



**The Editor's Desk**

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

**CSD will decide**

The Children's Services Division of the Human Resources Department is the agency that will eventually determine which social projects serving the children and families of the Black community will survive. In jeopardy are the 4-C funded child care programs, the Yaun Youth Care Centers, the foster-care program, and other specialized programs either funded through or monitored by CSD.

CSD has little if any understanding of the problems, the aspirations, the goals of the Black community since they have chosen for the past 10 years not to hire Blacks in any significant number.

CSD, which is an offshoot from the Welfare Commission, now has in Multnomah County a total of 6 Black employees. During the past ten years 5 Blacks have been hired in Multnomah County as Caseworkers and social workers. Two of these persons had Bachelors degrees at the time of hiring and three had Masters degrees. Two-thirds of the Black employees have Masters degrees. CSD has no Blacks on the State level.

This virtually all-white agency will determine which Model Cities social programs will exist and which will be eliminated. Should an all-white state agency come into a Black community and decide what programs will continue? Most of these programs are operated by community boards who KNOW the needs of the people of Albina. Why should an all-white agency, that cannot even meet the Affirmative Action requirements of HEW, decide what will happen in the Black community?

CSD -- before you come in and tell us what to do, put your house in order! Hire Blacks at all levels -- county and state. Educate your employees about the history and culture of Black people. Come to the community and see what the people want. Then make your decisions.

Regulations affecting the lives of the people cannot be contingent on one hearing held in one part of the state. Can the poor from Harney County come to Salem or Portland for a hearing? A series of hearings should be held in the areas most affected, at times when employed people can attend. These hearings should sincerely invite the ideas and concerns of the people and not be only a formality required by law.

The programs administered by CSD -- ADC, foster care, corrections, etc. -- are among the worst administered programs of the state. Perhaps they should straighten out their own program before trying to take over the privately administered programs.

**WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH BLACK EYES.**



Published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, 2201 N. Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217. Mailing address, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208

Subscriptions \$5.25 per year - Tri-County area, \$6.00 per year - Outside Portland. Telephone, 283-2486.

Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Portland, Oregon.

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ALFRED LEE HENDERSON, Publisher/Editor



**The Observation POST**

**This is Leadership?**

The State Public Utilities Commission is making an important decision that will determine whether the state will be a party to the restriction of an industry to whites. This decision involves William Jones, a Black dump truck owner, who has applied for a dump truck license.

An Oregon law provides that dump truck licenses will not be issued if the applicant cannot prove the need for more trucks. This law, designed to protect the income of the existing truckers, might be proper, although most businessmen are not protected against competition. But if it is used to perpetuate an all-white industry, it is not proper.

It so happens that all the dump truck owners and drivers in Oregon are white, and if they are allowed to retain their present membership, they will remain all white. It is also strange that a short time ago another white was awarded a license without protest.

We believe the state should not just allow, but should encourage and enable the entry of Blacks and other minorities into all of the industries that are regulated by the state or other public bodies.

We do not see how there can be any question in this matter. The issuing of this license should be done at once. If the state agency should decide against Mr. Jones, it will be in danger of being found guilty of denying the equal protection guarantee of the 14th Amendment to its Black citizens.

However, such a decision would not be surprising, considering the state's own record in minority employment. We, as well as the Public Utilities Commission, should be able to look to our elected officials for leadership in the field -- but in Oregon we do not have this advantage. We have difficulty in every finding a Black in the crowded marble halls of the Capitol Building. We would indeed be shocked to walk into the office of the Governor or one of the major elected officials and be greeted by a Black staff member. Looking to Washington, we again see "our" state represented by whites, with all-white staffs, and with little concern for what happens to their Black constituents back home.

**Christians promote racism**

The YWCA hired a Black utility clerk last week. Prior to this the Y had three full time Black employees -- 2 custodians and a maid. They also employed a part time maid. They have a total of 55 employees.

The Y operates a small program in Albina, using volunteer labor and donated space.

Since the YWCA stands for Young Womens Christian Association, one would expect that it would exemplify the Christian tennant of brotherhood and be a leader in the fight for equal rights. We should expect this organization to be an example of affirmative action.

The YWCA claims that the reason they do not have Blacks in higher levels is that Blacks do not want to work for the salaries they pay; yet they can find Blacks who will work for the salaries of maids and custodians.

The YWCA is not the only "Christian" organization that does not practice equal employment. The Greater Portland Council of Churches -- representing most of the Portland area churches -- has no Blacks on its staff.

Blacks thought Dr. Richard Hughes would be somewhat of a panacea and would remedy this situation, but soon found out that there was a new face continuing an old policy.

William (Bill) Cates and Clayton Rice made an attempt to at least hear the problems of Black clergy and the problems of Blacks in general. They even offered a helping hand. However, Dr. Hughes, with his platitudinous phrases, sounds good and is an artist of oratory, yet Blacks and minorities can point to no achievement since his arrival in the Rose City. It seems to be the SOS -- same old soup warmed over again.

**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Editor:

I would like to congratulate you for the fine edition of the Portland Observer for February 15th. The material on Blacks in Oregon was informative. Every Black man woman and child should have read that issue and preserved it for posterity. As of date, there is no comprehensive history on Blacks in the Beaver State. I would like to see the "noted" Black Historians in Oregon write the history of Blacks in the state.

As I stated in my article in the September issue of the Oregon Historical Quarterly: "The present period of Black cultural consciousness indicates quite clearly that Blacks in Oregon are no longer willing to reject their cultural heritage and racial identity. The need for all the people of Oregon to understand and appreciate the role and impact that Blacks have had on helping build and develop Oregon is critical. It is in this context that the preservation and interpretation of material on Blacks in Oregon can be most meaningful."

There shouldn't be a week set aside for Black History. Black History should be taught every day. Blacks in Oregon should be informed that some Blacks have been in the State longer than some whites. Also that Oregon has had Black pioneers, ranchers, soldiers, servants, sailors, slaves, and even explorers. Perhaps if young Black Oregonians knew these facts they would view themselves differently. The "true" history of Blacks in Oregon, regrettably, has not been written. What are the "noted" Black Historians in Oregon doing to inform young Blacks about the history of Black people in Oregon? Can it be that these Black "authorities" have not done any research in their own backyard? I will let the public draw their own conclusions about these "authorities" on Black history -- especially those who "live the Black experience everyday!"

Lenwood G. Davis.



With Ron Hendren  
A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

**TALE OF FORTUNES AND TAXES**

WASHINGTON--A few days ago Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisc.) pointed out that the total sales of the corporations known as the Fortune 500 at the beginning of this decade exceeded by more than 200 per cent the total budget receipts of the U.S. government in the same year, 1970.

He went on to point out that among the 100 largest "money powers" of the world, more than half are not countries at all, but corporations.

The sales of Standard Oil of New Jersey, for example, exceeded by more than four times the total revenues received by the state whose name the company bore until recently when it changed its name to Exxon.

Indeed, only 25 nations in the world have gross national products larger than the annual sales of Exxon. The same is true of A.T.&T. General Motors' net sales put that company 24th from the top on the same list.

Close behind are Ford Motor Company; Shell; Sears, Roebuck; General Electric; International Business Machines; Mobile Oil; Chrysler; and International Telephone and Telegraph--companies which are more powerful financially than all but the largest 20 or so countries in the world.

And yet, five of this nation's 45 largest corporations paid no federal income tax whatsoever in 1971, the year of Nelson's comparison, even though these five companies had taxable incomes totalling \$382 million. Six more of the 45 paid less than 10 per cent tax in the same year, while the average rate for the rest of the nearly two million American corporations was 37 per cent.

Part of the problem is that these giant conglomerates are so big, so unwieldy and so diversified that it has been all but

impossible to regulate them from the scanty amount of tax information they are required to make public under present law.

Nelson has proposed legislation to remedy this situation by requiring the nation's 4,348 largest companies to disclose much more information about their corporate income taxes, making public scrutiny possible for the first time. At that, his bill (S. 875) would affect only one-fourth of one per cent of American corporations. But those 4,348 strongly affect if not control the economies of this and many other countries.

The measure is sure to meet powerful opposition from business, even though it would not directly cost corporations so much as one cent. Nonetheless, the disclosure of key tax information is certain to pose the threat of losing some of the tax loopholes which have made it possible for businesses to grow to immense size without carrying their fair share of the overall tax burden.

And when you are president of a company--say, General Motors whose sales exceed the gross national products of Mexico, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, Argentina, Romania, and Switzerland, to name a few--then you have a lot of clout indeed to bring against one senator and one modest proposal. So S. 875 is likely to fail.

What percentage of taxes will you be paying this coming April 15?

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**Another Point of View**

Anybody Listening?

(Reprinted from The Atlanta Inquirer, February 24, 1973)

A recent report out of Michigan that the life expectancy of Blacks in Michigan dropped 2.6 years during the last decade comes as no great surprise to us.

The Michigan report is an indication of how hard life is for Black people -- something Black people and those who have fought with them for justice and equality -- have known all along. It is a statistic not confined to Michigan alone. Indeed, one might find a larger drop in some other areas of the country and within some areas of these areas of the country.

The revelation simply means to us, "Did anybody hear? Especially somebody in the White House considering all the programs designed to help that somebody has decided are failures."

The report said the cause of the drop in life expectancy was soaring drug and alcohol use, poverty and hard jobs. Where alcohol is concerned, it was "learned" that some Blacks work hard all week and start drinking Friday evening and continue until Sunday. A look at any liquor store will tell anybody that drinking statistic. Black men, according to

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