

"Voice of the NAACP" Politics as usual

By Ellis H. Casson
President - NAACP
Last week the City Council appointed its new member, and once again the Portland City Council has become a membership for "whites only."

Once again "blacks" have lost their final opportunity to become part of the "policy making body" of the City of Roses.

FINAL, I say because for the past several years all present members of the Council (with the exception of N.G. and T.S.) were appointed their first time around, therefore, they had a foot in the door and could run for re-election without really too much "fear" of losing their job. The important thing to remember is at least they were there.

Blacks have been constantly denied this opportunity. So if we can't get appointed, can't get elected, how do we get in?

Now we talk about city-county consolidation. Eight will run from districts—three to be elected at large. Again, blacks will be left out. Left out because a district will have 70,000 people and if they drew lines that would take in all the blacks (20,000) there will still be 50,000 whites. It would take a "SUPER-SPADE" to get elected. Again, we have been had. Therefore, I repeat, "how do we get in?"

The current establishment is, at minimum, ineffective and non-responsive. The current white leadership knows not, and knows not that it knows not. Talking, without action, will not get the job done.

Unchecked, massive deterioration in black communities across the nation has reached the exploding point. White leaders throw up their hands



in utter frustration and admit their failure.

Yet, are they sufficiently advanced to the point of accepting sound advice from blacks obviously capable of contributing substantially to community well-being?

Blacks, sooner or later, must realize that if the trend of massive deterioration in black communities is to be checked, and the problems of unequal educational opportunities, unemployment and crime are to be minimized, THEY MUST UNITE to do their share to make things right.

Blacks can no longer afford nor tolerate those in leadership roles, BOTH BLACK AS WELL AS WHITE, who are satisfied to sit in high places and play at the role of leadership. The tragic effects of inaction on the lives of the have-nots are too great.

The consequences are wrought with such dangers that we cannot and must not stand idly by.

It is time we take a long, hard look at what we have. It is time we improve and change what we can and give due consideration to getting rid of that which we cannot. Time is running out.

Plans develop for MLK birthday

Millions of people throughout the nation will observe the 44th birthday anniversary of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this coming January 15th.

Plans for celebrating the birthday in the slain civil rights leader's home city of Atlanta, and in other states and cities, have been announced by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change.

People who wish to honor Dr. King on his birthday, the Atlanta-based Center reported, can do so by joining in the variety of local observances across the country, participating in on-going movement activities in the tradition of Dr. King, and supporting the continuing drive to make each January 15th a national legal holiday.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, President of the Center, said: "The purpose of observing my husband's birthday is to involve people meaningfully in the celebration of his life, the perpetuation of his teachings, and the continuation of his work."

Highlights of activities for the birthday next month will include:

- In Atlanta, an 11:00 a.m. commemoration service will be held Monday, January 15th, at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. King was Co-Pastor with his father. Main speaker at the service will be Congress from Georgia in 101 years. Music for the ecumenical service will be provided by the Atlanta University Gospel Ensemble. The program is being sponsored by the church, the King Center, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

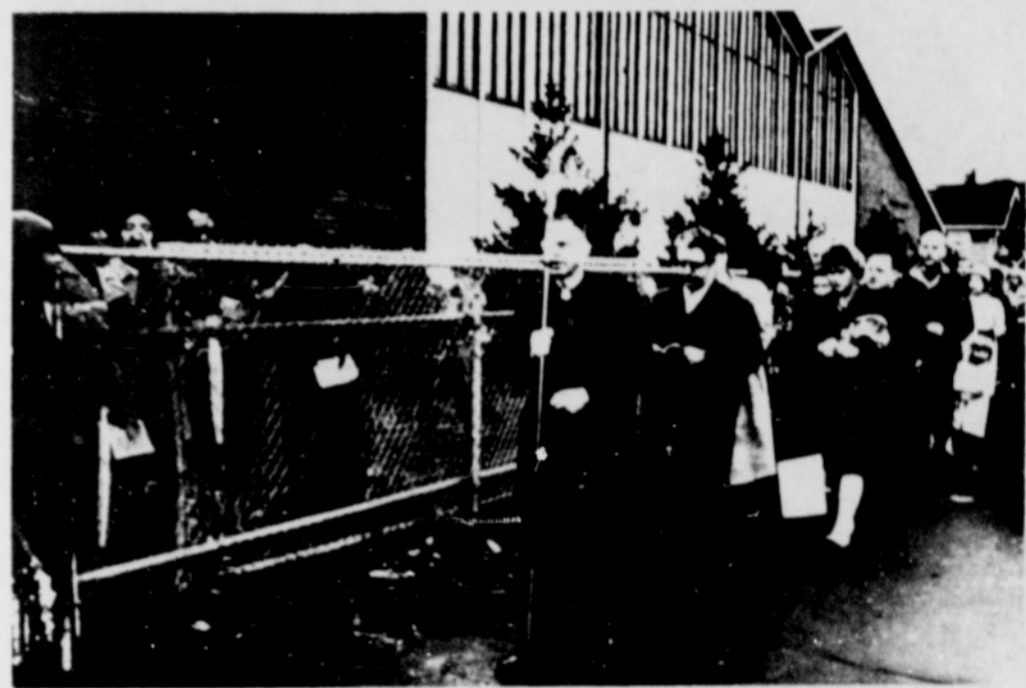
- Also in Atlanta, a benefit concert for the King Center will be held that same night at the new Omni sports and entertainment arena; the public schools and city government will be closed for an official holiday; and a documentary film on Dr. King's life will be shown on educational television.

- The same authentic documentary, "KING: A Filmed Record . . . Montgomery to Memphis," will be shown at about 200 schools, churches and community assemblies across the nation.
- Many state and city governments, and local school systems, have either recognized the birthday as an official holiday or arranged for official observances.
- Citizens continue to collect petitions with signatures calling upon Congress to pass pending national legislation for a permanent holiday. This drive began in 1969, and already millions of signatures have been sent to Congress.
- A number of trade unions are negotiating for January 15th as a paid holiday in their contracts, and some unions have already won this benefit.
- Similarly, many stores, businesses and offices participate by offering paid holidays or time off for attending observances.
- Radio announcers across the nation are planning to encourage people to drive with their car lights on all day January 15th, as a reminder of Dr. King's leadership.
- Local community groups - churches, civic clubs, civil rights organizations - will conduct services and programs in the tradition of Dr. King, such as voter registration, economic development and nonviolent action for social change.

- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change, which is coordinating the birthday-holiday observances in Atlanta and in other communities, is the official family-sanctioned organization which has programs to help continue the nonviolent movement and to build a permanent memorial to Dr. King in Atlanta.



Citizens of Lake Oswego picketed the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast - held at the local Elks Club.



Catholics protest the use of St. Andrews Catholic Church by a "communist" speaker. Protesters chanted the Rosary and prayed as they walked in front of the church. They did not accept Father Gordon Dickey's invitation to enter the church and hear for themselves before judging Mrs. Sallye Davis, mother of Angela Davis.

Teacher exam deadline due

Registration deadline is January 4 for persons planning to take the national teacher examinations at Portland State University, according to Mrs. Jean Edwards, assistant professor in special education.

PSU is the only designated test center in Oregon for the examinations which will be

given January 27. Eligible to take the tests are college seniors preparing to teach and teachers applying for positions in school systems which encourage or require applicants to submit their scores on national teacher exams.

All registrations must be submitted to the Princeton,

New Jersey office of the National Testing Service by January 4. Registration forms are available in the special education office, room 304, Smith Memorial Center or directly from the National Teacher Examinations, Educational Testing Service, Box 911, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

ACLU opposes repay order

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU) on Thursday filed a friend of the court brief in the Oregon Court of Appeals arguing that it is unconstitutional for a court to require, as a condition of probation, an indigent criminal defendant to repay the county for this attorneys fees.

The case is an appeal by William T. Middaugh from a judgement of Multnomah Circuit Court Judge John C. Beattie, Jr. Mr. Middaugh was placed on bench probation for three years on September 20 following conviction on a charge of criminal activity in drugs.

Middaugh, an indigent, was appointed counsel who was paid out of county funds. One of the conditions of probation was that he repay court costs and attorneys fees totalling \$280. Judge Beattie has signed an order staying execution of this condition pending the appeal.

The ACLU brief contends that the condition violates the requirements of the United States Constitution for equal protection of the laws and due process of law. Different pressures are placed on an indigent criminal defendant

who fails to pay then on one who retains private counsel. Failure to pay a privately retained attorney could result in a civil judgment and garnishment of wages, but failure to repay the county for court-appointed counsel, where it is a condition of probation, would result in loss of liberty if probation is revoked. The ACLU also argues that it discriminates against those convicted as opposed to those acquitted.

Stevie Remington, Executive Director of the ACLU of Oregon, stated, "This practice, which makes a person's liberty a function of his ability to pay, seems to us to be as inequitable as the practice, now forbidden by the U.S. Supreme Court, of jailing those unable to pay fines. We are concerned, too, that knowledge that they may be responsible for fees would encourage indigents to waive their right to court-appointed counsel, thus denying themselves an essential element of a fair trial."

Mr. Middaugh is being represented in the appeal by the Multnomah County Public Defender's office. Charles Robinson is acting as cooperating attorney for the ACLU as AMICUS CURIAE.



Day care mothers of the A.M.A. Family Day/Night Care Program hold a picnic in Peninsula Park.



Mrs. Geraldine Irvin and Mrs. Savannah Jones serving lunch at the Bethel Child Care Center.



Reverend Dan Frazier began reconstruction of the program of Highland Community Center where he is the new director.

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