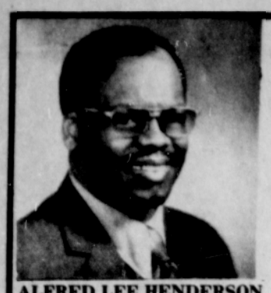
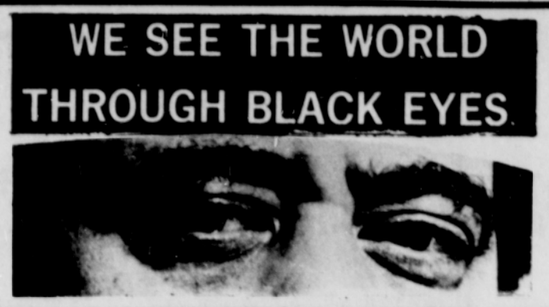


ALFRED LEE HENDERSON
EDITOR/PUBLISHER



EDITORIAL FOCUS

Blacks available at half price

Had the City of Portland been interested in hiring a Black to head the Bureau of Human Resources there are at least two good prospects they could have hired, and at half price.

The Inter-Governmental Personnel Act makes it possible for federal employees to work for municipal government, with the federal government paying half the wage. In this way federal employees with special expertise can work for local government without losing their federal benefits and the city gains -- not only with experienced personnel, but monetarily, also.

Russell Dawson of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is one of only 29 area directors in the nation. His familiarity with federal and local programs would have been an asset to the city. Harold Whitehead, another Black, is Senior Field Representative for Idaho and Washington for the Office of Equal Opportunity regional office in Seattle.

Instead the City hired Ira Blalock, at full price. Blalock has been director of MCCA (the OEO program for Multnomah County). Blalock has a record of involvement and interest in community programs. Since coming to Portland eight years ago, he has demonstrated no interest in the problems or causes of Blacks.

Of greater concern is Blalock's reported links with Representative Edith Green. Although we cannot judge Blalock at this time and must have faith that he will give Albina equal treatment, we do know Mrs. Green's position against the programs that would assist Blacks and the poor and her obsessive concern over busing.

It has long been rumored that the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee, which has had Black directors and employs Blacks in responsible positions, would be phased out and that MCCA would take over it's function. So goes the story, that Ira Blalock would be Mrs. Green's man for the job.

The rumor has now come to fruition. The City Department of Human Resources will take over the programs of Model Cities and PMSC and eventually, when city-county merger comes about, we will see the super-agency long rumored, with Ira Blalock at it's head.

We would have liked to have seen a Black at the head of the Bureau of Human Resources -- although we predicted it wouldn't happen.

We hope Mr. Blalock will be interested in the problems of the Albina area. We must give him the opportunity to prove his concern before judging him, for the program cannot succeed without community support. We will watch with an open mind and with our eyes open, also.

Can we afford Nixon

President Nixon has vetoed the $185 million medical care program to provide emergency health services for a three year period, saying the nation cannot afford this expensive program. He proposed $15 million for the coming year.

Can the nation afford the expense of the investigations and trials necessary to solve the Watergate scandal and all of its tenacles? Can the nation afford the expense of Mr. Nixon's six defense attorneys? Can the nation afford the extensive redecoration of all the presidential mansions? Mr. Nixon seems to count federal pennies only when they are going to help the citizen -- not when they are used for his comtort or his selfish ends.

Can the nation afford the $292,374,094.00 spent bombing two little nations, Cambodia and Laos, in a 94-day period. Can the nation afford $3.1 million dollars a day to kill civilians and destroy villages?

Three million dollars a day would go a long way toward improving the lives of millions of American citizens. The budget for the Portland Model Cities Program for an entire year is only $4.5 million. The Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee's programs cost about $6.2 million a year. Child care for the 50 programs funded through the Metropolitan Area 4-C Council came to only $3.9 million last year.

As long as the President continues the illegal and immoral war in Southeast Asia, he has no justification for vetoing any social program. As long as the resources of American citizens are used to kill innocent victims in Asia, there is no excuse for poverty at home.

Mayor gets chance

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt is looking for a new police chief -- one that can direct a dynamic new program of law enforcement and public service.

Blacks were overlooked in the selection of a Director for the Bureau of Human Resources. Now the Mayor has another chance -- the selection of a Chief of Police.

No man could be more highly qualified or more capable than Dr. Lee Brown, director of the law enforcement program at Portland State University, who is now organizing a program for Howard University. Brown is respected throughout the nation as one of the leaders in public education. He has the youth and energy required for this job of reorganizing and updating a large city police force. Mayor Goldschmidt campaigned in Albina promising Black employment and Black input at all levels of city government. Thus far, little has been accomplished.

Mayor Goldschmidt, here is your chance!

Open letter to ACA

Dear Sir:

On July 31 several of the Contractors in the Model Cities area met and discussed several items, including the July 26th issue of the **Portland Observer**. Out of this we found there are a lot of things that need to be answered by the board of directors of Albina Contractors.

Therefore, we demand a meeting with the Albina Contractors board on August 10, 1973 at 7:30 p.m. We would like to have the meeting take place at the Albina Contractor's office. We feel that the following items need to be discussed at that time:

(1) The article in the **Portland Observer** July 26th concerning minority contractors vs. white contractors;

(2) Albina management program;

(3) The Albina Contractors Association and it's operations.

Signed,
Levi Russell, Robt Mayfield, T.N. Noffa, J.A. Becks, Nelson A. Fox, W.T. Flemming, Sherman Evans, and Gus Young.

They would gladly trade, Mr. President

For a full employment policy

by Vernon Jordan, Jr.

For the past several years national debate over domestic issues has been largely confined to artificial, politically inspired issues such as busing, "Law and order", and quotas. Now that the demagogues have had their day it is time to move on to a real issue of basic sifnificance to many millions of people and to the future of this society -- jobs for all. If you read the official statistics that show unemployment trending downward, or the glowing stores about the booming economy or if you have a good job yourself, you might not know just how bad the situation really is.

The government admits to an official unemployment rate of 4.8 percent of the labor force. That sounds small enough until you realize that it represents some 4.3 million people, many with families to support, who can't get a job.

The labor force is reality split in tow. There is an upper tier of workers with good jobs, good salaries, union membership and fringe benefits. Then, there is a lower tier of people who have no job, work part-time when they really want full-time employment, and those who do work full-time but make below-poverty wages.

It goes without saying that this lower tier of American workers is made up disproportinately of Black people and other minorities, women, young people, and Vietnam veterans.

The latest poverty figures tell the story very well: Last year about one million white people moved out of poverty, but some 300,000 Black people became poor. In the past four years, over 600,000 Blacks became poor.

Black poverty has become something of a hush-hus subject as emphasis is placed on the progress Black people have made in education, in securing better jobs, and in higher family income. But most of the economic progress has been confined to relatively few Blacks with the education and skills to take advantage of the waning discrimination in industry.

What ought to be of greater concern is that one out of three Black people is poor; that nearly half of all Black children are growing up in poor families, and that the typical Black family last year earned about $700 less than the government itself says is the minimum acceptable living standard.

There are about ten million people -- whites and Blacks -- who work all year round for less than $5,000. A third of all Black full-time workers make less than a living wage. And these are the lucky ones, the people with jobs.

Closed meetings illegal

(Continued from pg. 1, col. 3)

provision of law authorizing the executive session. No special meeting shall be held without at least 24 hours notice to the members of the governing body and the general public. In case of an actual emergency, a meeting may be held upon such notice as is appropriate to the circumstances.

Section 5. (1) The governing body of a public body shall provide for the taking of written minutes of all its meetings. Neither a full transcript nor a recording of the meeting is required, except as otherwise provided by law, but the written minutes must give a true reflection of the matters discussed at the meeting and the views of the participants. All minutes shall be available to the public within a reasonable time after the meeting, and shall include at least the following information: (a) All members of the governing body present; (b) All motions, proposals, resolutions, orders, ordinances and measures proposed and their disposition; (c) The results of all votes, and upon the request of a member, the vote of each member, by name; (d) The substance of any discussion on any matter. (2) Minutes of executive sessions may be limited to material the disclosure of which is not inconsistent with the provisions of section 6 of this Act.

Section 6. (1) Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to prevent the governing body of a public body from holding executive session during a regular, special or emergency meeting, after the presiding officer has identified the authorization under this Act for the holding of such executive session. Executive session may be held: (a) To consider the employment of a public officer, employe, staff member or individual agent. This paragraph does not apply to filling a vacancy in an elective office. (b) To consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employe, staff member or individual agent, unless such public officer, employe, staff member or individual agent requests an open hearing. (c) To consider matters pertaining to the function of the medical staff of a public hospital licensed pursuant to ORS 441.005 to 441.060 and 441.085 to 441.095 including, but not limited to, all clinical committees, executive, credentials, utilization review, peer review committees and all other matters relating to medical competency in the hospital. (2) Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to prevent, upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members, the governing body of a public body from holding executive session during a regular, special or emergency meeting, after the presiding officer has identified the authorization under this Act for the holding of such executive session. Executive session may be held: (a) To conduct deliberations concerning the authority of persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations or to negotiate the purchase of real property. (b) To consider records that are exempt by law from public inspection. (c) To consider preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade or commerce in which the governing body is in competition with governing bodies in other states or nations. (3) Labor negotiations may be conducted in executive session if either side of the negotiators request closed meetings. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4 of this Act, subsequent sessions of the negotiations may continue without further public notice. (4) Representatives of the news media shall be allowed to attend executive sessions under such conditions governing the disclosure of information as may be agreed to by the governing body and the representatives of the news media prior to such executive session. (5) No executive session may be held for the purpose of taking any final action or making any final decision.

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