

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

**WE SEE THE WORLD
THROUGH BLACK EYES.**



EDITORIAL FOCUS

Portland this time?

The Supreme Court of the United States has re-affirmed the unconstitutionality of racially segregated schools. The Denver decision brought this mandate closer to home since it includes schools that have been segregated by policy rather than by law.

We have not yet heard the Portland School District say "But it doesn't apply to Portland". But we will, as we have in the past. As we have said before, Portland seems to be beyond the reach of the courts.

When the courts said segregation is unconstitutional, this did not mean Portland, for Portland's schools are more segregated now than they were ten years ago or twenty years ago. When the courts said one-way busing is unconstitutional, this did not apply to Portland, for Portland's only answer to racial isolation has been one-way busing, limited as it is.

Now the court has said that a school district can be considered to have fostered segregation if school boundary lines have been drawn to contain Blacks in particular schools. A glance at the map will show how lines were drawn in the right places to create nearly all-Black schools, with neighboring schools being nearly all-white.

The court has also said that districts that have built new buildings that they knew would be segregated when they opened are guilty of promoting segregation. Eliot and Humboldt schools were built over protest of the Black community and were nearly all-Black when they opened.

But again this decision will not apply to Portland. Next year and the year after and the year after Portland will operate segregated schools -- until at last the district is able to carry out its plan to close the Albina schools and ship all of the Black children out to the white communities.

We are not opposed to busing children to achieve quality education, provided white families and their children share the burden. We realize that if the Black children of Portland are to have an opportunity for education, they will have to attend the same schools as white children -- for where the (middle class) white children go, the money goes.

We do object to the closure of Albina schools as long as schools are open throughout Portland. We object to the busing-out of Black children without the busing-in of white children.

So maybe the court decisions don't apply to Portland; but we believe the theft from a community of its schools would be unconstitutional -- and maybe we will get our own court decision.

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Goldschmidt gains

Since our editorial of a week ago questioning Mayor Goldschmidt's achievement in promoting Black employment, we have heard that two more Blacks have been hired. This brings the mayor's total to four -- in six months.

Mayor Goldschmidt campaigned in Albina promising an equal opportunity for Blacks in city employment. Taking him at his word, most Black citizens gave him their vote.

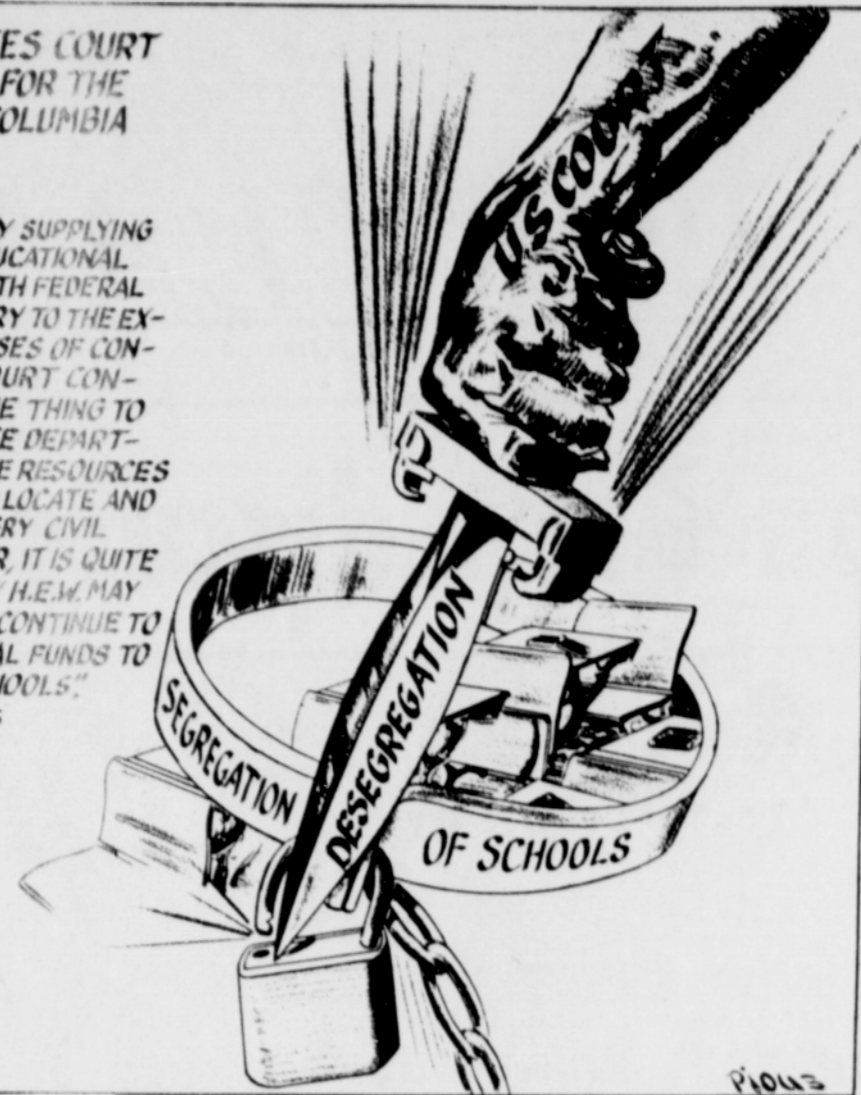
When we examine the record after six months of the Goldschmidt administration, we find the addition of two, maybe four, Blacks. We don't consider this a very good record. Compared to the Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, the Attorney General and the County Commissioner, it might look great. But compared to our expectations given by the mayor, it's not too good.

But Mayor Goldschmidt has said that after July 1, with new job opportunities opening, he will do better. These positions, for which applications are now being taken, range from directors and administrators to clerks and typists.

We are waiting to see how many of these positions will go to Blacks -- waiting expectantly, believing the Mayor will fulfill his obligations.

**UNITED STATES COURT
OF APPEALS FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CIRCUIT.**

"H.E.W. IS ACTIVELY SUPPLYING SEGREGATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH FEDERAL FUNDS, CONTRARY TO THE EXPRESSED PURPOSES OF CONGRESS." THE COURT CONTINUED: "IT IS ONE THING TO SAY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT LACKS THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO LOCATE AND PROSECUTE EVERY CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATOR, IT IS QUITE ANOTHER TO SAY H.E.W. MAY AFFIRMATIVELY CONTINUE TO CHANNEL FEDERAL FUNDS TO DEFAULTING SCHOOLS."
N.Y. TIMES



A Black man looks at Watergate

by Bayard Rustin.

Black Americans view the expanding Watergate scandal with a certain amount of irony. Like most Americans, they are thoroughly disillusioned by the deceit of

the Nixon Administration and find everything surrounding the Watergate incident totally reprehensible.

But Blacks do not find it surprising that this administration would resort to bugging, spying and fabrication -- and then lie to the American people about it. They do not feel that Senator Goldwater, that the trust placed in Mr. Nixon has been betrayed. Nor would Blacks agree with those liberals who proclaim that the fault is not so much with Mr. Nixon as it is with an all too powerful office of the Presidency.

The truth is that Blacks have heard a stream of lies and misrepresentations during the four and a half years that this administration has been in office. While the President was assuring the nation that all was well with the economy, the number of unemployed Blacks rose from 600,000 to nearly one million. As the President was boasting of having spent more money for human needs than was ever spent before, the number of Blacks living in poverty increased for the first time in a dozen years. The President has preached of the "work ethic" in one breath and sought the curtailment of job programs in the next. He has distorted the busing issue and unilaterally declared that the urban crisis is over as an absurd justification for the dismantlement of essential housing programs.

Thus it should amaze no

one that Blacks do not feel that their trust was betrayed; they had no reason to trust the President in the first place.

Blacks also find it ironic that many people -- particularly the President's supporters -- say that the blame rests with Nixon's having isolated himself from the country. For the President has gone beyond the point of merely isolating himself from Blacks; he sees minorities as faceless entities to be manipulated and set apart from the rest of society for political gain.

Blacks do have a special and personal concern, however, with the grand design of the President's political staff to sabotage the election campaigns of his opponents. It is not mere coincidence that the Democrats who were the victims of this strategy were those candidates with broad support among minority groups.

For when public officials consider themselves above the law -- when fraud and coercion are introduced into politics -- it is always the most powerless who suffer. The poor have certainly never benefited from the favors the administration has granted ITT, the milk industry and other corporate interests.

Thus we have a profound stake in whatever comes out of Watergate. We should be pressing for a broad reform of campaign spending laws, so that never again will the forces of privilege exert the

seemingly limitless influence as they did in 1972.

We must also fully recognize the relationship between how the administration deals with minorities, the poor, and working people when it determines social priorities, and how it deals with common ordinary people in the political arena. For if the administration lacks a basic faith in the people's ability to make a democratic choice free from manipulation, it can scarcely be expected to formulate social policy with any commitment to the democratic needs of the majority.

And because our needs are so deep and immediate, we should view Watergate as a means of gaining momentum over the course of social policy, rather than worrying about which former Nixon official is pointing a finger at his colleagues.

Rather than wallowing in the details of the scandal, or engaging in excessive moralizing, or initiating premature efforts at impeachment, we should be mobilizing all progressive forces against the budget cuts and domestic retrenchment the President so confidently proposed just a few months ago. What I am suggesting is not just exploiting the weakness of the President; it is rather that we should begin to take the initiative from an administration that can no more be believed about inflation, unemployment, busing and welfare than it can be believed about its conduct in the political arena.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No room for the judge

Dear Mr. Henderson:

We are wondering why Multnomah County has failed to provide Judge Mercedes Diez with a courtroom. The other twenty-nine judges in the County Courthouse each have a courtroom.

Although Judge Diez should have been provided with a courtroom on January

1st, she agreed to wait until July 1st. It now appears that the space in the courthouse where Judge Diez' courtroom was to be built is not available for her because the District Attorney's office plans to expand their office space.

Perhaps it is merely a coincidence that Judge Diez is the only Black female

judge in Multnomah County. At any rate, it certainly does not appear that the county has treated her fairly. We believe that Multnomah County should act immediately to provide Judge Diez with a courtroom

Very truly yours,
Judith D. Kobbervig and Karen Ennis, Attorneys at Law

Roberts presents record

Dear Mr. Henderson:

I want to express my appreciation to you for both the recent front page story and the previous editorial regarding my potential candidacy for Governor of Oregon.

With reference to my position on Civil Rights and Affirmative Action, I believe

my record to be very good. However, because our society has not yet achieved equality of treatment of its citizens, no record is good enough -- not even mine!

As I stated to you in our interview, I believe there is so much more than can be done by the leaders in government, particularly the Governor, and your com-

munity should demand that commitment from any potential candidate for any public office.

I make that commitment to you!

Sincerely yours,
Senator Betty Roberts

Youth need YSOL

Dear Editor:

Having traveled throughout various parts of the country, one finds it hard to believe that a city as large and as well known as Portland cannot (as most other large places) find a way to help build and maintain such a station as YSOL, in as much as positions in the radio industry are not nearly as easy to obtain by Blacks or other minority groups.

To begin with, this station was issued a grant of fifteen thousand dollars from the Metropolitan Steering Committee, whose financial support expired this month, at which time the station was supposed to have been self-sustaining. But due to the inability to sell enough advertising, this was impossible. I'm sure the fifteen thousand dollars was appreciated, but fifteen thousand really doesn't go very far on something as big as a radio station.

Whenever I read or hear anyone speak of the high crime rate, sloughfulness, and

apathy among the young people, I cannot restrain my thoughts from wondering just what we, as parents, schools, churches, various organizations and just plain citizens are actually doing to help combat and alleviate these conditions. It is of utmost importance that young people, especially those of so-called minority races, have something concrete and stimulating to which they themselves can relate and identify. I cannot over-emphasize the extreme necessity for this. So it was with the little station there near the corner of Seventh and Knott Streets.

And the walls came tumbling down! The crude walls of sadness and disappointment for the twenty-eight or so young people from twelve to twenty-eight years of age, who have worked so unselfishly and endlessly to make the small compact radio station a living reality. I think of the crumbling walls

of an uncertain future for those whose hearts were so set on finding a real place in the radio field for themselves; the thunderous, crashing, devastating walls of the realization that they cannot afford to pay the staggering price of a thousand dollars or more for attending a radio school, when they had previously been attending classes free of charge right there at the station under the auspices of the program manager.

If one could but have known and seen the tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm these young people have put forth to make the station a success, I'm sure there would have been far greater financial support from the community since the beginning of the station's operation on January 14, 1973.

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