

ALFRED LEE HENDERSON  
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

WE SEE THE WORLD  
THROUGH BLACK EYES



## EDITORIAL FOCUS

### Mayor's Task Force needs minority input

Mayor Goldschmidt has appointed a Task Force to rewrite the Hometown Plan, which is an agreement between contractors and unions to bring minorities into the building trades. The original plan was written in 1970 by federal directive with the aid of contractors, unions, and organizations representing minority groups.

The Task Force is made up of three members of Manpower Area Planning Council and two members of the Metropolitan Human Relations Committee. The Mayor suggested that the committee add members from management and the construction unions. He made no mention of the minority organizations that were members of the original Ad Hoc Committee.

We applaud the Mayor's efforts to make the Hometown Plan a working agreement and to obtain funds for its enforcement. However, if the purpose of the Hometown Plan is to bring minorities into the construction trades, minorities should have an influential part in its formulation. Neither the Associated General Contractors, which represents management, nor the unions can represent minority interests. If the plan is to concern minorities, then it is mandatory that representation of the Albina Contractors Association and the United Minority Workers, as well as any other groups representing minority contractors or workers, be an integral part of the committee.

### Quotas still needed

The idea of a quota system seems to concern the white establishment and comes up again and again in the white press. A recent editorial in Oregon's largest daily, which was a response to the Model Cities Citizens Planning Board's efforts to obtain promises of Black employment from City Human Resource Department's Ira Blalock, reassures us that that paper opposes quotas.

No one ever noticed the quota system as long as it was used against Blacks, Jews and other minorities. When the quota system was used to limit Blacks in employment and in admission to the universities, no one paid much attention.

Now that quotas are used to get a few Blacks and other minorities in, they are suddenly wrong. It would be good if quotas were not needed, if there was truly equal opportunity in the nation and in Oregon -- but there is not.

It is through the quota system that the few Blacks have gotten into industry and the unions. The few Blacks in the construction trades got in because of the "Philadelphia Plan" and other quota systems that forced the building industry to admit them. The few Blacks found in many other industries are there because of the requirements attached to federal contracts. The few Blacks found in the public schools and the universities are there because of federal policy. If these federal requirements were really enforced we would find many more Blacks and minorities in industry.

We do not advocate a strict percentage requirement, but when we find industries and professions that have no or very few Blacks, we know discrimination exists. When Blacks and minorities are found in all unions, all industries, all professions in reasonable number, we will agree that quotas are not needed.

The other argument -- that favoritism is unfair -- is a bit silly at this point. When a Black is hired because he is Black it is called unfair. Having been denied employment because of race, why is it unfair if race is an advantage for once. It is common knowledge that the usual basis for hiring is not fair anyway: tall men are hired before short men; graduates of certain universities are hired before graduates of other universities; and of course friends and relatives always have the advantage.

So if an employee is hired because he is Black, or Indian or Chicano, it should not bother anyone as long as he can do the job.

### Black Press: still alive, healthy

An article on the Black press by Francis Ward of the LA Times - Washington Post Service that was published throughout the nation, was apparently meant to demean the Black Press. The writer touched on the common problem of Black papers' lack of advertising and the accompanying lack of finances -- then, ignoring that, went on to castigate the Black papers for their financial woes.

The article quoted Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and publisher of the San Francisco Sun Reporter, saying that for the past 50 years white business has given the Black press a token amount of advertising. In 1971 the 100 largest white agencies placed \$1.9 million worth of advertising and less than .5 percent went to Black papers. The article did not quote the remainder of Goodlet's statement -- that after 27 years he must still subsidize the Sun Reporter from his medical practice.

The article goes on to say that Black papers should not want white advertising because dependence on white advertising will prevent it's attack on racism. Who do Blacks buy their cars, homes, clothing, food and other essentials from if not from white advertisers? Why shouldn't the Black press get a share of the advertising? And we have never seen a Black paper so dependent on one advertiser as the Oregonian is on Meier and Frank. Is the Oregonian, then, not free? The Observer has felt the pinch when advertisers do not like our editorial's or the news we print; but like all other Black papers, no one advertiser gives us enough advertising that it's withdrawal would bring bankruptcy. No single advertiser could break the Black press -- only an illegal conspiracy could do that.

The lack of advertising then causes the other problems referred to in the article as the shortcomings of the Black press:

1) "Black publishers generally claim they don't have the money to compete with white-oriented print and electronic media."

2) Critics charge the Black papers never will compete unless they modernize business, production practices.

3) Blacks trained by the Black press go to higher paying jobs in the white media. "Consequently, bereft of it's best talent, plagued by smaller, inexperienced staffs... and their financial inability to hire new staffs."

4) They run much "canned news copy without editing, and do rely heavily on a constant diet of church, social news, sports and wire copy."

Apparently the writer has not read many Black papers lately. There is no Black wire service and since most Black papers cannot afford the wire service anyway, you will find little wire copy in a Black paper. But check the white dailies and you will find them to be about 95 percent wire copy.

The writer states Black papers are old-fashioned because the average age of their publishers is in the late 50's. We wonder what the average age of the white publishers is. The writer apparently has not met some of the dynamic young publishers who are founding new Black papers all over the country -- using the latest electronic typesetting and printing methods.

Contrary to what the writer might think, the Black press has been the collective voice and conscience of Black people for over 146 years. Vernon Jordan said recently the Black press, "with far fewer resources, has uncovered and exposed the scandalous treatment Black people have faced. It was the Black press that led the fight against lynching, against police brutality, against employment discrimination and for desegregation of schools and universities long before these causes were even thought of by white publishers and editors. And many crusading Black reporters, editors and publishers stood up to threats and reprisals -- although their efforts went unheeded by Establishment organizations."

The white establishment may be sure that the Black press is here to stay and that true to it's tradition, will be ever alert to injustice and oppression.

## Secret Portuguese massacre revealed by eyewitness

(Reprint from the Amsterdam News)

In one of the most grisly inhuman massacres in modern history, Portuguese soldiers invaded an African village, mowed down 500 unarmed Africans with machine guns, ripped out the fetus of a live pregnant woman and played football with the head of a baby whom they had killed by smashing his skull at the side of his dead mother.

The details of the massacre, which took place last December 16, and which the Portuguese government has carefully kept secret, have now fallen into the hands of the Amsterdam News after being smuggled out of Africa into Spain and then to Paris by an eyewitness to the slaughter.

Here is the eyewitness report of the man who saw it all. His name cannot be revealed by the Amsterdam News because to do so would mean deadly reprisals by the Portuguese against members of his family, who still live in Mozambique where the massacre took place.

"The afternoon of December 16, 1972, I was at the Mission of San Pedro de Tete. After a series of bombardments struck panic in the population, soldiers invaded the zone that day from helicopters. After pillaging, scenes of sadism and butchery, took the lives of 400 to 500 persons. A list of 137 victims was able to be drawn up with names, sex and ages."

A detachment of soldiers, "forced a little less than 100 people into a courtyard. There they were made to sit on the ground in two separate groups; the men on one side, the women on the other; placing them in such a way that the people in one group could perfectly see the others mowed down, wounded fatally, before they were made to rise one after the other to be murdered in cold blood."

"Numerous infants on the backs of their mothers were killed. We were able to establish a list of 87 persons of various ages who died."

"Another group of soldiers

similarly amused themselves by shutting people up in their huts and setting them ablaze. We knew the identity of 34 persons, among them women and children, and even a baby of one month, all burned alive.

"Other soldiers found nothing better to divert themselves than by slamming the bodies of young children against the ground with all their strength. It was in this way that the little girls named Dominga, Chuman, Luisa and the boys Chanu, Chipiri, Makonda, Nirio, Marco, and Raul died."

"Some agents of the D.G.S. (the former Pide) were with the soldiers. One of them, called Machavi, tortured several of his victims before finishing them off. On several occasions his voice, hard and piercing, was heard saying 'Don't let one remain, not a single one.'"

"When an army officer wanted to mercifully lead a part of the population to Aldeamento -- a market town where the civilian population is under the surveillance of the army -- the agent Machavi replied in rage: 'These are the commander's orders, kill them down to the last one.' These scenes, some more atrocious than others, lasted until sunset. During the night I was able to escape with a few people."

"The Catholic Church has denounced, on several occasions, these massacres of the civilian population in the territory where Frelimo, the National Liberation Front of Mozambique, is fighting. For having wanted to denounce these actions, several Portuguese priests have been sentenced. Spanish missionaries have been expelled from the country, and two missionaries, also Spanish, the Right Reverends Alfonso Valverde Leon and Martin Hernadex Robels, who worked at the Mukumbura Mission (San Pedro de Tete) were arrested by the Rhodesian police and handed over to Portuguese troops. Since this date they have been in prison, waiting to be tried by the Territorial Military Tribunal of Lourenco-Marques

for spreading news of war crimes committed by Portuguese troops and for having said outside of the pulpit that the Mozambique people have the right to self-determination."

The story behind the story of how the Amsterdam News is able to publish the eyewitness story of the Portuguese massacre of 500 Africans is a story within itself.

When the eyewitness to the massacre escaped to Madrid he contacted the international edition of the Herald Tribune. But the Tribune did not publish the story itself.

That part of his note which is now in possession of the Amsterdam News, said:

Dear Mr.---

"This is certainly a horror story, but as there was nothing in today's Herald Tribune, I thought I would send it to you. Perhaps you can use it; but if not, would you do me the favor and forward this to the Amsterdam News..."

The date on the note was July 7, 1973.

The daily newspaper did not publish the story, but instead sent it to the Amsterdam News, as requested. It also sent a note to the informant telling him that the story had been sent to the Amsterdam News. The letter was dated July 17. The story arrived at the Amsterdam News two days later.

Meanwhile, Amsterdam News editors, through their own resources had gotten scattered reports of the massacre and these were reported in the Amsterdam News before the eyewitness report arrived.

The Portuguese government, as might be expected, has attempted to discredit the report.

The strongest confirmation of the massacre has come from the British government where huge demonstrations have taken place in London castigating the Portuguese Prime Minister on his visit to London recently.

## Toward full employment

Part II  
by Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

With ten million people unemployed or under-employed, with another ten million working full time all year long for less than \$5,000, and with large sub-groups of the population -- minorities, teenagers, veterans and women -- bearing the burdens of a malfunctioning economy, it is clear that some drastic action is needed.

At the National Urban League's Annual Conference I called for a Full Employment Policy that would insure a job for every person who wanted one.

Every definition of "full employment" winds up accepting rates that mean two, three or four million people out of work. Real full employment means everyone holds a job, earns a decent salary, and has his place in an abundant economy. There is no reason why we should be satisfied with less; there is no reason why we should accept definitions of full employment that leave people out of work.

Many of the proposals that have been made to help cut unemployment have been tried and failed, or have shown their potential but weren't carried far enough. Others are dangerously unacceptable.

In the "tried and failed" category we can put voluntary hiring by private indus-

try. This works best in good times, but when recession comes, newly-hired workers are back on the streets. Many industries, too, can't create jobs for workers who don't have the education and skills they require, and they are not encouraged to embark on really wide-scale training because of market conditions and lack of subsidies and other incentives.

The Public Employment Program was a step in the right direction. It put 100,000 people to work in local government with federal funds, and it should be sharply expanded. Instead, the Administration wants to end the program.

Most dangerous is the proposal that teenage unemployment can be cut by means of a wage differential -- paying young workers below the minimum wage. I'm against this because it hasn't been proven that such a step would actually lead to more jobs for teenagers, and it raises the possibility that employers will fire the father to hire the son. Worst of all, it would punch another hole in the already inadequate coverage of minimum wage laws. And who is to say that the next step won't be proposals for lower wage rates for Black workers since their unemployment rates too, are high.

It seems to me that a rational national Full Employment Policy would include several elements. One would be realistic, performance-oriented job standards and tests. We should do away with present tests and educational standards that aren't job-related and which serve mainly to exclude people from jobs they could handle.

Another step would be for federal stimulation of private and non-profit sector job-creation through subsidies and training programs broader than the ones we now have. Such a program could be part of a national economic development program of planned growth and subsidized construction of housing, parks and sewers that will broaden private companies' demand for workers.

Finally, but perhaps first, there should be a massive federal job-creation program in the public sector. Some years back a Presidential Commission found that public needs in cities and small communities all over the country were so great that some five million people could be put to work in public service jobs.

For many people, this country is going through a terrible depression. For all of us, the quality of life is declining because public services are fewer and less well run than they used to be. These two problems could be solved by putting people back to work in decent jobs doing things that need to be done at decent salaries.

A Full Employment Policy can also depolarize a country that's been torn apart by racially divisive issues and suspicions. It is something that affects Blacks and whites equally. It is something we desperately need.

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