

PORTLAND



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Black administers labor law

James Barnett is the United States Department of Labor's Resident Compliance Officer for Oregon. Operating a one-man office, Barnett administers the federal laws relating to unions and their members. Passed by Congress in 1959, the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosures Act protects the rights of employers to organize, to choose their own representatives, collective bargain and joint-union for mutual aid or protection. It regulates the activities of the unions and their officers and provides for the rights of the members to equal and open participation in the union.

The Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act regulates the use and record keeping of union welfare and pension funds.

Barnett administers these laws as well as the Veterans Employment Rights Act and Executive Order 11491. He receives reports, investigates complaints and evaluates the union activities. Should he require assistance he can call on the Department of Labor Office in Seattle, the F.B.I. or the United States Attorney. Most usual infractions are contested union elections and



JAMES BARNETT

misuse of funds.

Barnett has found few Black union members in Oregon, especially in positions of leadership.

Barnett came to Oregon approximately a month ago, from Detroit. He has been with Labor for three years. Previously he had been an Internal Revenue officer, but saw more chance for advance-

ment and responsibility in the Department of Labor.

Barnett is a graduate of Detroit Institute of Technology, with a BA degree in accounting. He is married and has three teenage children. Active in community affairs in Detroit, he was particularly involved in the attempts to desegregate the Detroit Public Schools.

Board approves programs

The Model Cities Citizen's Planning Board approved fund allocations for the fourth action year budget for submission to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for approval.

Faced by a nearly 50 percent cut in federal funds, the Planning Board attempted to include funds for all existing components in the new budget. The budget committee recommended the termination of two projects, the comprehensive health planning program and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Funds. After extended discussion, funds were taken from money earmarked for residential development, to continue the two programs.

The Portland Model Cities program will receive \$1,985,000 from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for the fiscal year June of 1973 to June of 1974, as opposed to \$3,745,000 received for the current fiscal year.

Proposed funding for the Model Cities program for the fiscal year beginning June 16, 1973 totals \$3,897,920. Program areas to be funded include social services at \$84,565; Citizens Participation, evaluation and administration at \$815,260; and citizen relocation at \$736,267.

WATTSTAX premiers at Black theater

The Northwest Premier of "WATTSTAX... The Living Word" was held Wednesday evening at the Alameda Cinema. The Alameda is the only Black owned theater in the Northwest and one of few in the nation.

Miss Carla Thomas, a star of the movie and a Stax recording artist, was present for the opening. Miss Thomas was accompanied by Ms. Fannie Young and William Cherry of the Stax Record Corporation.

In pre-show ceremonies, Miss Thomas was presented the Key to the City by Vernon Summers, Director of the City of Portland Human Relations Commission, representing Mayor Neil Goldschmidt.

Senate hires page

Vickie Garrett has been appointed as a page for the Oregon State Senate. Miss Garrett attended Wilson High School in Portland. Before graduating from high school, she was admitted to Portland Community College and began taking courses toward her goal of becoming an elementary teacher.

Miss Garrett loves her new job with the Senate, enjoying the excitement and involvement.

Miss Garrett is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Galvin Irby of Portland. She and her five month old son, Todd, will live in Salem during the legislative session.

Notice

The Portland Branch, NAACP, will hold its March membership meeting on March 18, 1973 at 4:00 p.m. at Hughes Memorial Methodist Church, 111 N.E. Failing. Senator Keith Burns will speak.

Cheryl James... Free at last

Richard Belloni, Judge of the federal court in Portland, commuted the prison sentence of teenager Cheryl James to time already served. Cheryl was sentenced in April of 1971 to an 18 month sentence at Terminal Island Federal Correctional Institution, to begin after her graduation from high school that June. Cheryl had been arrested for "assaulting an FBI officer" in her home.

Cheryl was one of the three members of the Charles James family that was taken into custody by federal officers on January 4th, when FBI officers entered the James home to arrest Charles, Jr., age 20, who was AWOL from the Navy. Charles had left his Navy post to be home during the birth of his child, and he had reported his address and his intentions to return to his base.

Mrs. James states that the FBI agents did not properly identify themselves or present a warrant when they came to the house to arrest Charles. In the confusion that resulted in the house full of children and the family dog, the officers reported that they had been assaulted with rolling pins and other weapons. Cheryl said she did not know who the men were and that she was defending a younger brother who was being strangled by one of the men. Charles, Cheryl and Martha, age 15, were arrested. Charles, a wounded veteran, was sentenced to an

indeterminate sentence with a six year maximum. He is now on probation and is attending Portland State University. Martha was given three years probation.

Two weeks after her high school graduation, Cheryl began serving her term at Terminal Island in San Pedro, California.

Since that date, Cheryl has been through a series of legal moves, including release on appeal and a number of motions to prevent her return to prison. While in prison Cheryl became pregnant, she states, as the result of rape, and in October of this year gave birth to a baby boy, Maurice.

Judge Belloni's decision frees Cheryl from serving further time in prison, but it does not clear her of the prison record which she incurred as a juvenile. It will allow her to continue her studies at Portland Community College and to begin to plan for her future.

Present in the court room were approximately 100 supporters, Black and white, and from all walks of life. Prominent in the crowd were Cheryl's high school teachers and fellow students.

Much of the expense and work involved in Cheryl's case has been carried on by an interracial committee, the Cheryl James Defense Fund, chaired by Mrs. Ann Campbell. Arthur C. Spencer, III, Secretary of the group, told the *Observer*, "We are now pleased to be able to get to the task of helping Cheryl

rebuild her life and we are grateful for the support evidenced by the large turnout at the hearing this morning."

Among the organizations that have been prominent in the Cheryl James defense are the Women's International

League for Peace and Freedom, which provided the original bail fund; the Albina Ministerial Alliance; the ILWU Auxiliaries; and the Methodist Federation for Social Action. Attorney Nick Chaivoe handled Cheryl's appeals.



CHERYL JAMES

MEDIA hires management staff

Joseph W. Bostic, Executive Director

The Metropolitan Economic Development Industrial Alliance, Inc. (MEDIA), the organization in Portland which assists businessmen and potential businessmen in developing their effectiveness as entrepreneurs and managers, has engaged a management consulting staff of experienced businessmen and professional experts.

Guiding this newly-formed team is Dr. Donald C. Jones, As Chief Management Consultant for MEDIA, he will provide leadership to MEDIA's management department. The principal responsibilities of the group will be to assist Model Neighborhood businessmen in the basic planning for new business ventures and in providing management counseling to support existing Model Neighborhood businesses. Such business assistance is especially necessary during the crucial first years of a new business operation.

OEO offices close

The acting director of the Office of Economic Opportunity (War on Poverty) has announced that the ten regional offices of OEO will be closed on or before April 28th. Within the next few days, regional office employees will be officially notified of their termination.

Howard Phillips, named by President Nixon to preside over the demise of the agency, said some employees will be

transferred to the General Services Administration to oversee the audit of OEO books and the disposal of property owned by OEO.

Four Democratic senators have asked a federal court to remove Phillips from office on the grounds that his appointment is illegal. Senator H.A. Williams (Dem.-N.J.), Chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, and three other committee members filed the suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The suit alleges that Phillips is holding his position illegally because President Nixon did not send his nomination to the Senate for confirmation. Law requires that the OEO director's nomination be confirmed by the Senate and another law indicates that a temporary appointee cannot serve more than 30 days without Senate confirmation.

Nixon appointed Phillips as acting OEO director on January 31 and assigned him the task of dismantling the agency created by President Lyndon B. Johnson to fight the "war on poverty."

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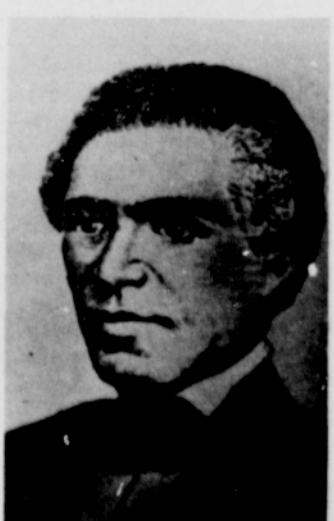
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Black Press celebrates 146 years of service

WASHINGTON (NNPA) -- Black Press Week, March 11-17, marks 146 years of printed protest against one form of slavery or another for Black Americans, says Garth C. Reeves, Sr., president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and editor-publisher of the Miami Times.

"Today, the protest is against economic bondage that holds most Black people in the lowest paid, least desirable jobs, as well as in the worst housing in the United States," Mr. Reeves adds.

One hundred and forty-six years ago, the NNPA president continues, when John B. Russwurm and the Rev. Samuel E. Cornish launched Freedom's Journal on March 16, 1827, the fight was against more than 200 years of slavery in the South and for more decent and humane treatment of freedmen in the North. And although physical slavery



JOHN B. RUSSWURM

very was abolished in name more than 100 years ago, and considerable progress has been made, slavery in many forms still exists for Black Americans, Mr. Reeves points out.

"And this," declares the NNPA head, "is the continuing challenge of the Black press which now stands at 208 in number with a combined circulation of more than four million, according to Dr. Henry G. Labrie, a research fellow at Harvard University who has just completed a study of the Black press."

A good indication of the continuing need for a vigorous Black press to help support the long hard fight for full, first-class citizenship for our people is the establishment of more and more Black newspapers at a time when White papers are declining in number, Mr. Reeves explains.

According to Dr. Labrie's study, Mr. Reeves points out, of the 208 Black newspapers in America, 132 have been established since 1950; 96, since 1960; and 31, since 1970.

A generation ago, says the NNPA head, Black newspapers numbered only a little over 100, although since Russ-

wurm's Freedom's Journal, nearly 3,000 Black papers have come and gone. Now there are 208. Of these, five were founded in the 19th century: The Philadelphia Tribune, 1884; The Baltimore Afro-American and the Houston Informer & Texas Freeman, 1892; the Des Moines New Iowa Bystander, 1894; and the Indianapolis Recorder, 1895.

Mr. Reeves says there are now three Black dailies in continental U.S.: The Atlanta Daily World, the Chicago Daily Defender, and the New York Daily Challenge. Weeklies number 190, semi-weeklies, five; monthlies and bi-monthlies, 10.

"Black Press Week," Mr. Reeves declares, "is the time for a re-dedication of this press to an ever-continuing fight until every Black American is free to advance himself or herself to the full extent of his or her abilities."

Bridge Watchers

A "riverfront superintendents' observation area has been established on the east bank of the Willamette River at the foot of N. Randolph Avenue to view the rise and placement of the center span of the new Fremont Bridge.

Grandstands have been erected. The Division will also have a mobile information van equipped with models at the bridge and statistical information located at the observation site.

Direction signs have been installed on streets on the east side to assist drivers wishing to reach the site.