



State debates equal opportunity



Mayor Neil Goldschmidt (left) visits the opening of Chuck's St. Johns Cyclery at 7017 N. Lombard. Charles Cruse (center) is the owner of the Northwest's only Black owned cycle shop.

Indecision, confusion

The 4-C funded child care programs and the families they serve are awaiting word from the State Children's Service Division as to when new state policies - Rule 10 - will go into effect. The confusion mounts as CSD continues to be unable to give concrete instructions. As the **Observer** goes to press Wednesday evening, the Metropolitan Area 4-C Council expects to hear from CSD the morning of March 8th. In question are: Which children will be eligible for federally subsidized child care and which children will be dropped from programs and which families will have to pay, when, and how much. Mrs. Edie Ryman, Acting Director of the Metropolitan Area 4-C Council, said 4-C will take no action until directives are received in writing from Don Miller, Director of the Children's Service Division.

A number of conflicting orders and directives have been received from CSD staff members during the past few days and there appears to be either confusion or conflict within CSD.

Rule 10 was filed and put into effect on February 15th, however, the effective date was postponed until March 1st so that a public hearing could be held on February 26th. Child care agencies were then told that the effective date would be March 1st. Parents were informed and had to determine whether they would be able to pay fees, would place

their children in less expensive private child care, or would have to quit jobs or drop out of school.

Then on March 3rd parents and day care mothers of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Family Day and Night Care Program, joined by concerned parents and citizens, met with Mayor Neil Goldschmidt to express their concerns over the stringent state regulations and high fee scale and to request assistance from city revenue sharing money.

Mayor Goldschmidt explained that he cannot change the state policy, but that he is in favor of continuing child care at its current level. He will not commit the city to financing child care until the council is able to determine which social programs are losing federal funds and which should be continued by the city.

The State Children's Service Division, under Rule 10, will eliminate many families from the federally funded 4-C child care programs. Only those families earning 133 per cent of welfare standards (welfare standards are set at 85 per cent of the estimated cost of a menial standard of existence) would be eligible to receive 4-C child care. Of those eligible for child care, many would be expected to pay fees higher than they would have to pay for private care.

The parents were concerned that without child (Please turn to page 8 col. 2)



Berkeley mayor visits

by Rosemary Allen

Mayor Warren Widener, first Black Mayor of Berkeley, California, received a warm welcome in Portland Tuesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harris. There to greet him were various residents of Portland, among them Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knauts, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Brown Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Jones.

Mayor Widener was in Oregon for a speaking engagement at Willamette University, February 28. He spoke primarily about the student role in government and the "Berkeley Experience". A former city councilman

in 1969, Mayor Widener commented on his new position, acquired in 1971. He expressed that in his position as the only Black mayor in California, he is looked upon by Blacks in Oakland, San Francisco, etc., as "Their Mayor". Mayor Widener feels that he is a Black mayor, coming from a Black experience. However, he knows he must deal with all problems. The issue that he feels is of grave importance nationally to Black people now is the relationship of the Nixon Administration to Black people. He feels that Black people must plan now or have our future planned for us.

William Jones is a Black man who owns his own dump truck. He is also the only minority dump truck driver in Oregon. Two weeks ago Jones had a hearing before the State Public Utilities Commission on his application for a license.

Before buying his truck, Jones researched the dump truck business in Oregon and found that there are no Blacks or other minority people in this business. He also found that Executive Order 11246 requires that all federally funded or federally supervised projects are required to hire Blacks at all levels of employment, and that contractors in Oregon were unable to obtain Black dump truck drivers for their jobs. None of the dump truck companies employ Black drivers.

Jones, who had driven trucks for his uncle's firm in Los Angeles, McNeal Trucking, applied to the Teamsters Union in Portland for employment as a driver. He was sent to the hiring hall by Teamster official Larry Mill, but was told at the hall that no work was available but that his name would be placed in the extra list. He never heard from the union again.

He then went to the Portland Airport, where the Porter Yett Company was building. He was told by a clerk that his name would be taken for the employment list, but the foreman would not place him on the list. He did not see Blacks working on that job, federally funded and under the auspices of the Port of Portland.

Hoping to buy his own truck and begin a business, Jones went to the Small Business Administration. His application was not accepted and he was told to go to Media, that they were set up to assist Blacks. Jones said he knows that the average white man can go to SBA and obtain a business loan. But that Blacks are refused without even the opportunity to apply.

Jones saved money from his job as a building contractor, traded in his wife's car and

bought a second-hand dump truck. He obtained a temporary permit which allows him to work only two firms, Hoffman Construction and Alert. If one of these firms does not have work for him, the truck sits idle.

Jones has now applied for a State license that would allow him to accept trucking jobs anywhere in Oregon. State law requires that anyone applying for a permit, prove the need for additional trucks. However, this law was made at a time when all trucking companies were White and it perpetuates an all-White industry.

However, Jones believes he has complied with the requirements of the law in proving the need for additional dump trucks. Before applying for the license he attended a meeting of the Oregon Dump Truckers Association and was urged by them to apply. However, 15 members of that association, supported by the association's attorney, attended the hearing to protest his application. These dump truckers testified that they earned from \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year, working part time. They do not work full time, and claimed there is not work for them, yet they do not advertise or list in the yellow pages. They said there is not enough work, yet buy new trucks for \$30,000.

Jones claims that there is available work and that during the peak season there are not enough dump trucks available to meet the needs of the construction companies.

The Public Utilities Commission must now decide whether Jones is to be licensed. A decision against him would place the State of Oregon in the position of perpetuating an all White industry.

When Jones receives his license he plans to buy another truck and hire a second driver. As the business grows he will be able to hire other minority employees. He does not see his business as just a lucrative income for himself, but as a way to get Blacks into this trade which has been closed to him.

Clinics aid taxes

The Oregon Tax Project is sponsoring tax clinics which offer free preparation of tax returns to low and moderate income groups in the Portland metropolitan area. The Project is a citizens' effort to help people with their individual tax problems and to provide tax payers with information about the present tax structure.

"The tax clinics will operate out of the existing facilities of various community organizations, neighborhood centers and churches," explained Bill Cross, Project Coordinator. "The urgent need for such clinics is emphasized by a Department of Health, Education and Welfare study of the 1971 forms in which they concluded that in order to completely understand the tax instructions the taxpayer would have to read at the level of a college graduate."

Present plans encompass

the operation of six clinics during weekday evenings and Saturdays from March 15th to April 16th. The clinics will be staffed by volunteers who will have completed the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance course, a training program designed by the Internal Revenue Service. The training program quickly equips assistants to handle ninety percent of the problems they are likely to encounter in assisting low and moderate income taxpayers.

The Oregon Tax Project's volunteer staff of professional accounting consultants will handle the more complex tax problems as well as assist in the auditing of tax forms.

Cross indicated that additional professional and clinic volunteers for the program are needed. For further information, call the Oregon Tax Project at 222-1118.

Tired of jive people?

by Rosemary Allen

Tired of community rip-off programs? Fed up with empty promises and starved to feel anything for real? I'm with you; I feel the same way too! But I think I've come up on something on the for-real side in my recent visit to POIC.

"This is a training center, not a school," explained Mr.

Washington, Public Relations man and Operations Manager for POIC. "Our concept is to train people for employment." There are 105 OIC's across the USA and in 7 other countries. The main headquarters is in Philadelphia. 50% of all trainees in these programs are from the target area, the other

50% consisting of low income, unemployed, students put out of public schools, etc. POIC is not an ethnic group organization, although it is run basically by experienced Blacks."

"Whatever is required to get a job," is what is taught at POIC. Courses range from mechanics to GED preparation; from speedwriting to consumer education. Each course is taught on an individual basis. There is no bulk teaching.

Now, after hearing that their basic concern was to get people a job, I knew they were for real. Learning how to help yourself is the only way you're going to survive. Forget about "making it".

So as Mr. Washington continued our tour, I saw the Consumer Education class where people of all ages were being taught how to compare prices in the community with those of stores the suburbs, and how to buy from stores like Cohn Brothers, Lampus, etc. Then I had a talk with clerical teacher assistant Cheryl Oliver, who explained how trainees can learn how to type 20 to 25 words per minute in only two weeks. Bobby Harris, adult basic education instructor explained that his course consisted of English, Math, History and English Literature. Another course taught there

(Please turn to page 8 col. 1)



Benson students build houses

Career Education building and construction program at Benson Polytechnic High School has taken on a new look since its beginning a little more than a year ago. Students in the Career Education cluster are using updated techniques to learn building and construction trades while keeping the cost of instructional materials down.

Sophomore students in the program can elect a number of courses which help them get exposure to building and construction trades. Students in the finish carpentry class re-use the forms and most materials as they learn

interior carpentry. By use of the new technique, four groups of students or about 90 a day can work on dry wall, layout techniques, painting, roofing and floor covering. When the project is completed at the end of the 9-week grading period, the sements are taken down and re-usable materials are stored until the next class comes in to start the project over again.

Currently more than one-half of the members of the sophomore class are enrolled in the project, according to Sterling Borquist, chairman of the shop department at Benson.

Borquist said there are some 85 students in junior and senior classes building two houses. He said the class is working in groups framing the buildings near the school. Upon completion, they will be taken down in panels and assembled on foundations at the permanent location.

He said that perhaps in the future, students will be able to work on a modular constructed home. This will provide the students with the same experience as the framing does, but will also offer additional finishing experience, Borquist concluded.



Dan Hartzog, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hartzog, was appointed by Representative Bill McCoy to be an honorary page at the House of Representatives on March 14th. Dan, who is 14 years old, is a student at Wilson High School.

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