

The Administrative Transfer

[Editor's Note: Gladys McCoy, a member of the Portland School Board, will write a monthly column for the OBSERVER. The first column, because of its interest to the community, will be run in two parts - A) The history of the Administrative Transfer, and B) Current plans for transporting Black students.]

by Gladys McCoy

The administrative transfer program in the Portland Public Schools is a voluntary program initiated by the Board of Education in 1965 in response to a recommendation by the so-called Committee on Race and Education. The committee was appointed earlier by the Board of Education to study racial imbalance and its associated problems in the schools and to make recommendations for action to the Board.

The intent of the committee's recommendation to provide for a system of voluntary administrative transfers was to help reduce racial isolation and overcrowding in the neighborhood schools, particularly in the Model Cities area. (A companion recommendation from that committee was to initiate compensatory education in those same schools as a means of providing greater quality education. These schools became known as the "model schools".)

The process of the administrative transfer program was for the principal, teacher and parent to jointly consider the voluntary transfer request of students. In order for a transfer request to be approved, a student must have parental approval, space had to be available at the school to which the student wished to transfer, and placement of students was in adjacent schools. Students and parents in the voluntary program at first had to agree that the student would remain at the transfer school for at least a year and would provide their own transportation. Later on, transportation was provided by the district for most transfer students.

There are two main aspects of the administrative transfer. First, that situation where students are transferred at the initiative of the administration for administrative purposes. For instance, the movement of a grade level group to another building to alleviate overcrowding. Transfers in these instances have always been transported at the school district expense. Second, is the suburban transfer program. This program did not begin at the outset of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Race and Education, but was a later and companion development.

Under this program, which began in 1967, students from schools in which racial imbalance existed could volunteer to transfer to certain cooperating suburban school districts.

The focus in the first few years, in all aspects of the administrative transfer program, was on upper elementary grade school students. In the regular program, students went from such elementary schools as King, Sabin, Peninsula, Irvington, Vernon, Oakley Green, Humboldt, Woodlawn, Boise, Holiday, Eliot and Faubion. They attended schools throughout the city. In all, 53 Portland elementary schools received student transfers from one area of the city. In 1972-73, 1,271 students participated in this aspect of the administrative transfer program.

Under the suburban administrative transfer program, Portland students from elementary schools such as King, Woodlawn, Humboldt, Boise, Sabin, Vernon, Irvington were transferred to elementary schools in Beaverton, David Douglas, Lake Oswego and Parkrose. These independent school districts entered into agreements with the school district whereby the Portland district transported students to these schools and paid the costs of their education from state and federal funds. In all, 106 suburban transfer students participated in the program in 1972-73.

An expanded administrative transfer program will be in operation in the Portland schools in 1973-74. Teams of specialists, working under Title IV Civil Rights Act, this spring and summer have been assisting students and parents in becoming involved in the program.

While final figures will not be available until school opens in the fall, it is expected that approximately 1,600 students will be in the program in September. The total program has operated successfully through the years, despite some rumor and misunderstanding.

In the early years, there was greater emphasis on the transfer of Black students to remove or to reduce racial isolation both among sending schools and receiving schools. Such a plan created a negative attitude about the program on the part of many Model Neighborhood residents, such as: Why should only Black students be transferred; why should only those students who were "ready" (acceptable) to the white community be transferred; that the Black student leadership was siphoned off, leaving all the "problem students"; that students who were problems were sent back to their home schools; that the bus schedules were inflexible and inaccurate, not providing for students who were late to the bus stop or needed to stay late at school; that those parents whose children were not accepted for transfer, but who wanted to be transferred, had to do so at their own expense; and among other complaints, that there had been either no preparation or insufficient preparation of administrators, teachers, students and parents in the receiving schools, thus creating an atmosphere of unfriendliness.

While there have been some justifiable complaints, I must say that over the past four years, a sincere effort has been made to increase the number of transferees and to upgrade the program for the fullest possible benefit of both forwarding students and receiving schools. (Next week: Plans for the 1973-74 school year.)



Ada Walker, co-owner of Budget Cleaners, applies steam to laundry.

Black Business

(Continued from page 1)

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patronize a cleaners that enjoys serving you. Mrs. Walker enjoys her job and realizes that helping her customers helps her business.

A smile and a friendly hello is saying a lot for Mrs. Walker. After all, how many of us can greet a pile of dirty laundry with a happy smile?

Notice Thomas

(Continued from page 1)

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter O.E.S. of Oregon and its Jurisdiction will hold its Annual Grand Ball and Promenade Saturday evening, June 23, 1973, at the Thunderbird Motor Inn, Jantzen Beach, from 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. Music will be by Al Hickey, and the general public is invited. Donation will be \$2.50.

plained "Wrestling is a hard way to make a living. I'm sending my kids to school."

Possessing a degree in Physical Education from OSU, Shag taught school in 1970. He taught Physical Education and Health at Jefferson High School, but he didn't enjoy it.

Shag says he does enjoy politics. A page boy in college for the Ohio State Senate, Shag has been interested in politics ever since.

In 1968 Shag ran for County Commissioner with a campaign expense budget of \$400. He came in 2nd out of 3 candidates and gathered a sum of 25,000 votes. In 1970 he ran for City Commissioner with still a small amount of money to spend for campaign advertising. Shag feels that his lack of adequate funds for campaigning was a factor in his defeats in both elections.

However, Shag, a fighter, plans to try again in politics come 1974. He plans to run next year for State Representative in his district (North-east). Shag said he hopes to be a servant of the people, lower property taxes and produce positive results in things that effect the community.

Minority workers

(Continued from page 1)

tractors and head of Christian Electric Company, said in a recent article that all the painters and electricians and half the plumbers were minority workers or employed by minority firms.

In a press conference held Tuesday morning, June 19, Nathan Probe, chairman of UMW, asserted that the Albina Contractors Association are just not doing their job. The UMW, a newly formed organization comprised of minority production workers, claim a membership of 200 people. They propose an Imposed Bid Specification Plan. This would require a certain percentage of minority man hours on a job-by-job basis, 15%, 20%, 30%, what-

ever it would require. It would not be a percentage of minority bodies on a report date as used in the past, but would be a percentage of man hours.

Glenna Page of the American Indian Association stated that there had been no input from the Indian community and asked "Why are other people constantly doing the planning?" UMW is holding a community meeting this Thursday night, June 21, at 7 p.m. at 44 N.E. Morris. They plan to continue job closures until their requests for changes are made.

Work resumed on the Piedmont Plaza housing project the following Monday after the Friday shut-down. Construction still continues.

Grandparents

(Continued from page 1)

The Foster Grandparent Program will present its Second Annual Services Awards on Thursday, June 21, at Peninsula Child Center. Foster grandparents will receive awards for three year and five year service. The awards will be presented by Majory Lynch, Regional X Director of ACTION. Guests appearing at the ceremony

include Tom DeJordin of the State Program for Aging, representing the Governor's office; Commission Schwab, representing Mayor Goldschmidt; Chairman of the County Commission James Gleason; Cleveland Gilrease, Executive Director of PMSC;

and Herbert Nelson, chairman of the program's advisory committee.

Representative William McCoy, Director of the program, is on leave while serving in the State legislature. Mrs. Betty Thompson is acting director.

Shriners select

The members of Mina Temple #68 A.E.A.O.N.M.S. had their Annual Election of Officers for the year 1973-1974 on Saturday, June 16, 1973, at the Masonic Temple, 116 N.E. Russel St., Portland, Oregon. Those members being elected to new offices were: The new Illustrious Potentate Henri Johns; Chief Rabban Alton D. Johnson; Assistant Rabban John T. Blow Jr.; High Priest and Prophet Clark Dean Jr.; and Oriental Guide Robert S. Isaacs. All officers were duly installed by the Deputy of Desert Thomas R. Vickers.

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