

Community united on ouster of Boise principal

A public meeting was held at Bethel AME Church on September 27, 1973. It was attended by Black residents of the Portland area and representatives of organizations concerned with quality education, intergroup relations and the welfare of Black citizens generally. At

this meeting the September 24, 1973 article which appeared in a white daily quoting David McCrea, principal of Boise Elementary School, was discussed at some length. Also discussed were public and non-public remarks generated by that article, along with Mr.

McCrea's letter of apology to Black citizens generally. It was also noted that, unfortunately, other principals in the Portland school system share the stereotypical notions and lack of insight and understanding of the better principles intergroup relations evidenced by Mr. McCrea

and that removal of Mr. McCrea does not automatically guarantee his replacement will be an improvement. It was concluded, however, that:

1. Whereas the serious problems which apparently exist at Boise Elementary School whose students are

mostly Black deserve attention by a principal of a high degree of teaching and supervisory competence, empathy, insight and sophistication;

2. Whereas Mr. McCrea has admitted his failure as a principal to enforce the necessary discipline to make for a quality learning experience

at Boise Elementary School, and has through his press interview displayed a lack of sophistication and insight into the many lifestyles of Black families whose children he and his staff are supposed to teach and motivate;

3. Whereas Mr. McCrea was admittedly improvident

in his choice of words in his press interview on such a sensitive school policy issue and has reflected adversely on District Administrative transfer program and the Black population in the Portland area, subverting school district policy and losing the personal credibility necessary to perform his job as principal in a school with a student population such as Boise.

Therefore, the Portland School District #1 should immediately take the necessary administrative action to remove Mr. McCrea from his position as principal of the Boise Elementary School and replace him with a person of pedagogical competence and supervisory skill, empathy, insight and sophistication about intergroup relations, school board policy and school press relations to effectively deal with the disciplinary and educational needs of the Boise students within the policy guidelines and expectations of the School Board and the greater community of which it is a part.

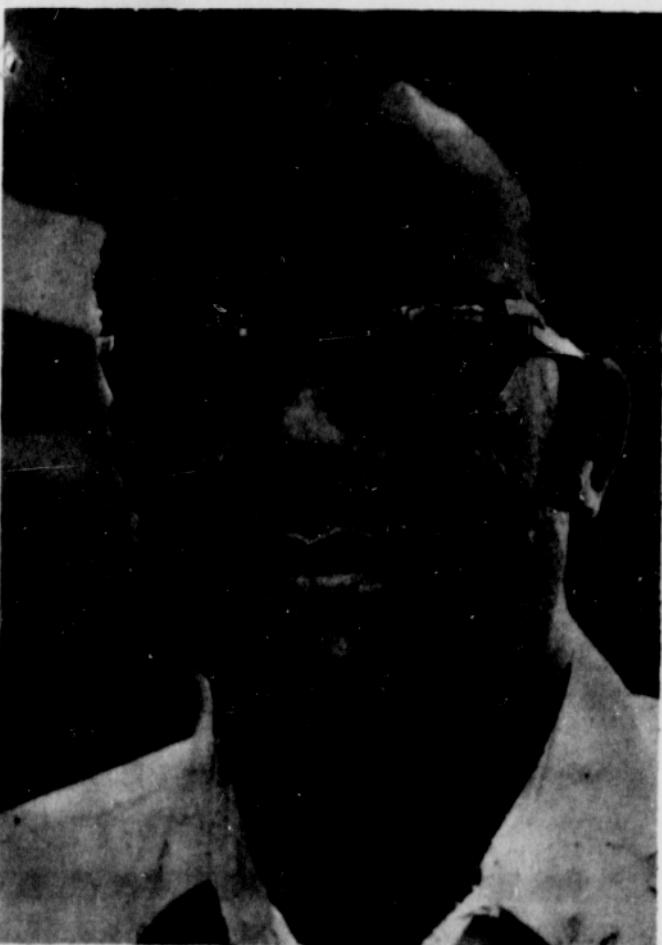
The preceding statement was signed by representative organizations: The Urban League of Portland, the NAACP, Albina Ministerial Alliance, Albina Women's League, Albina Lion's Club, the Royal Esquire Club, and the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs.

The meeting of concerned citizens was held to discuss the implications of statements made by McCrea to the press, in which he stated that Boise has an atmosphere not conducive to learning, that a white child cannot excel at Boise, and that general district standards of behavior do not apply to Boise because of different cultural expectations.

Concern was expressed over the mimeographed letter sent by McCrea to organizations and school personnel and three newspapers. Some persons questioned why an apology of such serious nature would have not at least been signed personally (See page 2). General consensus was that although the problems Boise is experiencing are not new and were not created by McCrea, the principal has to set the tone and the standard of behavior for the children. The same educational process and the same opportunities should apply to Black students as to white. The philosophy of education of the school board and the possibility that McCrea was really expressing that philosophy was also questioned.

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CHALMERS JONES

Jones is Ombudsman

Governor Tom McCall recently announced the appointment of Ombudsman Bob Oliver as his legal counsel and assistant for public safety, and the appointment of Chalmers Jones to succeed Oliver as ombudsman. Jones presently is administrator of the Special Programs Division of the Department of Human Resources.

Oliver succeeds Edward Branchfield, who was named by Attorney General Lee Johnson as assistant attorney general for the State Department of Higher Education. Branchfield, a former Court

of Appeals judge, has been the governor's legal counsel since 1971, when Oliver was named ombudsman.

McCall said the changes will be effective in mid-October, after Branchfield has had time to complete several projects he has undertaken for the governor.

Oliver, 42, is a former chief deputy legislative counsel for the Oregon Legislature. He has served as a part-time professor of law in the Willamette College of Law, and an instructor in political science for Willamette. (Please turn to pg. 6, col. 5)

Minority veterans seek jobs

Nathan Proby, Director of the United Minority Workers, appealed to the employers and governmental agencies of Oregon to eliminate racism in the consideration of minority veterans for employment. Proby explained that veterans are returning home with training and experience in the service, but are being told by employers that they are not "qualified" for employment.

of heavy equipment, but was told by Operating Engineers Local 701 that he is not qualified to join the union. He was told that he needed 1000 hours of supervised work to join, but cannot find work because he is not a union member. Twelve complaints have been filed against Local 701 by minority workers.

Leonard Spland spent 3 1/2 years in the Air Force. He attended a construction training school in Corvallis, but has found only two days work.

Carl Bee, a veteran who

ACA, UMW charge city with racism

Complaints have been filed with the federal government charging the City of Portland with racial discrimination. The Portland Development Commission and the Housing Authority of Portland were specifically named in a complaint filed with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development by the Albina Contractors Association and the United Minority Workers.

Eugene Jackson, Business Manager of the Albina Contractors Association, said of the reference to PDC, "The Portland Development Commission has consistently and over a period of years ignored the employment needs of Black people. Although millions of dollars have been spent right here in Albina, little money has gone to minority contractors and employees. PDC can't even tell us whether the white contractors who are awarded their jobs have any minority employees."

PDC statistics show that about one third of the money spent by PDC for housing rehabilitation in the Albina area goes to minority contractors. Besides the home rehabilitation program, PDC is building parks, reconstructing streets and sidewalks, putting in street lighting, and doing additional neighborhood development work.

ACA has met with John Kenward, Executive Director of PDC, and members of his staff to discuss the allotment of work to minority contractors. Although Kenward agreed to review the bidding system, which is working against minority contractors, and to include ACA in plan-

ning for changes, ACA has heard nothing further from PDC.

The Housing Authority of Portland has the responsibility to see that contractors building low-income housing under its supervision meet the affirmative action requirements of HUD. Nathan Proby, Director of the United

Minority Workers, charged that HAP is not meeting this responsibility. He has visited housing sites a number of times without finding minorities on the job. Although some builders, including Western Balboa (also the subject of a complaint), have agreed to hire minorities, work is proceeding and the

work force is still all white.

Under federal regulations all companies or agencies receiving federal funds must hire minorities in an equitable number and must support and encourage minority enterprise. The complaint charges that neither of those requirements have been met (Please turn to pg. 3, col. 4)

Black trucker sues Hoffman

William Jones, Black dump truck owner-operator, filed a complaint with the federal government charging Hoffman Construction Company and John L. Jersey and Son with racial discrimination.

Jones applied to Hoffman Construction for work on the federal building that they are constructing for the General Services Administration. Hoffman Construction referred him to John L. Jersey and Son, the sub-contractor for excavation. Jersey refused to hire Jones, telling him that he was not needed, although others were hired

after he applied; that his truck was too small, although smaller trucks were on the job; and that he had hired a Korean and did not have to hire another minority.

Jones told Russ Rogers, Equal Employment officer for GSA who came to Portland Monday to investigate the complaint, that Jersey repeatedly refused to hire him, with the full knowledge of Hoffman Construction Company. As the prime contractor, Hoffman has responsibility for the action of its sub-contractors.



Dump truck rolls again

Dawson gets license

David Dawson, Black dump truck owner-driver, was awarded a dump truck license by the Oregon Public Utilities Commission Tuesday.

Oregon law requires that applicants for PUC licenses must prove a need for the additional truck. The effect of the law has been to perpetuate an all-white industry. The first Black trucker to obtain a license was William Jones, whose application this spring was opposed by white dump truckers. Dawson's application was also opposed by truck owners who charge that there is not enough work for existing license holders. It has been the practice of

licensees to sell their licenses for as much as \$3,000 when they quit.

Dawson demonstrated the need for additional trucks by presenting witnesses who had experienced shortages of trucks available. The major thrust of his case, presented by Attorney John C. Barnett, was that the PUC, as a state regulatory agency, has the responsibility to insure that minorities are included in the industries it supervises.

The PUC license was awarded on the basis of need for the truck, and avoided the issue of affirmative action.

Bid system fails

A 70 year old lady who prefers not to be named because of her fear of harassment obtained a PDC grant for rehabilitation of her home last fall. She received a letter from the Portland Development Commission stating that she could choose a contractor. On the same day she received another letter stating that bids were being requested by three contractors - all white.

When she called to ask that the work be done by a contractor of her choosing, she was told the contractor had already been selected. The contractor selected was not one of the three bidders, but was John Wilson, reported to be the brother of Ray Wilson, PDC Rehabilitation Supervisor.

The lady was asked by her rehabilitation specialist to sign the contractor's check before the work was completed. When she refused, he was so loud in his insistence that her 16 year old grandson, who was sleeping upstairs, came down to see what was wrong.

The lady did sign the check when the work was completed, although she was dissatisfied with the work. She just wanted nothing more to do with PDC. Among her more serious complaints: The windows leak, causing the water to make streaks on the wallpaper; water runs into the basement from the front porch (neither the windows nor the porch leaked before the repairs); the new paint is peeling and falling off the house.

This homeowner, like many others, resents the attitude of the PDC staff - "It's a handout, so be satisfied with what you get!" - and is sorry she ever became involved with the Portland Development Commission.

Names in the News

James Griffin, former director of MEDIA, is working in Chicago as a financial advisor to Operation PUSH, founded by Reverend Jesse Jackson.

Timothy Seidle is the first Black to be hired by the Oregon State Treasury Department. Seidle is a resident of Portland. State Treasurer James Reddin says Seidle is doing a good job for the Department.

Romona Welch, a member of the Chinook tribe, joined Clay Myer's staff as one of three front office secretaries. She is a graduate of James Monroe High School in Portland and has an Associate of Arts degree in Secretarial Technology from Brigham Young University.

E. Shelton Hill, Executive Director of Portland Urban League, will retire at the end of this year. Watch the Observer for other details.

Black wins race

Atlanta, Georgia Vice Mayor Maynard Jackson won the primary election and will face incumbent Mayor Sam Massell later this month in his bid for the office of Mayor. Jackson has been Vice Mayor of Atlanta for four years. Jackson received 47 percent of the votes and Massell 19.7 percent, but according to the law, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a runoff between the top two finishers will decide the winner. If elected, Jackson will become Atlanta's first Black mayor.

Jackson, 35, campaigned on the issue of a rising crime rate and promised to make the city's streets safe. Jackson, an attorney, was a Ford Foundation Scholar at the age of 14, and graduated from college at 18.

Reverend Hosea Williams, 47, ran second to incumbent Alderman Wyche Fowler in the race for president of the city council. Williams was an aid to Martin Luther King, Jr., and is currently Executive Director of Metro Atlanta SCLC.



Wanda Wright, who started her airline career with United Air Lines ten years ago, has been appointed a sales representative at Portland, William L. Supak, manager of sales, announced.

She joined United at Chicago in March of 1963 as a reservations sales agent and later transferred to Denver. A native of Chicago, she graduated from Northern Illinois University and holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology. In addition to her territory in downtown Portland, she will cover east to The Dalles, and north to Yakima, Washington.

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Todd signs pact

Nathan Proby, Chairman of the United Minority Workers, announced the signing of an agreement with the Todd Building Company spelling out the minimum minority man-hours for the construction of the new Federal Building in Eugene. This \$5 million dollar, two year job will use 20% minority man-hours during the time of heavy activity with lesser amounts in time of lesser activity.

The agreement was made after a series of conferences involving Proby and Mary Jo Ali of Portland, Patrick Me-

lenny and James Montoya of the CISCO organization of Monmouth, Ron Anderson of Associated General Contractors, Contractor Gordon Todd and others from the United Minority Workers.

Proby expressed hope that other contractors will make similar agreements to include substantial numbers of Blacks, Native Americans and Chicanos in their work forces. "This is the opening we have sought. It came about through negotiations rather than intimidation and speaks well for all concerned," Proby stated.