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EDITOR/PUBLISHER

**WE SEE THE WORLD
THROUGH BLACK EYES**



EDITORIAL FOCUS

**MSC agencies
lack commitment**

The Albina Multi-Service Center is providing services for the people of Albina and as an experiment in the multi-service center concept it is a success. But the commitment of the agencies housed in the center to employ Blacks is sadly lacking.

We must remember that the Multi-Service Center has only a small staff employed by the center and responsible to the director. The director has no authority over the policies of the agencies or over their personnel.

When funded by Model Cities one of the stipulations was that the agencies employ residents of the area and that opportunities for Blacks be developed.

Some of the agencies moved into the center with all-white staffs. For example, the Welfare Department transferred its only Black supervisor to the position of office director and the rest of the staff was white. Of course at the time it was impossible to transfer Black caseworkers to the office because the Multnomah County Welfare Department had made it a policy for years to avoid hiring Blacks. But four years have passed and with the tremendous turnover Welfare has, there could have been a great increase in the number of Black professionals during this period. In fact, one Black aide, who was refused employment as a caseworker in Multnomah County, was well enough qualified to become a supervisor in another county. The only change in Welfare is that it now has a white director. The Juvenile Court, although a much smaller office, is much the same. Their only Black supervisor was transferred to Albina and the rest of the professional staff is white -- since there are no Black counselors with the Juvenile Court.

Much of the early conflict in the Multi-Service Center was the result of the all-white agency professional staff's lack of understanding of the community and of Black people, and their relationship to the nearly all-Black non-professional staff of the center. Lack of definition of authority and lines of communication and differences in interpretation of the structure by the center administration and the agencies added to the confusion. It is probable that the current criticism on the part of an agency staff member was due to racism and a lack of acceptance of the relatively free atmosphere as compared to the typical structured public agency.

If the center is to survive and to provide optimum services, the authority of the director must be strengthened. Although each agency must have autonomy, the center director or a center board must have some authority over who is assigned to work in the center and over in-house policies. He must have some input into policy making of the agencies, even if this requires participation at the state level.

These agencies came to the center with the idea that it would provide an opportunity to explore new methods of the delivery of services. They knew citizens participation in planning and in employment would be required. They have not met these requirements.

The agencies must be required to hire Blacks at all levels. We are not advocating an all-Black center, but an end to all-white staffs in Albina and throughout the state. There is no excuse for the exclusion of Blacks from professional employment with governmental agencies. The commitment to equality must be state-wide and it must be immediate.



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**Watergate reveals
Society's corruption**

One of the most tragic revelations to come out of the Watergate affair is not the involvement of the president, the corruption of those closest to him or the extent to which these people went to obtain power. The real revelation was the blind obedience of the lesser characters who broke the law and committed perjury at the command of their superiors.

These are not men who were petty criminals involved in street crime to make ends meet. They are well educated men with substantial careers behind them and with promising futures in law, business and government. Why did they put aside principals and all that they had been taught to believe? Why did they put the political career of one man before their conscience?

They say because they feared they would be rejected if they told the truth. In other words, social acceptance was put ahead of conscience and principal.

It behooves the people of this nation to take a look at a society that creates such unthinking obedience in its "finest young men". For it is the same society that has promoted oppression based on skin color, the relegation of a large segment of the population to abject poverty, a callousness to the human problems of its citizenry, the acceptance of illegal and immoral warfare, and crime in high places. We cannot expect young people who are raised in such a society -- where money and power are supreme -- to develop standards and values with which to make proper decisions.

Watergate should cause Americans to take a good look at themselves and then to begin restructuring society to place the major emphasis on human values. It should cause Americans to find a way to value a satisfying life for all its citizens above economic profits and advantage for the few. Only then will the nation's young men have the integrity to refuse to sell out their consciences for social acceptance.

Bradley victory signals new era

(Editor's note: The following is a reaction of Joint Center for Political Studies President Eddie N. Williams following the recent municipal election in Los Angeles, California.)

Tom Bradley's victory in the Los Angeles mayoral election is the most dramatic signal to date of a new era in minority participation in American politics.

Bradley's win over incumbent Mayor Sam Yorty in the nation's third largest city should put to rest assumptions that Black candidates win only in areas with majority or large Black populations. In Los Angeles, only 15 per cent of the potential voters are Black. Moreover, the great majority of the Bradley vote came from whites.

The large white vote demonstrates that white voters can look beyond race in judging the merits of candidates for elective office.

The interracial Bradley campaign, coupled with the broad support he received, is evidence of the effectiveness of coalition politics.

**THE VICTORY OF
THOMAS BRADLEY OVER
MAYOR SAM YORTY IN
LOS ANGELES CAN BE
VIEWED AS BOTH THE
REJECTION OF A
DEMAGOGUE AND A
DEFEAT FOR RACISM.**

N.Y. TIMES



THOMAS BRADLEY

His victory was the rejection of the tactics of defamation.

Party needs unity

With Governor McCall's possible defection to the Democratic Party, attention turns to the future of the party and its efforts in the upcoming elections. A strong Senate race with McCall challenging Packwood should add strength to the top of the Democratic Party. McCall has not done all that he could in the field of affirmative action and equal opportunity as governor -- he has not used the influence and power that is his. But, whether we agree with him or not, he has spoken out on controversial issues. During his four years plus in the United States Senate, Packwood has been reluctant to take a stand on anything and we still do not see a Black on his staff.

The Democrats have a number of good people in position to run for state office but are in danger of fighting among themselves and losing out again. Now is the time for the party to make plans for the 1974 race with a slate designed to defeat the opponent.

The most talked about potential candidates for the governorship are Jim Redden, Jason Boe and Betty Roberts. We think Redden would make a fine governor who would provide the leadership the state so badly needs. Unfortunately, Redden's constituency is Southern Oregon and he is not getting the action he needs to become well-known statewide. Jason Boe, from a small town on the coast, has not gotten much mileage out of his position as President of the Senate and has not accomplished as much with his Democratically controlled Senate as many had hoped.

Betty Roberts, on the other hand, is from Multnomah County and could pull a good vote in the Metropolitan area, which is necessary to win a state-wide election. The time might be right for a woman to be elected -- particularly one like Betty Roberts, who has been concerned with social problems but has not "gone overboard" on women's lib.

None of these three contenders has been outstanding as far as affirmative action is concerned. None has earned the Black vote. Of course neither has the most likely Republican candidate, Clay Myers. Myers does make himself available to the Black community, but as far as specific action in behalf of Black employment or economic development is concerned -- nothing.

Each of these persons, some of whom hope to be our next Governor, still has the opportunity to create a record of action on behalf of equal opportunity.

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