

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

**MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.**

Thursday September 28, 1972

**The Northwest's Best Weekly  
A Black Owned Publication**

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## The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

## The choice is ours

Recently the House of Representatives passed a repressive anti-busing bill which, if passed by the Senate, could reopen all school desegregation cases and create complete chaos. Even in districts where desegregation has proceeded peacefully for a number of years, segregated schools could be restored. This bill was pushed through the House by Edith Green, the Congresswoman from Oregon.

The bill could go to the Senate for approval within the next few days. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights has asked that concerned citizens write their Senators and ask that they vote against this racist bill. It is a well known fact that Senators do respond to the will of their constituents--especially in an election year.

But we are not so sure about the Senators from Oregon--they have never been very responsive to the needs and the appeals of black people.

Mark Hatfield, who is campaigning for reelection in November, has always talked about civil and human rights. But he also talks on both sides of the case--he told a correspondent from the OREGON JOURNAL that he opposes busing to lessen racial isolation, yet told the OBSERVER that he favors busing to further desegregation. Except for his anti-war policy, he has steadily moved to a more conservative position during his six years in office. His vote on this issue bears watching.

Bob Packwood's views on busing are not known to the OBSERVER. Packwood has attempted to stick with Nixon when possible, but to go with the majority at all costs. On the vote on the confirmation of Haynsworth to the Supreme Court, which was opposed by all black and civil rights organizations, Packwood withheld his vote until all other Senators had voted, and when the outcome was clear, he joined the majority. Hardly an act of leadership! Packwood's four years in the Senate have been largely devoted to work on an anti-labor bill which Nixon has now forsaken. This is not a very imposing record for our Junior Senator.

These are our Senators because they were chosen by the people of Oregon. Mr. Hatfield is now asking that the people of Oregon return him to the Senate. But where has Mr. Hatfield been when we needed him?

Now the choice is ours. Will we choose Mark Hatfield--who has hesitantly supported our rights but who has often voted against us? Or will we choose Wayne Morse, whose long and courageous record in the Senate places him squarely and consistently on our side?

The choice is ours . . . .

## Letters to the Editor

Linda Sue:

If you send your name and address we will be glad to print your letter regarding the Black Caucus.

Editor

Dear Editor:

I must commend you on your editorial of September 21.

Jim Rogers

Dear Brother Henderson:

I am very pleased to discover that "The Observer" can use "Soul Purpose".

I read through a backlog of three of your papers as I returned to my office after much traveling and I was very impressed with the quality new material.

As I've read the larger white newspaper during this election year I wish to especially commend and encourage your honest in publishing.

I am in hopes of visiting you soon in Portland. Thanks again.

Sincerely yours,  
Chuck Singleton

Anonymous 'Residents of the Model Neighborhood':

The salary of Portland City Commissioners is \$22,132 a year. Chalmers Jones or anyone appointed will receive that salary. The Mayor's salary is \$28,898.

# To Be Equal.....

by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

To President Nixon and Senator McGovern:

This open letter is occasioned by the deep sense of despair felt by many of your black fellow citizens that their interests are being neglected and their hopes ignored in this crucial election campaign.

It is readily apparent that the great running would that has so crippled our nation--morally, economically and spiritually--is racism. It is equally apparent that the number one domestic priority must be the revitalization of our urban areas.

And yet, neither of these issues upon which the history of our country will turn, has been dealt with by either candidate or party with the honesty and detailed concern they demand. A political campaign is more than a competition for power and office; it is an opportunity to educate the public to the issues that so deeply affect their lives. This campaign in particular, offers a major opportunity to take the words and phrases that appeal to emotions and instead, to initiate a great debate on the real public policy issues of our time.

This has not yet been done. Many black people sense, instead, an open hostility to their cause, or, at best, a disinterest in our aspirations for a more equal, just society. The feeling is strong that white Americans are not being educated to the issues that affect our cities and black people, and that black Ameri-

cans themselves have been neglected as a measure of political expedience.

This is a dangerous situation. It breeds cynicism and mistrust of the political process. It deflects national attention from problems that need to be solved. And black dissatisfaction would well manifest itself in a reaction at the voting booth that could defeat either candidate, both he who takes black votes for granted and he who prematurely may have written them off.

There are numerous aspects of the nation's educational system that need serious discussion on the national level, with clear proposals on how education problems affecting black children will be met by the Administration. Problems of school finance, upgrading ghetto schools, early childhood development and others come readily to mind.

Instead, the only educational issue that has been aired has been the artificial and divisive issue of busing. A matter that has been adequately dealt with by the judiciary has been thrown needlessly into the political arena, unleashing violent emotions and imperiling the constitutional rights of little black children.

Cities are decaying and housing for poor and lower income families is virtually non-existent. Black people, caught in a desperate housing crisis, look to political cam-

paigners for their views on this basic issue and for proposals to eliminate housing inequities and for rational development of land resources. But, as yet, such proposals have not been forthcoming.

With both candidates joining in the attack on a so-called quota system which is, in reality, merely a practical system of guidelines for the inclusion of black people into the labor force, we are faced with what appear to be withdrawal of prospects for equality of employment opportunities.

And with neither candidate offering a welfare reform program black people can support, replacing serious discussion of poverty with attacks on those whom our economy has so sorely failed, black Americans are again faced by withdrawal and neglect. Nor has either candidate dealt with issues such as penal reform or a constructive African policy.

It is not too late to change the disastrous direction in which this campaign seems headed. It is not too late to climb back to high ground through serious consideration of the needs and aspirations of 25 million black Americans and for the future of our nation that I ask for positive signs that black Americans too, are welcome in the "new majority," and black people too, are included in the America we are asked "to come home" to.

# As I See It Black Republicans: Some observations

by Lenwood G. Davis

I can understand--to some degree--how some long time Black Republicans will support the Republican Party and President Nixon in the forthcoming election. I can not understand how some long time Black Democrats will support the Republican Party and President Nixon in the upcoming elections. Recently, some Black Republicans and Democrats raised \$25,000 at a \$100-per-plate dinner for President Nixon's reelection. This act alone brought sharp criticism in the ranks of both Black Republicans and Democratic Parties. Needless to say, the Black population in general was also critical of that affair.

Some of the national known Blacks that have come out and supported Mr. Nixon included: Sammy Davis, Jr.; Jim Brown; Dr. Charles G. Hurst, Jr., President of Malcolm X College in Chicago; Floyd Mc Kissick, former director of CORE and developer of Soul City, N.C.; Roy Innis, Director of CORE; Stanley S. Scott, Assistant Director of Communication at the White House; Robert J. Brown, Special Assistant to President Nixon; . . . etc. Georgia State Representative Julian Bond called them a "new breed of political prostitutes". I rarely agree with Mr. Bond's suppositions, however, on this point I do agree. Many of the above mentioned men have been life time Democrats and for them to become overnight "Black Republicans" I must question their motives. Moreover, this

writer can only conclude that some of them are obvious "opportunists". It is strange that Floyd Mc Kissick had been trying for years to get the Federal Government to loan him several million dollars for the development of Soul City, N.C., and the keeping him the run around and then they changed their minds and gave him a \$14 million HUD grant. What implications can be drawn from this decision? I wonder!

Most colleges in America are facing drastic financial crisis, yet Malcolm X College in Chicago is expanding with the help of the Federal Government and private foundations. What implication can be drawn from this situation? I wonder!

Parenthetically, most of the Blacks that are supporting Mr. Nixon surmise that Blacks must have a two party system and that the Republican Party must actively seek the Black vote. Consequently, if Blacks vote and support them, we will get a bigger piece of the pie and some say so in Governmental Policies. Hence, Black people will benefit from this alliance! The question that comes to my mind is which group of Blacks will benefit. Obviously, not the masses of Black people. Only those Blacks that are already in "power" and have influence will gain from this alliance with such a strange bedfellow. To believe otherwise is sheer folly.

It is not necessary to state the Republican Party's record



as it relates to Black people because it speaks for itself. Before Blacks support President Nixon, and the Republican Party, we must ask ourselves what has the Republican Party done for Black people over the past three and a half years? What have they done in employment, housing, schools, war, poverty, etc.? Some of these "turncoats" will say that it is not what the Republican Party has done in the past, but what it will do in the future. Let's turn that question around, not what the Republican Party will do, but what has it done? The Republican Party's record--in civil rights, employment, housing, schools--speaks for itself. Need I say more?

It is conceivable that if 20% of Blacks voted--which is doubtful--for President Nixon and the Republicans, Blacks would (that is the masses of Blacks) benefit and receive some pieces of the pie. At this juncture of the game, we have no precedence or assurance that Black people will even get an invitation to the banquet, let alone be invited to share in the feast. However, I suppose we will get the leftovers--as usual--if we supported the Republican Party.

This is one election where there is a clear choice. Whether Blacks are Republicans or Democrats, we must vote. After all, the Democrats have taken the "Black Vote" for granted for too long. They also have promised much, but delivered little. The Democrats record in the area of civil rights, employment, housing, schools speaks for itself, and from where I am sitting it does not look to well.

It would be errant dogmatism to assert that all of the manifestations of Black Republicanism have been unraveled in this article. Many ramifications remain obscure awaiting the tool of time.

## Another point of view

WASHINGTON POST

September 13, 1972

At some point in the next few days or weeks, depending on how a political/parliamentary wrangle comes out, the Senate may be obliged to take up HR 13915, a terrible bill that only incidentally may be termed an "anti-busing" measure. It would be more appropriately called the Urban Chaos Act of 1972. That is because, although the bill purports to be a legislative effort to put some limits on school desegregation plans requiring busing, a combination of cynicism and hysteria in the House has transformed it into something quite different. HR 13915 would enjoin both federal courts and the executive branch from compelling any desegregation plan that involved the "transportation of any student to a school other than the school closest or next closest to his place of residence." It would also provide for long-settled school cases to "be reopened and modified to comply with the provisions of this Act."

What all this means is not

just that enactment of this measure would put a hard-won record of Southern school desegregation in jeopardy. It also means that judges and federal administrators would be invited to remedy unlawful discrimination in a way likely to enhance social tensions without providing a commensurate gain--or any gain at all--in the quality of the bused children's schooling. For the legislators have, in effect, done two things. They have voted to spare high income persons such as themselves and the communities in which they live the inconveniences that attend busing orders. But they have also made sure, in their "closest or next closest" school provision, that the impact of out-

ward bound ghetto busing will be hardest felt in those adjacent blue-collar, lower-income "ethnic" communities whose schools have least to offer poor black children and where racial feelings are the most inflamed. The word is overworked these days, but never mind: This is a truly elitist piece of legislation.

The cynicism that underlies all this posturing has a happy home at the Nixon White House, which was the well-spring of these election year efforts. It is compounded when you realize, first, that a number of the big busing cases in contention came to us as a result of earlier Nixon administration desegregation efforts and, second, that it is commonly assumed that the

Supreme Court this fall will establish firm outer limits to mandatory busing in any event. But such things are meant to be overlooked in the great legislative auction now going on. It is an auction in which the White House and certain spiritually attuned (or politically frightened) legislators keep bidding up the moderate middle, introducing and countenancing ever more reckless measures with a view to forcing the other ultimately to buy a so-called "anti-busing compromise program well beyond anything that conscience or sense can recommend. Thus it is that the same beleaguered senators of the middle may be put to the test once again when HR 13915 comes to the floor. Being

politicians, presumably they too would like an "anti-busing" vote in their record. The question, forced upon them by the White House and Company, is whether they want such a vote badly enough to support legislation that is on its face a fraud and a hoax and a cruel hoax at that. A majority in the House has already indicated that it does.



With Ron Hendren

A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

## HOW TO WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN

WASHINGTON--"Dear Senator," the letter began. "What are we going to do about pornography? It has even crept into my favorite television programs, and I'm so embarrassed. Please, Senator, tell me what I can do about pornography on TV."

The Senator's eyes flashed mischievously as he dictated one of the shortest congressional responses on record: "Dear Madam: Turn it off. Sincerely, Stephen M. Young, USS."

Until his retirement in 1970, Stephen Young (D-Ohio) was known throughout the Senate and indeed around the world for his cryptic responses to constituents who wrote what he considered stupid letters.

During his career Young, like other representatives of populous states, received thousands of pieces of mail each week. As a result, stupid letters were not hard to come by, and Young's collection of replies is now considered classic. (One of his favorites was "Dear Sir: Some idiot is going around putting your signature on insulting letters, and I am advising you so that you can take steps to protect your good name.")

But Senator Young's reputation notwithstanding, constituent mail is taken seriously by most members of Congress, and during a national political campaign is as good a time as any to let your officials know your views.

There are a few simple do's and don'ts which will make your letters, telegrams and phone calls more effective.

First, letters. They should be short and to the point, always on one page and generally covering no more than one subject. Do expect a reply signed by your representative but don't be surprised if he personally never sees either your letter or his reply. Remember, legislators (Senators especially) receive hundreds and in some cases even thousands of pieces of mail each day. To answer each one personally would be an impossible task. It should be

enough for you to know that most legislators view their mail as an important barometer of public opinion. As a result, they pay attention to it and your letter makes its mark along with all the others.

Telegrams are often even more effective. For one thing, their cost forces you to be concise and for another the Senator will realize you felt strongly enough to make an investment larger than the price of a stamp.

You should know that there are special rates for telegrams to the President, to Congressmen, to Senators or to other important government officials. While a regular 15-word telegram message would cost \$5.45, you can wire your representative in Washington a message of equal length for \$1.25 (\$1.00 for telegrams to your state government officials). Check with your local Western Union office for details, but in all cases remember to ask for the special rates.

Telephone calls are acceptable, but it's better to put your views in writing. If you do telephone, don't expect to speak to the Congressman or Senator himself. Ask for one of his legislative assistants and above all be succinct. Remember, it's costing you money on both ends: for the phone call in the first place plus taxes to help pay that assistant's salary. (While some efforts have been made to provide for toll free phone calls to the President and members of Congress, don't bet on it happening soon. The costs for staff to handle the increased load would be astronomical.)

But no matter the medium you choose, communicate. It's worth the trouble because your voice will be heard. And that is the essence of representative government.

## Play Pool

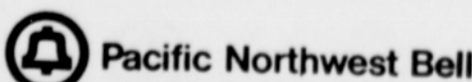


Bob 'Woody' Woodard of Inner City Development Company demonstrates the Marcellais pool shot at Geneva's Regulation Tables.

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