

PORTLAND OBSERVER

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

Portland denies Black representation

The chance for Portland to join other major cities in having black representation on the city council looks dim. Although there are three black contenders for this position who have expressed their interest and have received the endorsements of major factions of the black community, the appointment of a black to fill the soon-to-be vacant council seat is unlikely.

The Observer has learned that no black person is being seriously considered for the position. Ellis Casson has been ruled out along with other unsuccessful candidates for the office, and C. Don Vann and Chalmers Jones have been by-passed.

Here are some of the reasons these contenders have been by-passed. All of the city commissioners and the Mayor-elect were elected in the primary and are not involved in run-off elections-- so there is no need for them to rock the boat. The moral conscience of the city council does not have to include the desires of such a small voting constituency.

It was not until 1968 that three blacks were elected to the Portland School Board, the District Court (after appointment), and the Gladstone City Council. In 1972, another black judge was elected (after appointment). There has never been a black elected to a state or county office, or to an office in the City of Portland. The Observer believes the only way a black person can win a major political office is through appointment. And Portland City Council is apparently not yet ready to make such an appointment.

In a system that runs a political patronage, none of the city commissioners owe a favor to the black contenders. However, all must have loyal white supporters who were invaluable in their campaigns or as advisors and who can now expect consideration.

The Black community could have presented a black woman -- Judge Mercedes Deitz, and School Board Chairman Gladys McCoy, who have both been elected to office -- since it has been easier for black women to be accepted by the white power structure. In presenting three black men, the community sought to get the city council view on "black male liberation."

Other black men who were not specifically endorsed would have made good commissioners. These include Brooks, Herb Amerson, Charles Jordan and John Toran.

We predicted months ago that a black would not be considered and now we are predicting that the following people stand high on the list to fill the vacant seat in January 1973.

State Senator Betty Roberts has served in the State House of Representatives and the State Senate and is one of Oregon's leading Democrats.

Ed Whalen is labor leader and is a very powerful force in the community.

Jack Mills is Vice President of the United States National Bank and Urban Affairs (officer for the bank).

Ira Blalock is Executive Director of Multnomah County Community Action Program (MCCAP).

In predicting that these persons stand high on the list, there is much controversy over the fact that most of the Commissioners come from the Northeast section, except for outgoing Mayor Terry Schrunk, who is from North Portland. There is strong feeling that the next Commissioner should come from another section of the city to bring more equal representation. We contend that since all of the commissioners are Caucasian, the next commissioner should be black, to bring more equal representation!



"MAYBE, LIKE DIRECTOR OF BUSING, SAMMY" Jackson

Black youth mature in trouble era

By BAYARD RUSTIN

The present generation of young blacks is approaching maturity in the midst of an era troubled by persisting and deeply felt social wrongs, injustices which are deepened by our expanded personal expectations for self-fulfillment.

The most burdensome affliction of the young is unemployment. The scarcity of jobs has spread like an epidemic through our cities, exacting a destructive toll from ghetto youth, drawing out their resentment and anguish. The jobless rate among returning Vietnam veterans is scandalously nearly one of five cannot find work. The factory where they planned to work may have relocated to the suburbs or pursued the profit margin to Taiwan or South America, where its owners can capitalize on a cheap labor supply.

However, the outlook for black youth is not entirely as somber as the picture I have described. Despite a relentless unemployment problem we have moved ahead; despite our impoverishment the successes of our young are not only notable but numerous. But those young students whose commitment and determination overcame backgrounds of poverty have matured into successful, and oftentimes brilliant professionals engaged in scientific and medical research, education, scholarly pursuit, government services and politics.

These fledgling carpenters, electricians and sheet metal workers were often raised in an atmosphere of deprivation and came from broken homes. The streets where they played were ridden with violent crime and infested with drug addiction; perhaps they, at one time, suffered from a narcotics habit.

The young have always marched in the front ranks of the civil rights movement. When our cause was lonely, when popular sentiment opposed our aspirations, it was the indomitable spirit of youth which kept our movement alive. Young blacks, risking jail, beatings, or death fearlessly served in the vanguard of

those campaigns so crucial to our movement: the freedom rides, sit-ins, voter registration campaigns.

Now, the course of the struggle for black progress is changing. Our goal is to seek a regular, normalized place in society and to do this in a firmly interracial framework. Black youth--students, young workers, profes-

sionals, scholars are now accomplishing this, not simply by filling a slot in an organization, but by excelling in their chosen occupation.

Generations to come will find that the commitment and perseverance of these young people have done a great deal to remove discrimination from the institutions of American society and to erase prejudice from the hearts and minds of American people.

Another point of view The one and only Nixon

From The New York Times
September 22, 1972

When Richard Nixon ran for the Presidency four years ago, he benefited from the political equivalent of the statute of limitations.

It was tiresome, everyone agreed, to keep bringing up all that old stuff about how Mr. Nixon distorted Jerry Voorhis's record in 1946 or how he and Murray Chotiner smeared Helen Gahagan Douglas as pro-Communist in the Senate campaign in 1950.

Since Joe McCarthy was in his grave, did it really matter any more all the nice things Mr. Nixon used to say about him or that he borrowed and refined so many of his techniques?

So it was that in 1968 the newest of the many new Nixons was allowed to strike a Statesman-like pose. Voters forgot his brutal misdeeds of the 1940's and 1950's. But, of course, veteran politicians rarely alter their characters or their convictions. Like the rest of us, they are what they are and can hardly begin being much different at age 55. So Mr. Nixon has been the kind of President that everything in his earlier career had foreshadowed.

Mr. Nixon was elected on a "pledge" to end the war, but voters might have done better to recall that in 1954 he had urged American intervention to save the French in Vietnam and that as recently as 1967 he was saying that Vietnam was "the cork in the bottle of Chinese expansion." We might then have been able to foresee that under Mr. Nixon another 20,000 Americans would die in Vietnam, that today the Paris peace talks would still be stalled, that more bombs than ever would be falling on Vietnam and that the war would still be on the front pages.

Or consider character assassination. In 1952, Mr. Nixon denounced the members of the Truman Administration for their failure to stand up to Communist China. He described Governor Stevenson as "Adlai the appeaser..."

who got a Ph.D. from Dean Acheson's College of Co-waiver Communist Containment."

In 1969, the same Mr. Nixon sent Vice President Agnew out to defame Averell Harriman. In 1972, he sent H.R. Haldeman, his White House chief of staff, on a television interview show to say that Senator Edmund Muskie and other critics were "consciously aiding and abetting the enemy" -- a very slight paraphrase of the constitutional definition of treason.

Then he had Herbert Kline, his Director of Communications, characterize Mr. Muskie as "bolting beyond the bounds of criticism and dissent."

Having orchestrated this smear campaign, Mr. Nixon naturally then came forward, wringing his hands, and said, "I do not question the patriotism or the sincerity of those who disagree with my policies to bring peace..."

In 1950, Vice President Nixon took partisan credit for the Supreme Court's school desegregation decision. It had, he said, been achieved under the leadership of "a great Republican Chief Justice, Earl Warren."

The man who made that remark became the President who has turned every Supreme Court vacancy into a political field day. When the Senate quite properly refused to confirm G. Harrold Carswell of Florida for the Supreme Court, President Nixon distorted a question of personal incompetence into "an act of regional discrimination."

"I understand the bitter feeling of millions of Americans who live in the South," Mr. Nixon declared, presumably hoping to profit from any "bitterness" he could whip up.

As I See It The Jencks Report

by Lenwood G. Davis

Recently, Christopher Jencks, a Harvard Sociologist, released a report that stated schools do almost nothing to close the gap between rich and poor. Moreover, he concluded, the quality of the education that public elementary and high school students receive has little effect on their future income. It has been a traditional notion in the United States that if a person--even the poorest child--did well in school he could better his economic condition. This "American Dream" is one thing that Blacks have strived to achieve and we believe that if we got enough education we could improve our economic status. For a study to come along now and say that no matter how much education we have we will still probably not improve our economic condition is shocking to say the least.

The character of a school's output depends largely on a single input, namely the characteristics of the entering children," Jencks surmised. "Everything else--the school budget, its policies, the characteristics of the teachers--is either secondary or completely irrelevant."

This report is of particular concern for Black people because it supports the position of white racists. Jencks believes that spending more money will not greatly improve the quality of schooling. Blacks have known for years that this conclusion is invalid, because for years Black schools have not received equal financial support as compared with white schools. Blacks have also known that if we had received the same amount of money for our schools we could have improved the quality of them!

The author remarked that even if all children--both Black and White-- could be made to score equally well

on tests, the result would do little to erase economic inequality. Furthermore, even if two students had the same education, IQ, and family background, they often have widely differing income. At least 75% of the variation, Jencks concludes, "must be due either to LUCK or to subtle, unmeasured differences in PERSONALITY and ON-THE-JOB competence! Thus, he says, "instead of accepting the myth that test scores are synonymous with 'intelligence' and that 'intelligence' is the key to economic success, we would do better to recognize that economic success depends largely on other factors."

As an educator I must disagree with most of the conclusions of the reports. It is an educational fact that environment is a most important factor in a student's IQ. It is an educational fact that students--and especially Black schools can achieve economic success if we get quality education. If Black students do not have proper motivations and incentives then they will probably lose interest and faith in schools and become drop-



LENWOOD DAVIS

outs. Parenthetically, Black students must be encouraged to stay in school.

Jencks' report should not and probably will not deter Black people from educational and economic objectives. The researcher's conclusions are at least tentative and faulty and should not be taken seriously by Blacks. Most of the study has not been tested on desegregated schools in the South. Most of the data was taken from existing studies and put into a computer. Hence, if any of the data was incorrect--obviously some was--then the conclusions also had to be incorrect. This report should not become a re-noun for its plethora of erroneous data, AND MUST NOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY BLACKS!

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Jones

(Continued from Page 1)

council seat to the position of Mayor, will be filled by appointment by the City Council.