony to Democratic ranks. He is our unwitting unifier and the fundamental issue of this campaign."

One does not recall even the Goldwater-Johnson campaign, in which extremism became an issue as such, yielding rhetoric in which opponents have painted each other in such sharp contrast.

McGovern evokes Jonathan Edwards when he calls for an end to the sins of "secrecy and deception in high places...the entrenchment of special privilege." He makes in black and white: "This is the time for truth, not falsehood...And this is a time not for death, but for life."

President Nixon in turn sees his opponent as an agent of

potential destruction of a successful economic system and a successful American role in the world. The McGovern proposals for Vietnam and for reduced defense spending would "betray our allies and destroy respect for the United States in the world" and make this "the second strongest nation in the world."

The Nixon acceptance speech reminded us again of the paradox that this man has come to represent. The speech itself sounded much like the old Nixon who used to be the nemesis of every liberal in the land. Its simple points and pointed phrases reflected the kind of "America first" patriotism and free enterprise-work ethic economics that appeal to the right. Yet his actions in office have been out of phase with that philosophy. He has imposed wage and price controls to halt inflation, he has built diplomatic bridges to the two giants of world communism, and despite the fact that he described McGovern's guaranteed minimum income plan as having "insulted the intelligence of the American voters." Mr. Nixon has sent to Congress a plan that is similar in both principle and detail.

He seems to have found a way to furnish the words that hold the moderate right and actions that hold the moderate left. He would appear to occupy such an expansive center of electoral popularity as to leave no room for successful challenge.

But then, this is a year in which George McGovern has profited from the fact that voters themselves are behaving paradoxically. That makes it at least as hard to predict the outcome of the election as to predict the next move of Richard Nixon.