

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

Doubtful, but vote

Many election years it seems as if there is little choice among the candidates. Some black people decide not to vote—realizing that few of the candidates are likely to do anything to further the cause of freedom for black people, and that many of those who do pass out tokens do so out of political expediency.

But it is dangerous to sit out an election for it is through the power of the ballot that black people are most likely to achieve liberation. In many areas and in many races, the black vote can be decisive. It is not without reason that the whites holding power do all they can to keep the vote from the black citizen. In the South, this is accomplished through law, through harassment and through murder. In the North and in the West, the same result is achieved through apathy and exclusion. The young white intellectuals could afford to sit out an election, saying, "McCarthy or no-body", but we cannot afford this luxury.

One strategy advocated by many blacks is always to vote against the incumbent if he does not meet your expectations, even if his opponent might be as bad or worse. If elected officials get the idea that they will be replaced - they will have the motivation to improve. If the replacement is as bad or worse—replace him the next time around. This is especially appropriate in Congressional or legislative positions where power comes with seniority. At least the new man will not have the power to do as much damage. Sometimes we might have to vote for candidates who are not entirely to our liking in order to get rid of those who have the power to hurt us most.

It is only through massive registration and voting that the black people in Oregon can command any piece of the political action. And this requires participation in BOTH parties. For if we all go down to defeat with the Democrats - what do they have to offer? And if the Republicans win without us - what will be left for us after they pass out their rewards? Some such favors are given for the sake of "good will" or to present a liberal image, but most are the hard won rewards for the delivery of service. With a substantial vote - that can make or break a candidate - or at least give him a good scare and tarnish his image - we can pick up more than the crumbs. Whether we use the "lesser of two evils" or the "defeat the incumbent" strategy, or whether we find a candidate we can trust, we cannot afford to boycott this election. For whether we participate or not, the election will be held and candidates will be elected. We had better have a voice in the results.

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Joe Smith

Joe Smith promises to reorganize the Department of Justice and to facilitate the hearing of civil rights cases. Civil rights cases require the utmost speed in prosecution because they often involve a job or a home. If the injured party must wait for months or years for a settlement - justice is not served. We know that Lee Johnson has dug his feet on civil rights cases and we know he has proceeded with less than enthusiasm.

Joe Smith sees the office of the Attorney General as having responsibility to protect the rights of all the people as well as to uphold the laws of the state as they apply equally to all people.

Joe Smith showed us his integrity and his strength when, in the nerve gas matter, he stood up to the pentagon alone in order to protect the environment and possibly the lives of the people of Oregon. This was an unpopular stand in his own county, as well as may be his stand on civil rights.

We believe Joe Smith should become the next Attorney General of the State of Oregon.

Mercedes Deiz

For the Circuit Court, Court of Domestic Relations, we recommend Mercedes Deiz. The Court of Domestic Relations handles divorces, custody and support orders, adoptions, and juvenile court cases which involve neglect, abuse or delinquency. Families come to the Court of Domestic Relations in times of crisis. Judge Deiz has the experience and the wisdom both to make judgments and to counsel.

At the present time there are no black counselors at the Juvenile Court and few at the Children's Service Division, which works closely with the court. All of the major decisions involving the lives of black children and their families are made by whites. We believe a black influence is needed, and it is needed at the top.

Don Clark

Don Clark, candidate for Multnomah County Commissioner, Position #4, is the most sensitive to the needs of all ethnic groups. He is a strong proponent of city-county consolidation. We believe he is sincere and honest in making this a better place for people.

Des Connall

Des Connall is our choice. We do so with reservation because Earl Haas is a fine attorney and we did endorse Haas during the Primary. However, as we listen to the two men debate the issues, Connall seems to be offering a more complete program.

Child care

(Continued from page 1)

the concern were sent to the State Emergency Board and to Governor McCall.

This is the statement:

"The Urban League of Portland endorses the Child Care Concepts (4-C's) and rejects the idea of cutting any of these programs which would adversely affect so many children in Oregon. This would be catastrophic.

"We suggest that all efforts be made by state and local governments to divert any surplus funds which may exist, to this crisis rather than return it to the general fund."

"This program should be the number one priority."

A group of parents of children using 4-C child care programs, uniting with the Urban League, have made their concerns known to Portland City Commissioners

Lloyd Anderson and Neil Goldschmidt, and a representative from the governors office. The Commissioners agreed to discuss the child care problem and the cities interests and obligations at the city council meeting on November 2nd.

A.L. Henderson, Chairman of the Metropolitan area 4-C Council, said there still is reason to be concerned although Tanzer has promised to attempt to locate additional funding for 4-C. "We will make every attempt to continue providing child care for as many children as possible. Reductions in the case of administration will be made before we look at the budgets of the operating programs. Quality of programs and need will be carefully considered in any cuts we have to make."

**put your
vote
where
your
MOUTH
is.**

(Continued from p. 1)
employment world will be successful and fulfilling. The program includes counseling and motivation of students toward habits that will enhance their employability.

Thurston has found that many underachieving students progress rapidly in the basic academic skills once they are in a satisfying training work experience program.

Students interested in attending Vocational Village should see their counselor, or if they are not currently enrolled in high school can contact the school.



As I See It

**James Brown and President Nixon:
Strange bedfellows**

By Lenwood G. Davis

James Brown "Soul Brother Number 1," recently endorsed President Nixon and is supporting him in the forthcoming election. He was immediately criticized by some civil rights organizations for his endorsement. Some said he was "Soul Brother Number 1." Some groups have been picketing and boycotting Brown's shows all over the country. In this writer's opinion, Mr. Brown has been criticized more severely than any of the other Black entertainers that are supporting and endorsing Mr. Nixon.

Before anyone criticizes James Brown he should first explore the situation. Brown has MORE to lose for his position than any of the Black entertainers. I personally do not agree with James Brown's choice. However, I do AGREE with HIS RIGHT to endorse whomever he chooses. We say that we have freedom of speech, thoughts, and actions. Yet, when one does not agree with our point of view we condemn him and say he is wrong. We next attempt to give a veneer of legitimacy to our gargantuan understatements, and should have gotten some advice from some Black politician before he made his decision. Reverend Jesse Jackson told this writer that to his knowledge, Mr. Brown did not seek advice from any Black politician.

I surmise that James Brown was really sold a bill of goods

Mr. Brown obviously has and is paying his dues for the Black cause. There is no need to marshal detailed evidence on this point. Very few people can contradict that supposition. I am not sure whether the entertainer really understands the ominous implications of his endorsement of Mr. Nixon. "Soul Brother Number 1" stated that he was supporting the Presidency and not the man. In this case,

how can you separate the two? Mr. Brown seems to imply seems to imply that it really didn't matter who is in office he would support the office - not the man!

It was an audacious move on the part of the singer to stick to his convictions. He no doubt is sincere in his endorsement. Only time will tell his position. According to some reports the attendance at the James Brown Show is

down. It will be interesting to see if his record sale will also be affected.

James Brown's relationship with Richard Nixon is very nebulous at this time to say the least. Perhaps, halcyon days are ahead for the entertainer. To recapitulate, the two men make strange bedfellows and I feel that in the long run Mr. Brown will get the short end of the deal (pun intended).

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TOUGH. Joe Smith has the backbone to take strong positions and hold them. In 1969 when the shipment of deadly nerve gas for storage in his home county posed possible dangers to the community, Joe Smith saw it as a question of public safety and opposed it. In the end he was backed by the Governor and probably by the majority of Oregonians. Pressures were intense from opponents of his stand. He said later, "I think it helped teach me how to take the heat."

INTEGRITY. Joe Smith will not take advantage of the trust of people. The current A.G. claims to have "handed down 632 legal opinions . . . only one has been overruled by the courts." This suggests that the courts approved 631 opinions. They did not. Most of the opinions were only letters of advice. The courts have never seen most of them. Joe Smith will not try to build a record by trading on public trust.

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