



## The Editor's Desk

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON

### WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH BLACK EYES



## Phantom returns

Again the Deputy Attorney General has answered for his boss (see letter, column three). The Governor and the Secretary of State call the OBSERVER when they wish to differ or discuss, but we only hear from the Deputy Attorney General. In fact, an appointment was requested to discuss the Attorney General's problems with affirmative action and civil rights enforcement, but was broken by Mr. Johnson.

Now to the facts. When we speak of the absence of Blacks in the Attorney General's office, we mean in the Attorney General's office. Are there any Black administrative assistants, personal secretaries, etc., who are appointed by and directly responsible to the Attorney General?

By stretching the imagination to include all the employees of the Justice Department as the Attorney General's personal employees, we probably could find a Black among them. By the same logic, the Governor could excuse his lack of Black staff by pointing to all of the Black state employees (scarce though they are) and claim them as "his" employees.

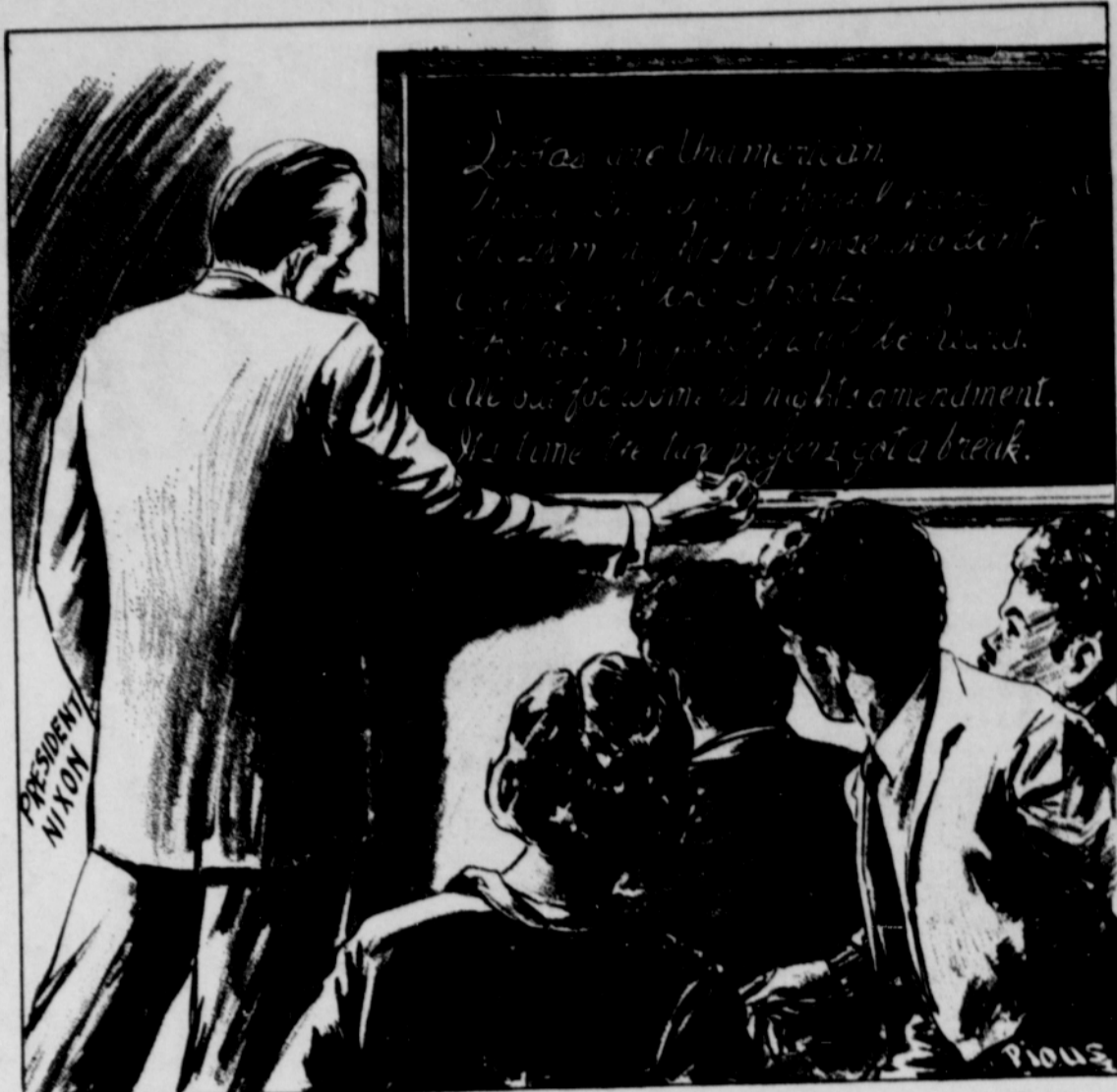
But if the Attorney General wants us to look at the Justice Department, we will. There are more than 70 attorneys employed by the Justice Department -- none are Black. Mr. Johnson's predecessor had two Black attorneys, the last leaving the department in November, 1970. Mr. Johnson's predecessor had two Black attorneys when there was no affirmative action agreement; now there is an affirmative action agreement but no Black attorneys. Under Mr. Johnson's predecessor there were a number of female attorneys, under Mr. Johnson this number has decreased.

The Welfare Recovery Division, which investigates fraud in welfare and arranges for support payments, is under the Attorney General's jurisdiction. This agency is headed by Walter Fujagami, a Japanese attorney who was appointed by Mr. Johnson's predecessor. Welfare Recovery has no Black attorneys or professional employees. WRD has a Black clerk-typist in its Portland office, and the young man referred to by Mr. Durham, who is a part time employee and cannot be hired as an attorney until he passes the Oregon Bar. In our investigations, we have been unable to find Black employees in the other WRD offices.

If there are Blacks holding professional positions in the Justice Department, we invite the Attorney General to make this known to the public. We would like to have the names, the positions, the civil service status and the date of appointment of these Black employees. We will be glad to give the Attorney General credit where credit is due.

But from our investigation of the Department of Justice, we see no progress. We see only loss of previous gains.

Mr. Durham, would you again have us believe that the Attorney General is blameless? If so, as we said before, a phantom has taken over the Department of Justice! Blacks still consider Oregon's Affirmative Action Agreement to be just a piece of paper. Not policy, Sir, but practice?



Code phrases?

## LETTERS

### Johnson defended

Your editorial, *Still a Piece of Paper*, states there are no Blacks in the offices of the Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer or the Attorney General. I cannot speak for the other offices, but your statement concerning the office of the Attorney General is wrong. There are Blacks employed by the Department of Justice as well as orientals, American-Indians and spanish-speaking Americans.

You may also be interested in knowing that one of the Blacks employed by the Department of Justice has relied substantially on his employment to finance his way through law school. He graduates from law school

this year and has already been offered a position as an Assistant Attorney General. He accepted that offer in December and will join three other new law school graduates in our honors program.

Perhaps the Attorney General can be criticized for not publicizing his efforts in the Affirmative Action Program, but a newspaper man who makes judgments without the facts is clearly subject to legitimate criticism. To my knowledge no one at your paper took the time or effort to check the facts.

Very truly yours,  
James W. Durham, Jr.  
Dep. Attorney General

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## As I See It PSU Educational Center and the community

by Lenwood G. Davis

White Americans have historically responded to two things - tragedy and violence. Blacks also respond to these events. The possible closing of the P.S.U. Educational Center is a classical example. Now that it appears that the Ed Center will be closed there seems to be a concern for it on the part of the community.

Even though the PSU administration has not yet made the decision as to whether the Center will continue, it appears as if it will. It will be a tragedy if the Center is closed. It has served the community well. The community did not, however, utilize it to its fullest.

I am sure that the students who have attended the Center over the past four years will be sorry to see it closed. No doubt others in the community also will be

sorry. Over the past two years the Center increased its offerings and has constantly tried to expand its courses. It reported that it had a success rate of about 93 per cent, which is unusually high for any institution. In fact, few institutions can make that claim!

At this stage it is not too late to avoid this tragedy. The community can write the final ending. If the community wants the PSU Ed Center to remain open it will have to act - now - and not talk. If the residents of Portland express a serious concern over the Center it might stay open.

To quote the Director of the Center: "If we are still politically useful, we will survive. If not, we will not. Work and success do not have much to do with it." I believe we are (and will be) "still politically useful". The only thing we have to do now is prove it!

### With Ron Hendren A YOUNG VIEW OF WASHINGTON

#### HUMAN GUINEA PIGS

WASHINGTON--It wasn't much, they told the prisoner, just minor surgery on his brain designed to make him less violent, and with the surgery came the promise of freedom.

A scene out of 1984? No. The time is today and the location is the California Medical Facility at Vacaville, where operations like the one described above were recently performed on three prisoners.

What the prisoners were not told is that the psychosurgery would render them incapable of feeling pleasure or sadness, and would forever render decision making difficult for them.

But the end goal was achieved--permanently altering the subjects' behavior--and that seems to be enough to satisfy a growing number of medical and government authorities who support psychosurgery.

Psychosurgery is just one of the many forms of experimentations which are being conducted on humans today, often without their full understanding and sometimes without their knowledge.

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.) late last month introduced legislation to set rigorous guidelines governing medical experiments involving people.

He reminded his colleagues of a barbaric syphilis study involving 430 black men which was conducted over a period of 40 years in Alabama. The men, all afflicted with syphilis, were given \$50 plus burial expenses not to undergo treatment for their disease. At least 28 and perhaps as many as 107 died as a result.

Humphrey said the fact that these men volunteered is clear indication that consent of those involved is a totally inadequate standard. The most dangerous experiments almost always find the poor and uneducated as their subjects, people who may not be able to understand or fully comprehend the danger to which they will be exposed.

In some cases, according to Humphrey, individuals may not even be aware they are the subjects of a test. Recently, according to associates of consumer advocate Ralph Nader, the University of Michigan dispensed diethylstilbestrol (DES) to coeds who feared they might be pregnant. DES is a synthetic estrogen which has been linked to cancer. The daughters of some 840 women who were given DES in the early 1950's are now found to experience a high rate of malignancies, according to Humphrey.

To stem unwarranted and overly dangerous experiments on humans, Humphrey has proposed to establish a National Human Experimentation Standards Board, an independent agency authorized to draw up rigorous guidelines governing human experimentation in projects financed by federal funds.

The board would have subpoena power and the right to hold hearings; it could obtain injunctions to halt experiments not in compliance with its guidelines.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, has already conducted hearings on human experimentation. Interest on the subject is high in both the Senate and House, and prospects for legislation along the lines proposed by Humphrey seem good.

Meanwhile, the experiments go on, and the majority of physicians conducting them, says Humphrey, have never even studied the ethics of testing. Perhaps some of them have forgotten the admonition of Hippocrates: "Life is short, and the art long; the occasion instant, decision difficult, experiment perilous."

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