

ALFRED L. HENDERSON  
Editor/Publisher



**WE SEE THE WORLD  
THROUGH BLACK EYES**

## EDITORIAL FOCUS

### Racists attack Blacks in the name of poor

One of the few remaining Black directors in the Northwest -- Cleveland Gilcrease, Executive Director of the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee -- is the subject of a vicious personal attack. The Nixon Administration has done all it can to eliminate Black directors, but all attacks do not come from the conservative Republicans. Sometimes the most effective attack comes from the so-called supporters of the people.

Racists of the worst sort have attacked this Black man in the name of the poor -- but the leaders of the attack are not of the legitimate poor, but are the victims of self-imposed poverty. They are the disgruntled former employees and a few unhappy current employees of the PMSC Child Development Center, along with others who would use their fictitious or legitimate gripes to further their own cause. They have involved the parents of the children they are supposed to serve.

These employees have not followed the grievance procedures open to them under federal guidelines and have made no personal appeal to Gilcrease. They do not seem concerned with finding answers to their problems or those of their agency.

Instead, they have launched a personal attack on Gilcrease and are attempting to use the racial issue to turn the Black community against him and his agency.

Gilcrease is a man who is respected for his philosophy and his administrative ability. His program has been found above reproach by numerous fiscal and social evaluators. The Black community will not allow a few rabble-rousers and their mis-led followers to destroy this man.

### Buy wisely

Another Christmas season is almost over and again the hard-earned money of Black people has been spent in businesses whose owners and managers care nothing about and contribute nothing to the Black community.

When approached by the advertising staff of the Observer, some of these companies demonstrate no interest in Black trade. Some go to great ends to avoid the question. The advertising director at Lippmans hides and won't answer the phone. Rhodes have said they don't want Black trade. Meier and Franks just aren't interested -- they get Black trade without contributions to the community. Cohn Brothers say sometimes they don't have Black customers -- other times they say they have too many Black customers. The manager of Clarence Walker Flowers on Killingsworth said he just doesn't care if people from the community come to his shop or not. Tradewell refuses even the minimal contributions to community projects.

We might try a New Year's Resolution -- and spend our money in the community and in stores who solicit our trade and contribute to the community.

Published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, 2201 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217. Mailing address: P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Telephone: 283-2486.

Subscriptions: \$5.25 per year in the Tri-County area, \$6.00 per year outside Portland.

Second Class Postage Paid at Portland, Oregon

The **Portland Observer's** official position is expressed only in its Publisher's Column (We See The World Through Black Eyes). Any other material throughout the paper is the opinion of the individual writer or submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the **Portland Observer**.



### The energy crisis and the ghetto

by Vernon E. Jordan

Even if the Arab states stop trying to blackmail us into abandoning our longstanding commitment to Israel, there will still be a serious oil shortage. The energy crisis appears to be here to stay. It is something that started years ago when world demand increased and prices rose sharply, and it will probably go on until new energy sources are found.

The President has already called for a great national effort to attain self-sufficiency in energy supplies by the end of the decade, proving once again that Americans have almost unlimited capacity to set and follow through on national goals that don't directly tackle the human problems of living together decently.

In the 1960's, the national goal was to put a man on the moon. In the 70's it will be to increase energy supplies. When will we decide to make the eradication of poverty and the revitalization of our cities a great national goal -- in the 1990's?

Meanwhile, the energy crisis continues and it has important implications for Black people and poor people. As the government moves to conserve energy, its policy must be based firmly on two important principles.

First, the burden of the shortages should be borne by all, with the heaviest burden on the people who can most afford it.

It's no great sacrifice to limit the use of gas-eating cars or for middle class homes to reduce thermostats to 68 degrees. But Black people and working people

whose jobs are dependent on auto transportation shouldn't be hit with the same driving limitations and gas taxes as Sunday pleasure drivers.

And Black people shouldn't be victimized by gougers using the energy crisis as an excuse. Every winter many hundreds of thousands of Black people in urban ghettos freeze because their landlords don't provide enough heat for them. The 68 degree home heating target never existed. While it tries to cut back on energy use, the government shouldn't foster flu epidemics in the ghettos -- housing codes should be enforced and gougers made to pay dearly.

The second principle is that energy allocations should not hamper industrial users in a way that throws people out of work. While it may only be a scare tactic, talk is current that some factories will have to be shut down and their workers laid off.

Most experts predict a sharp rise in unemployment, even without an energy crisis. This country's goal has to be that of full employment -- a job for everyone willing and able to work. We've had enough experience with "jawboning" to know that voluntary compliance is non-existent. Regulations on energy use ought to be formulated now -- before it is too late -- to insure that there is rational use of scarce energy and that employment won't suffer.

And I'd like to see some kind of watchdog committee set up to insure that the energy crisis doesn't become everybody's excuse for placing more burdens on poor people and for evading social goals and responsibilities.

Already, at least one southern school district has asked that court-ordered school busing directives be set aside to conserve fuel. All sorts of similar energy-saving patriots will be coming out of the woodwork now, saying it is their duty to cut heat to tenants to 55 degrees or to stop the school buses or close factories. Minorities and working people need assurances that the energy crisis is not going to become another excuse to put more pressure on their necks.

Finally, in addition to pushing the search for alternative energy supplies, rational national policy demands pushing socially desirable goals are needed. For example, one reason why the energy crisis is upon us is the fantastic road building program of the past two decades, a program that created suburbia and downgraded cities. A commitment to mass transit systems and to reviving city centers would go a long way toward conserving fuel while improving the quality of American life.

### Energy crisis no excuse

The U.S. House of Representatives voted to eliminate all busing for the purpose of desegregation -- even those busing programs under court order -- in the name of energy conservation.

The energy crisis is now being used to deprive Black children of their constitutional right to an opportunity for a quality education.

We already know that the poor suffer most from shortages and rising prices. We know that minority unemployment is rising while white unemployment falls or is static. The jobless rate for Blacks rose from 8.3 percent in October to 9.1 percent in November, while the white unemployment rate remained at 4.2 percent.

We expect that in times of economic crisis, minorities will have to go without adequate food and shelter, but now our children are to be deprived of their rights, also.

The United States can hardly be respected as a world leader when the profit-making efforts of the oil monopoly are used as an excuse to deny Black children of their right to someday participate in the structure of the American society.

### PMSC challenged

(Continued from pg. 1, col. 4) charges that the children who were in the bus were not taken to the doctor. Mrs. Boynton said she had given that responsibility to the Social Worker, Jean DeMasters, and did not know until later that Mrs. DeMasters had neglected her duty.

The union representatives charged that the Master

Teacher had taken a parent's petition calling for the reinstatement of Mrs. DeMasters from an aide. Mrs. Boynton said the unsigned petition was found fastened to a wall and was brought for her to see.

The union charges that the center is unclear. The last City-County Public Health Department check recorded

was on November 30th and found the center in good order.

Mike Zaharakis, union organizer, said he would furnish the **Observer** with a list of 150 specific allegations against Mrs. Boynton, but this list never materialized. He also agreed to bring evidence of the union's strength among the center workers since he claims 60 percent membership. Mrs. Boynton said she had never been informed which staff members had requested union representation or the total number, which seemed to change from day to day. Several staff members had told her they were no longer interested in the union because they disapproved of its tactics.

Zaharakis said harassment of staff has increased since the union became involved, but refused to define the harassment or give examples. He said the unions only concern is to organize the staff so they will have union representation to protect them from undeserved harassment and firing. He said the union struggle will be "militant, non-violent and effective".

Mrs. Overton said she had contacted 27 parents at random and that only two had complaints about the center or the director. She said an independent evaluation of conditions at the center is

being made but that the IWW was not willing to wait until the evaluation is completed before picketing the center and continuing their accusations. Al Lucas said he had found some problem of communication and division among the staff and parents but that he did not note the situation was as serious as it has been presented. He also questioned the participation of a staff member in the press conference on agency property and during his working hours without the consent of the director.

PMSC board chairman John Rice will call a special board meeting within the next few days to consider the recent evaluation of the center.

The National Labor Relations Board has made a preliminary finding that the IWW has no jurisdiction to represent center employees. An election of the employees to determine union representation has not been held.

The PMSC Child Development Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and is administered by PMSC. It is a full-day, head start program for children of low-income parents who are employed or in school. The program has two satellites -- one at Iris Court and one in Southeast Portland.

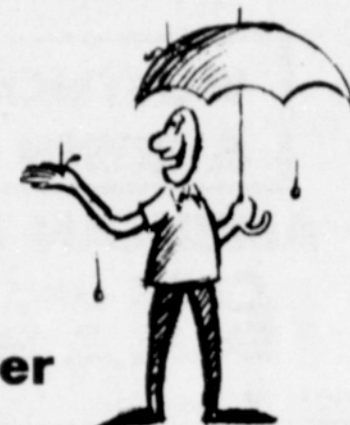


### Bicycle Donated

Charles Crews, owner of Chuck's St. Johns Cyclery, will donate a bicycle to a needy child this Christmas. Anyone who knows a child who needs a bicycle or tricycle and who would not otherwise receive one, is asked to send the child's name and address, his parent's or guardian's name, and a short description of why he should be the recipient to Chuck's St. Johns Cyclery or the **Portland Observer** by December 22nd.

The selection will be made by Mr. Crews; A.L. Henderson, publisher of the **Observer**; and Roy J. Harris of Brotherhood Productions.

**Not Everyone  
Subscribes  
To The  
Portland Observer**



**but then, not everyone comes in out of the rain, either.**

### How About You?

**\$5.25** in Tri-County Area and Armed Services

**\$6.00** Other Areas of the US

PORTLAND OBSERVER  
P.O. Box 3137  
Portland, Oregon 97208

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Earn money in your spare time



Sell 50 subscriptions, earn \$50.00. Sell 100 subscriptions, earn \$100.00. Sell 500 subscriptions, earn \$500.00 and air fare to Las Vegas, San Francisco or Los Angeles. Sell 1000 subscriptions, earn \$1000.00 and air fare to Hawaii.

Similar bonus plans can be arranged for clubs, organizations, churches, or social groups. Call 283-2486 for more information.

**Call  
283-2486**

There's More Where This Came From

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I would like to express my continued admiration and high regard to you and your staff or your courageous and forthright articles in opposition to racial oppression and economic exploitation of many Black people in Portland (the lily of white roses).

It appears at this writing (Christmas season, 1973) that the **Portland Observer** will continue to sustain the tradition initiated by John Russwarm, editor of **Freedom's Journal** in 1827, when he

wrote: "If we are to be free... we must voice our anger and hopes against those whom would re-enslave us..."

John Russwarm's newspaper is considered by Black historians as the "first significant publication devoted to Black liberation." I think you will perpetuate that tradition.

Seasons Greetings,  
James H. Rogers,  
Assistant Professor,  
Black Studies, PSU

Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes to our Advertisers and Subscribers may peace and good fortune be your hope and fate