



ALFRED LEE HENDERSON
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

**WE SEE THE WORLD
THROUGH BLACK EYES**



EDITORIAL FOCUS

Affirmative action:

Success or failure

The state's federally funded program to make state employment accessible to minorities will end June 30th. This project, "Public Service Careers", was designed to recruit minority workers for existing state jobs, to expose the state agency heads to the idea of hiring minority people, and to teach agency personnel how to find qualified minority employees.

The work of this unit will now go to one person -- An Equal Opportunities Coordinator -- in the executive department. This person, to be named today, Thursday, will coordinate state efforts in affirmative action.

The Public Service Careers Program can be viewed as either a failure or a success. The unit met its commitment of placing more than 509 disadvantaged persons (non-whites and whites who are handicapped by poor education, low income, etc.). The employees of the program recruited minorities and made an effort to get state agencies to comply with the state's affirmative action policy. It can be called a success that they were able to increase the percentage of minorities in state employment from 2.3 percent to 3.88 percent and the total minority employees from 503 to 728 out of 18,763 state employees. The number of Black employees rose from 158 to 244, or from .85% to 1.30%.

The project also placed Blacks and other minorities into some agencies for the first time, and assited those agencies that were interested in hiring minorities in finding people for their vacant positions.

For a short-term federal project, these could be termed successes.

But the lasting benefit can only be determined by the state. Now that the federal money has gone, what is the fate of the project? It will be placed in the hands of one person, based in Salem, who will coordinate the agency's efforts. This does not appear to be an all-out effort.

Statistically, the project looks good. In some categories there were substantial changes. In sales, for example, an increase of from 2 to 4 Black employees, out of a total of 202; In Service Workers, from 39 to 80 Black employees out of 3,201. A beginning, you could say, but only a pittance when viewed in the light of over 100 years of exclusion and discrimination.

The most drastic failure in the project and in its successor is the lack of sanctions. Some agencies were found to be extremely cooperative, their directors eager to participate. Others were just not interested and remain all white. Until the state (the Governor's office) orders that the law be obeyed -- that the requirements will be met, that department heads will be replaced, that whatever is necessary will be done to insure compliance -- Oregon Affirmative Action Agreement is still just a piece of paper.

County gets a chance

Multnomah County recently purchased the Hoyt Hotel for office space. This could be a smart move on the part of the county if the property is put to good use. It could become just another office building or it could become a center for services to people. This is the opportunity for Multnomah County to establish a center for social services within the City of Portland.

The building would be ideal for housing elderly persons and for emergency housing. There currently is no place for families in need of temporary emergency housing to go, and sick and elderly men are sent to flop houses. The Hoyt has restaurant facilities so that emergency means could also be provided.

Other facilities that could be housed at the Hoyt are drop-in centers for young people and the elderly, alcohol and drug detoxification centers, a crisis center, 24-hour juvenile counseling services, 24-hour emergency welfare service, veterans assistance, and many others.

The Hoyt could also house a multitude of other governmental agencies using the Multi-Service center concept where citizens can receive the many varied services they need under one roof.

If the Hoyt turns out to be just another office building, the people of Multnomah County are being cheated. With City-County consolidation just around the corner, the County Commissioners have the opportunity to establish a circle of influence within the City of Portland.

What other Black Editor Say

LA scores

[from the Atlanta Inquirer]

The election of Tom Bradley to become Mayor of the City of Los Angeles is unique in many ways and serves as an example to be followed by other cities that sincerely want to demonstrate a whopping decrease in polarization.

Bradley, who will become on July 1 the first Black Mayor of the nation's third largest city, is the son of a Texas sharecropper. He won in a city that has three million residents, about 16 percent of whom are Black. He won out over tactics of racial undertones that were popular decades ago. He kept his "cool" after similar tactics led to his defeat for the same post in 1969.

Mayor Bradley had a dream -- and a program -- and he took both before the people.

The people responded with a near 100,000-vote margin and 56 percent of the vote over incumbent Sam Yorty, best described as a political maverick.

And this is where the Bradley election is most significant and most unique. The voters of Los Angeles scored!

The Los Angeles election is, therefore, much more than a Bradley triumph; much more than the triumph of a Black working within the system. It is a triumph for the voters who told racism to go somewhere and hide.

Atlanta, too, is considered L.A. -- Lovely Atlanta. It, too, has the chance to elect a Black mayor this fall. But Atlanta also is unique and we feel the voters of that city are going to register a new sophistication in the coming election -- sophistication of voting for the best man.

There may be some subtleties of racial undertones in the election, but we think the city has grown past that stage. Especially when one considers the 1969 election where a religious issue in the waning days of campaigning caught the voters' attention and turned them toward Mayor Sam Mossell.

While we congratulate Bradley and the L.A. voters for their Big Score, we think of the job ahead to elect leadership that will be people-oriented.

And, finally, the Bradley election is significant in that the new mayor says the system can't be changed by working from outside. Bradley said he hopes young people disenchanted with the American way of life will look at his humble beginnings and see that he, too, lived on the outside of the good life of America for so many years.

At a time of Watergate, etc., it is especially difficult for many to have much faith in the system.

But L.A. voters scored. Voters everywhere can do the same.

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

Second Class Postage Paid
at Portland, Oregon

Subscriptions -- 5.25 per
year in the Tri-County area;
6.00 per year outside the Tri-
County area. Telephone
284-2486.

The **Observer's** official position is expressed only in its Publisher's Editorials (We See the World through Black Eyes, The Observation Post, and The Editor's Desk). Any other material through the paper is the opinion of the individual writer or submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the **Observer**.

CLAYTON WILLIS, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT INFORMATION COMPILED BY A TWO-YEAR STUDY BY THE PANEL HAD SHOWN SUCH A PATTERN OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN HIRING PRACTICES THAT "OUR FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE CORRECTLY CALLED THE 'LAST WHITE MAN'S COUNTRY CLUB'"

IN MIAMI, 2 BLACKS IN A DEPARTMENT OF 654, IN JACKSON, MISS., WITH ONE ON A FORCE OF 320.

BILL KOVACH N.Y. TIMES



WHEN ARE QUOTAS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, MR. PRESIDENT?

Bradley victory shows need for organizing

by Bayard Rustin

Of the many undesired setbacks aspiring Blacks have endured, few have been as painful and disillusioning as the one suffered by Thomas Bradley in 1969.

The campaign of demagoguery and radical-baiting that deprived him of the mayoralty election in Los Angeles was a discouraging blow to the political hopes of Blacks. Sam Yorty's ultimate victory was enough to convince those who wanted to believe it that the passions of racism and fear were the dominant impulses of American political life.

Thus Bradley's recent victory over Yorty is a profoundly satisfying personal vindication as well as a genuine reflection of an improved racial atmosphere. That Yorty resorted to the same racist tactics, and failed, is further evidence that politics is becoming less and less a conflict between Black rage and White fear.

To conclude that what happened in Los Angeles represents the final triumph of reason over intolerance would be premature, just as in 1969 it was premature to assert that American was irredeemably prejudiced. There are, however, some lessons for the future.

Just because the campuses are no longer revolutionary battlegrounds and because the Black Panthers have checked in their guns doesn't mean that there is a "new urban mood." While this may partially explain the election, it is superficial and incomplete. Perhaps the most impor-

tant lesson is that permanent political success requires the unheroic work of organization. Black Americans are often compared to other immigrant groups who have somehow--so the myth goes--"Made it" on their own. Time does not permit me to dwell on the shallowness of this line of reasoning as it is generally applied to Blacks. But there are important parallels between how the Irish and Italians approached politics, when they were down and out, and how Blacks look at politics today. These groups had the most to gain or lose from politics--the stakes were quite personal. Because of this, they responded by organizing. They registered voters, and mobilized voters and made certain that if they did lose it was not because they failed to exercise their democratic freedoms to the fullest extent.

The recognition of the importance of organization was one of the reasons Thomas Bradley won this year. Four years ago he mounted no substantial voter registration effort; this year over 100,000 Black voters were registered between January and May. This massive effort to maximize the Black political voice may in fact have been the crucial element in the election since Bradley ultimately won by slightly less than 100,000 votes.

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