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'72 Dodge Monaco
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Voice of the NAACP

by Ellis Casson, President
NAACP, Portland Branch
"Forgotten Minority"



Last week I attended the "Open House" for the "City-County Program on Aging" directed by O.J. Gates (a Black man) who is possessed with intelligence, initiative and ability. I was pleased to see the nice quarters and to know that someone wants something nice and decent for our senior citizens.

However, for some peculiar reason less and less is being done by the Federal government to improve the living conditions of our senior citizens. (I know because my mother is one.) In some circles our illustrious elderly are being called the "forgotten minority".

With all the problems our national government has gotten itself into under the Nixon Administration, it is certainly time for all of us to stop and reflect for a moment and consider whether our government is really of the people, for the people, and by the people, or if it is of the dollar, by the dollar, and for the dollar.

Going unnoticed (some of us have taken time to know what's happening) in most instances, whenever the Federal or local budget comes before our lawmakers for consideration, invariably, it seems, the first section to be whittled down are the "people-type programs", better known as social programs.

You see, apparently the powers that be in the majority think along the line that services to be provided for the people can be secondary to what they call the national security of this nation.

No doubt about it, both are important for the well-being of this nation. However, our priorities must be re-evaluated.

Those who have worked all their lives to help make and keep this country the wealthiest in the world, once they reach the senior citizen status, by and large, become the "forgotten minority". This is wrong and shouldn't be allowed to continue in this country.

Building skyscrapers, fighting unnecessary wars, flying to the moon, all seem to have priority over the blood, sweat and sacrifices of generations of hard working men and women. We see our elderly pushed aside, many left alone to fend for themselves on poverty allowances.

A small majority are fortunate to have children who care enough to help them. The government does not offer some support through Social Security and Medicare. The fact is - the ends do not meet the needs. You see, giving them more money is not the complete answer to their desperate needs. More efficiency and complete overhauling of the Social Security Department is one of the first steps needed to be taken. Not only is there a need for better management, an ailment of all bureaucracy, but an improvement of attitude by those being paid to help our elderly. The attitude by many towards recipients is that of giving them charity and that they are doing them a big favor.

This is wrong, because these little old ladies and men did their jobs years ago. They have a right to receive with dignity whatever aid they have rightfully earned.

It is time for this nation to start treating our senior citizens with dignity and make their place in the sun comfortable and enriched.

I trust that as the City and County fight over who will run the program, they won't forget the people they are fighting for, or cause them to suffer anymore than they have already.

Let us all remember that part of the "forgotten minority" are our mothers and fathers.

See you next week!



Edwin C. "Bill" Berry, former Executive Director of the Urban League of Portland, will chair the Ralph Bunche Development Panel to raise funds for a United Nations Association fellowship program for Black students.

United Nations Assn. funds Black scholars

For perhaps the first time in U.S. History Black youths interested in international affairs and foreign service career jobs will be in line for unprecedented financial and professional assistance.

The aid will come through the Annual Ralph Bunche Awards Program of the United Nations Association of the United States of America, the only private organization entirely engaged in non-partisan research and education aimed at making the UN and other international organizations more effective to meet the needs of the times.

First announced last year by UNA, the program is just beginning to gather momentum. It was named for the late UN under secretary for special political affairs, and will have a minimum financing of \$100,000 annually over the next five years, according to Joseph M. Segel, chairman of the Board of Governors of UNA, and its president, Porter McKeever.

Dr. Bunche died in 1971 at the age of 69, the highest ranking American in the UN Secretariat, one of the world's foremost experts on race relations and peace-making, and winner of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize.

The awards program, UNA says, is aimed at formulating and carrying out a sustained, practical leadership development program in the field of international affairs. Intended as something more than a ceremonial tribute to Dr. Bunche, the program focuses on one of the special needs of the U.S. which the world leader rated as an important domestic priority: The encouragement for increased participation and involvement of American Blacks in the general field of world affairs.

According to Ted Cobb, UNA consultant for special development projects, two main components of the program will be Ralph Bunche Associates and Ralph Bunche Fellows. Associates, he explained, will be college level Black students with leadership potential and distinguishable interests in service, study and career opportunities in the field of international affairs. Each Associate, in addition to the normal benefits of membership in the UNA, will receive a variety of educational and informational materials on the UN and current world affairs issues and programs. Associates will be selected in cooperation with the United Negro College Fund, and as funds become available, it is expected that the Associates will provide the field of candidates from which some 20 or more Ralph Bunche Fellows will be selected annually.

Fellowships are of one-year duration and carry a stipend of \$5,000, with additional funds for supplementary needs.

Ralph Bunche, Jr., son of the late world affairs expert, and manager of the Middle East-Africa desk of Morgan Guaranty Trust, and John H. Johnson, president, Johnson Publications, Chicago, are honorary chairmen of the awards program.

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CAUCUS TIME

by Jettie B. Wilds, Jr., Chairman of Oregon Black Caucus

I wish to again mention the neighborhood organization idea that has Mayor Neil Goldschmidt as its advocate. The District Planning Organization Task Force, in its report of December 28, 1972, gave the purpose of neighborhood organizations as follows:

"To preserve and enhance the livability of Portland through planned, coordinated community development; to

enhance the lives of area citizens by optimizing the quality, availability and delivery of community services; and to do this while protecting the rights of all citizens.

An important factor in achieving this purpose is to provide a structure for neighborhood organizations that will give:

(a) The citizens a method by which they can work together for expression and discussion of their opinions, needs and desires that will have an impact on their community's development and services.

(b) The agencies a method for receiving opinions, needs, desires and recommendations of citizens and groups to best carry out the agencies assigned missions in a way most beneficial to the community.

(c) The City Council an improved method for decision-making and assignment of priorities for all programs affecting community development and personal development of citizens."

The purpose is on par with most statements of purpose. It sounds fairly well but does not say anything. In reading the report, the following point is among the many that the space here will not permit the airing of:

First of all, there has to be a recognized Neighborhood Planning Organization (NPO) to gain the ears of the system. There could very well be exclusion of persons and groups working for the community presently but are still unbought to date.


This group (NPO) then reports to a District Planning Organization (DPO) which reports to a District Planning Board (DPB), which is responsive to the various city functional agencies (already established or proposed); which are responsible to the City Council. There is nothing written or experienced anywhere which indicates that removing the government from the people will result in greater services to the people. This proposal however is certainly in line

with the City Council's present closed-door method of operating. Several Black Citizens have been turned away from City Council chambers to date. The proposal would make for a nice tidy presentation before City Council but would not give the City Council an opportunity to feel the pulse of the city through its citizenry. Decisions are not always rational. Many decisions are extra-rational (hunches) and it is this mix that gives us the unnecessary balance for good government.

The plan starts off with a proposal of a two-tiered structure and evolves into a five-tiered (including City Council) monster that accomplishes one thing. It allows the City Council to conduct its business in peace and away from the citizenry. We have enough secrecy in government already. This proposal says that the city would be great if it were not for the people. Someone has forgotten that the people and the interaction of people is what government is suppose to be all about.

Mayor Goldschmidt would serve the people better by organizing the present government (City Council, City Agencies, City Departments, etc.) so that they are more responsive. The Plan accuses citizens of operating after-the-fact. This is from lack of knowledge and faulty communication tools. The City Council itself acts incorrectly on many proposals because they are unaware of and don't take the time to become aware of proposals outside of their pet areas. It might be well for our "good" Mayor to improve upon his communication with the other council members. This would go a long way toward better services for all the city.

If you are interested in hearing more about this Plan, the Youth Diversion Plan and other moves afoot in our City, make the 6:30 p.m. Caucus meeting, Sunday, June 10, 1973 at the home of Jettie B. Wilds, Jr. 5715 N.E. 19th Avenue.



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