



The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH BLACK EYES.



In October, 1972, the Observer began its third year serving the Portland community. The Observer, a weekly newspaper, of general circulation has chronicled the struggle, the disappointment in defeat, and the joys in victory; but never failing to remind the Black community that victory will be won through our own resources, and never letting the white majority community rest on its grudgingly relinquished tokenisms.

With the Black population in the Portland area equaling the seventh largest city in Oregon, the time has come when each Black household, should share in the needs of community communications.

Those Whites that wish to be informed should read and become subscribers to the Observer because we see the world through Black eyes.

We know not what the future holds for us but in the vanguard of our struggle for Black discovery, Black renaissance and Black survival the Observer will be there, supporting and applauding the good and continuing to challenge the evil.

Let us face the new challenge of today as a united community with a strong Black press. A community without an honest, militant sometimes even strident paper is a hapless community, threatened from all sides; from within by unscrupulous Blacks, from without by insensitive members of the majority community.

The Black Press in America is on the threshold of a new day. There are 215 Black newspapers in the United States, with a combined circulation exceeding 3,000,000. Their publishers, The National Newspapers Publishers Association, are now in the process of establishing a national wire service to unite the Black Voice in America.

It is important to remember that even though Black people have an average income less than that of the white majority, they have a purchasing power estimated at \$45 billion a year with a median family income of \$6,520. As consumers and customers, Black people have the power to make or break a product in the market place; they buy what they want and more of it if they like it. They are a power to be reckoned with.

The Observer, geared to special readership and a specific market, is rapidly reaching new heights as it rides the crest of the social revolution it will help to initiate. No other medium so fully identifies with the Black community, reflecting their day-to-day lifestyle, articulating their problems, opinions and desires and "turning them on."

The Observer becomes the first Black owned publication to meet requirements of ONPA (Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association) We are ONPA's newest member. We are proud of our success and we salute you, our advertisers, readers and friends for your support.

It is with pride that we report to you that we are one of only two Black papers on the West Coast that are able to publish a complete paper on our own premises. Most Black papers farm their typesetting and printing out to white printers. The Observer staff does all the work on our property.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer . . . we are not as large as some dailies, nor are we the oldest Black paper in the Northwest but we do thank you for your support . . . "We are the only paper in the whole wide world that really cares about people."

MUST WORK TOGETHER FOR FULL AND EQUAL EMPLOYMENT.

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher/Editor

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the Portland Observer will be cheerfully corrected upon being brought to the attention of the Editor.



Let's put it together for Seventy Three



With Ron Hendren
A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

EXIT: FREE ENTERPRISE--ENTER: SOCIALISM

WASHINGTON—Gordon W. Rule, a "cost-cutter" with the U.S. Navy, is a rare phenomenon among the ranks of government employees: he is a man who calls the shots as he sees them.

Last week Rule sharply criticized the President's choice of Roy L. Ash as director of the Office of Management and Budget, a post some have called second only to the Presidency in power.

But first, a little background. Rule's job in the Navy Materiel Command is to make certain that contracts between the government and private industries (for the production and purchase of helicopters, ships and the like) are on the up and up. Since it has become common practice for industries to break their agreements and come back for more money, his job has grown increasingly difficult.

A case in point is Litton Industries, which presently has more than a half billion dollars in disputed claims pending against the Navy. The dispute arose out of a contract the Navy signed with Litton to build nine helicopter assault ships at a cost of \$133 million each. It wasn't long before that price tag nearly doubled to its present \$237 million for each of the ships. And then Litton had the gall to ask the Navy to raise the per-ship price to \$294 million, advising the government at the same time that deliveries on the vessels would run anywhere from two to nearly three years behind.

Well, even the government can swallow only so much, and that did it. The Navy balked, and now builder and buyer are at a stand-off. Rule says the government was "sold a bill of goods" and there are reports that the Navy is looking into a "serious possibility of fraudulent misrepresentation" on the part of Litton.

Rule told the subcommittee he doubted he would be testifying again because the Navy probably wouldn't authorize it. But he made clear his view that the government lacks "the guts to tell the taxpayer free enterprise is out and socialism is in" when it comes to defense contracts. He fully expects the administration will produce legislation next year to bail out Litton and other shipbuilding industries which have defense contracts.

But what does this have to do with Roy L. Ash, the President's new director of the Office of Management and Budget, the man whose responsibility it will be to oversee the expenditure of every tax dollar? Well, it happens that Roy L. Ash, until his appointment by the President, was the chief executive of Litton Industries. Ash, whose appointment does not require Senate confirmation, has already said he intends to have a say in Navy spending decisions.

Said Rule, "I frankly think we've added a new dimension (to the military-industrial complex) . . . it's almost a military-industrial-executive department complex."

Recalling former President Dwight D. Eisenhower's warning against such an arrangement, Rule said the former commander-in-chief must be "twitching in his grave."

Americans will have the opportunity to judge for themselves when Ash takes over the budget office formally next month.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Black Expo A Mess

Dear Mr. Henderson:

The first Black Expo ever to hit the Northwest exposed not only Black talent and Black business endeavors, but also an attempt by some of its originators to exploit Black people. The admission price of \$4.50, \$1.50 for the Expo and \$3.00 for the Soul Bowl would even be a high price to pay to see Aretha Franklin. Lack of organization insulted not only those who paid to see it, but the entertainers who came to participate in it.

The idea of a Black Expo, to expose the community to its own Black talent, businesses, etc. is terrific and badly needed. However an unorganized, poorly put together program directed towards making a bundle of money, we can do without. There are many, many bad points that can be pointed out about the expo, but there were also some good things that happened there. The best were the booths that were attractively set up by each of the Black businesses that participated in the expo. These businesses strived to show their best and should be commended for doing so.

Perhaps this Black Expo will serve the good purpose

of warning those who might be planning an expo in the future, that it must be much, much more than just a statewide talent show, but it must be a sincere attempt to further the knowledge of the Black community to its assets and its good qualities. And if they should make some money in the process, right on!

Rosemary Allen

Albina parents scared

Editor

We are parents of some of the children who benefit from the Albina Headstart program and we're scared. As of December 31, 1972 our children will no longer have a program if we do not find another suitable location.

This program is not only essential to us as working parents, many of us single parents, it is as important because of the quality of care our children are getting. There is money, highly qualified staff, equipment, energy, enthusiasm and most important there are 109 children at the Albina Child Development Center at this time. But we have no building.

The Observer welcomes the opinions and comments of its readers. All letters must include the writers name and address.

Our efforts in the past few weeks to find a building have been augmented by the community's answers to our plea. And we are thankful. But because of the difficulties in licensing guidelines, space needs and financial details most suggestions have not worked out. So we still need you and urge you to please share any ideas with us. The center at 58 N.E. Norris - 288-6921 or a parent, phone in the evenings - 287-2117. Knowing people care has helped us keep our determination and optimism. We thank you.

Molly Warn

As I See It Dr. Brown keeps busy

By Lenwood G. Davis

Dr. Lee P. Brown, who is on leave from Portland State University and spending a year at Howard University in Washington, D.C., has quickly become actively involved in community service in the Nation's capitol.

In a recent interview with Dr. Brown, he stated that one of his first activities was to assist in organizing an interdisciplinary team of professors at Howard to make an investigation of the conditions in the D.C. jail. The investigation stems from the recent disorders in the jail where inmates took several correctional officers, including the Director of Corrections, as hostages. According to Dr. Brown, "A number of demands were made by the inmates designed to correct the conditions in the jail and interesting enough the correctional officers themselves voiced some of the same grievances."

The investigation, said Dr. Brown, "will be designed to help jail officials alleviate the problems that gave rise to the disorder. Also, we are very much concerned about the welfare of the inmates which are over 95 percent Black."

Dr. Brown said that he was appalled to learn that 17 year olds were placed in the D.C.

jail with no program to segregate them from older inmates.

Additionally, Dr. Brown is assisting an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the conditions of females who are incarcerated. "This is also a real serious problem that deserves careful analysis," said Dr. Brown.

He is also developing an executive development program for 200 employees of the D.C. Department of Corrections. Dr. Brown said that based upon information generated by the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals (he is Chairman of The Education, Training and Manpower Development Advisory Task Force of that Commission), correctional training has traditionally been done in isolation and thereby tend to perpetuate the Maintenance of the existing system. "Howard University has a lot to offer not only the D.C. Department of Corrections, but also the entire Criminal Justice System. This is particularly true since Blacks are overly represented as clients of the systems," said Dr. Brown.

Dr. Brown said that these activities are in addition to his duties as Associate Director of the newly formed



Lenwood Davis

Institute for Urban Affairs and Research, a program which he is helping develop. "Within the Institute I have responsibility for all educational programs. This includes The Upward Bound Program, University Without Walls, University Year in Action and An Urban Studies Masters Program. I will also be developing a Criminal Justice Educational Program for Howard," said Dr. Brown.

In closing the interview Dr. Brown said that although he finds his work at Howard to be both interesting and challenging, he is looking forward to getting back to Portland.

To Be Equal

By Vernon E. Jordan Jr.

The federal government's Christmas present to the states will be about \$5 billion in revenue sharing funds - the first installment of a program that will pump about \$30 billion into state and local governments over the next five years.

Money is power, and this new federal "share the wealth" program represents a significant shift in power from Washington to state capitals and local city halls. Unlike the other federal programs, which mandate strict controls on every dollar spent, revenue sharing funds come with very few strings attached. State and local governments have wide latitude in the expenditure of this money.

TIME PASSED?

Proponents of the revenue sharing plan claimed that this was an idea whose time had come. Recent news reports indicate that it is an idea whose time may have passed. Revenue sharing was conceived at a time when federal tax collections were climbing while local resources seemed about to dry up. The Vietnam war and higher federal spending, coupled with increased state tax revenues have reversed that situation.

Now, it is the federal government that is desperately trying to keep the lid on spending, while many state and local governments are reporting fat surpluses.

Some communities say they'll use the new federal revenue sharing money to cut taxes, something the plan's authors didn't have in mind.

HURTING BAD

Of course, that's just the general, overall picture. Many cities, especially larger ones, are hurting bad. Newark is in a tight financial spot; Detroit announced it is closing its schools for lack of funds, and others are also cutting back on important public services.

Revenue sharing won't be of much help to such cities because the amounts they'll receive won't be nearly enough. Since Congress authorized the revenue sharing program for five years, it ought to take a long, hard look at its effects and make necessary changes before the program becomes permanent.

Another aspect that bears watching is how local governments use the new money. Past experience has shown that federal programs are more effective and more free from discrimination than most local efforts.

Local governments have often been plagued by scandals, and the experience of blacks and other minorities with many state and local officials has been one of discrimination. And many local governments have actually been less anxious to do something about poverty and social conditions in their town than have those

much-maligned Washington agencies.

So the real problem is: how will the money be spent. If state and local officials respond to the flow of federal dollars by expanding important social programs and by improving schools, housing, health and welfare systems, then revenue sharing will be a historic act.

At the moment, there isn't much reason for optimism. But past experience need not be future reality and it is up to local leadership, voluntary social agencies, and committed citizens to put pressure on the state house and city hall to insure that new funds are used properly.

It is also up to the Treasury Dept., which administers the revenue sharing program to keep close tabs on how the money is spent.

The Treasury Dept. has the power to cut off all funds from governments that don't comply with the law. While it has the power to do this for violations of the law's anti-discrimination program, its interim regulations don't go that far. The success or failure of revenue sharing may depend on how tough the Treasury is willing to get.

This is an experimental program involving billions of dollars and the burden is on the Treasury, state, and local officials to prove that revenue sharing is better than direct federal action to build housing, feed the hungry and heal the sick.

Another Point of View

No color in language

LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

A news item came to our attention recently in which a professor at the University of Texas was quoted as saying that the attempt to require black children to learn the middle-class white language in order to achieve upward mobility is a repugnant and dead movement.

English professor James H. Sledz was quoted further as saying: "The concept known as bidialectalism is both immoral and impossible, that it sets up white prejudice as an immovable obstacle to black advancement and requires black children to remake themselves in a white image if they want to move themselves upward."

Another Texas professor, in the department of curriculum and instruction, added to Sledz' remarks by saying, "Blacks in English classes will not learn to write in standard style because they will not be writing to whites."

The Sentinel must strongly disagree with both professors. There is no color barrier in language. It is most important and cannot be

stressed too strongly that boys and girls must study and master English - both spoken and written - as the prevailing language of their country. It's not a question of race; no one is required to imitate whites, nor is one required to imitate anyone. It's a simple matter of being able to communicate intelligently and adequately. If a person is going to grow and succeed in life, he or she must study language. It's necessary to get through school, to get a job, to keep a job, to read and keep abreast of events concerning one's life, even to communicate with one's friends.

A person should master whatever language prevails in whatever country he lives. If you're going to live in Mexico, learn Spanish. In France, learn French. In Italy, Italian. In Germany, German. In Russia, Russian.

Just because language may be a difficult subject for a student, it is immoral and terribly wrong for anyone - including the two Texas professors - to advise students not to study English.

There are about 333 million English speakers in the world, less than half the number of Chinese speakers in China. Yet in the last year there has been a tremendous increase in the interest of the Chinese people to learn English. Chinese radio stations broadcast three-daily English phases to be used with the radio lessons. Millions of Chinese are hurriedly cramming the study of English into their already busy, burdened lives.

Obviously, if it's important to the Chinese that they study English, it should be that much more important that American students study and master the language. Blacks should not be misled by the idiotic theories of people like the Texas professors. Blacks should be reminded that some of the greatest writers in American literature have been black, writing English.

Not every black person can be expected to become a writer, but it would be selling black boys and girls short not to emphasize to them the importance of studying and learning English well.