

EDITORIAL FOCUS

"Be fair to Nixon"

All over the nation a new cry is being heard -- "Be fair to the President".

The people who are demanding that the President's sins be overlooked, that he be forgiven in the interest of national unity, are forgetting the magnitude of President Nixon's crimes against the American people and the Constitution he swore to uphold.

President Nixon and his aides have deprived the American people of their right to an honest, free and untampered presidential election. He has bought -- and stolen -- the office of the presidency, then used the American people's respect for that office to avoid an honest disclosure of his involvement in a multitude of illegal and unethical activities.

President Nixon has placed himself above the law and beyond the courts. There are just too many examples of corruption in his administration for all of them to be overlooked by the people -- the Watergate affair, illegal campaign procedures, the attempted use of the Internal Revenue Service against his "enemies", the Vesco case, the ITT and Dairy cases, Nixon's possible income tax evasion, wiretapping, formation of a secret police, interference in Justice Department investigations, the Nixon property deals, suspected involvement with Howard Hughes -- and it goes on and on. This is not a case of presidential discretion, but one of the use of presidential powers to further the interests of the president and his friends.

This is not the time to call for "fairness to the President". It is the time to call for resignation or impeachment.

Court decides against constitutional rights

The U.S. Supreme Court has determined that any person who is arrested for any reason can be forced to undergo a complete search. In custodial arrests -- those where the suspect is taken to the police station -- persons will no longer be confined to a brief "frisking" to determine if there are concealed weapons or evidence of the crime for which he was arrested. Even the person who is arrested for a traffic offense can undergo a complete search.

This decision brings a new interpretation to the Fourth Amendment, which protects the citizen from "unreasonable search and seizure". Many constitutional lawyers foresee an increase in the number of custodial arrests for traffic offenses and minor infringements of the law or an excuse to search the individual for evidence of drugs, membership in "subversive" groups, pornography or any other crusade the police department is undertaking at the moment.

This new police power will be used most often against Blacks and other minorities, students, "hippies", and the other less desirable factions of society. It will not bring more effective law enforcement or help in prosecuting organized crime -- it will not assist the honest policeman who is attempting to protect the community. It will be another tool in the hands of the bigot -- the policeman who is determined to harass and intimidate those he is sworn to protect.

Youth programs best prevention of crime

by Vernon Jordan

Research reports about the system of criminal justice are pouring off the presses in ever-increasing numbers and they all add up to one big fact that everyone intimately connected with the police, prisons and courts knows all too well -- that the system has broken down and is a failure. Just consider the findings of three reports issued within days of each other recently:

A federal panel, the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, reports that prisons are "obsolete, cannot be reformed, and should not be perpetuated." Stop building prisons, the Commission says, and give offenders light sentences that place them in work-release programs and in the hands of community-based agencies.

A Police Foundation study of police deployment in Kansas City concluded that saturation patrols by uniformed cops in marked vehicles does not reduce crime. Target areas were regularly patrolled by one car, the city's standard patrol method, by four cars, its saturation patrol, and a control area that had no regular patrol at all -- police just responded to calls.

What happened? Believe it or not, the biggest increase in crime was reported in the district that was constantly patrolled by four cars. The standard one-car patrol district had a slight rise in crime over last year. And the no-patrol area actually had a decrease in reported crime.

A special blue-ribbon panel in New York condemned the system of caring for juvenile delinquents. They said the system provides no services for children most in need, there is no equal access to care and treatment, and "racism consciously or unconsciously pervades the child care system."

These reports explode some of the myths held by most people about crime and its prevention. Most people think that bigger prisons and longer sentences will make the streets safer. That's fantasy. Prisons only work for the people who get contracts to construct them and the civil servants who work in them. Typical sentences are already longer than in most other countries.

All prisons seem to be able to do is teach younger inmates how not to get caught again. They don't deter crime; they increase the probability of its rise by embittering convicts, by refusing to provide treatment and training, and by treating human beings like caged animals.

So current state and federal plans for spending sev-

eral billion dollars on bigger and better prisons amount to a fantastic waste of money, energy and human lives.

An even stronger myth is the one about how all it takes to cut crime is to put more cops on the street. The Kansas City test throws some cold water on that one, too. Over half of all crimes occur indoors -- out of view of street patrol cars. It is safe to say that an investment in community agencies and police-community relations could prevent many crimes from being committed.

From a long-range view, the condemnation of the juvenile justice system is most important. The picture is one of neglect of detained children -- no training, no visible attempts at dealing with their problems and racial distinctions all along the line.

Since much of the crime rise in recent years is directly attributable to the fact that there are more and more people in the younger age groups that tend to run afoul of the law, the best way to cut crime is to adopt constructive youth programs. The lack of services and the constant resort to caging young offenders only insures that kids who could be put on the right track are deflected onto a course that will lead to future, more serious offenses.

So the present criminal justice system is one big failure. But crime is an ever-present danger that still has to be dealt with. In next week's column I'll make some suggestions about how to make our communities safer.

Charley's

825 SOUTHWEST BROADWAY • 227-6052

valley river center • 687-8221



Ring out the old . . . ring in the new. Ring happy times across the year. To friends, our special thanks.

Charley has Leathers
Marquis of London
Great things of Canada

May the happiness
of the holidays remain
in our hearts through all
the New Year . . . to
brighten our lives with
true comfort and joy.

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Ban hits only poor

Senator James Buckley, conservative Republican Senator from New York, has introduced a rider to a bill in the Senate to prevent the use of social security funds for abortions -- which would permit those persons on the Medicaid program from legally having abortions. At the present time 20 million persons receive medical care from Medicaid, which is the federal program providing health care to the poor and persons on welfare.

Whether Black women -- or other women -- should have abortions or not is not the question. The question is whether low income people and minorities will be used as political hostages, while the abortion debate rages in the larger community. The question is whether poor families, who are dependent on government programs for their medical care, will have the same rights to self-determination as the white middle-class families who can purchase their medical care. The bill will not outlaw abortion -- it only outlaws abortion for the poor.

The result of forbidding abortion to the poor will bring about the conditions that prevailed prior to recent legislation providing for legal abortion. The price of illegal abortion was paid in the currency of women's dignity, women's health and sometimes, even women's lives. More than 9 out of 10 of those who died at the hands of incompetent practitioners in the days before abortions were legal were Black or Puerto Rican.

Whether abortion is right or wrong -- whether it is a form of "genocide" -- this bill is racism at its worst. The right to abortion has been determined to be a civil right. The court has decided that abortion is to be determined by the individual, therefore it must be decided by every individual, not just by those who can pay.

Passage of this bill would be a step backward to race and class discrimination. Let Black people and not Congress decide for themselves.

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.



PEPI'S BOTTLE SHOP

Let Pepi's Bottle Shop be your headquarters for champagne, wines, mixers . . . at the lowest prices in town.

Lloyd Center - Next to the Liquor Store. Pepi's one and only store. Open 9:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily. Sundays: Noon to 4:00 p.m.

281-2731

REMODELING MADE EASY

You can have an efficient and beautiful kitchen, set up the way you want it. Call now for free estimates. Expert work.

WENDELL E. BROWN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

A model neighborhood contractor
Member - Albina Contractors Association

575 N. Killingsworth 289-5549

Police

(Continued from pg. 1, col. 9) eral times in the face, then a cup of CTA thrown in his face. The attendant who went for the CTA said he brought only one cup and that it was used immediately as he handed it to the employee that was involved in the fighting.

Harper said the employees got an aerial and a wrench and threatened him. He said he was not aware of anything thrown in his face until he was maced in the car and that his face did not hurt until that time.

Harper told the Observer that he intends to sue the city. He said he believes that if he does not pursue the case this type of treatment of Blacks will continue.

Officer Jimmerfield has also been charged with brutality by Mrs. Freddie Thompson, who alleged that he pushed her, struck her in the face, and called her racial names when she was attempting to find out why her son was being arrested on a streetcorner near her home. Mrs. Thompson, who was arrested for resisting arrest, assault and interfering, has not yet come to trial.

Greetings

Come on . . . smile! Be happy! It's going to be a great New Year!

Mr. and Mrs. James Barnett

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Cheerio 74

Blow horns! Make a joyful noise! Know that it's going to be a great year.

Mr. and Mrs. Joil Southwell

CHEERIO 74

Here's to a New Year that's along modern lines! One that pursues progress to benefit all of mankind.

Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Green and Christy

HAPPY NEW YEAR

It's all set up. Going to be the very best year yet. Let's greet it with a cheer, live it with a smile.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Hardaway

Good Luck

If you're fishing for compliments . . . it's a pleasure to serve you! Happy New Year!

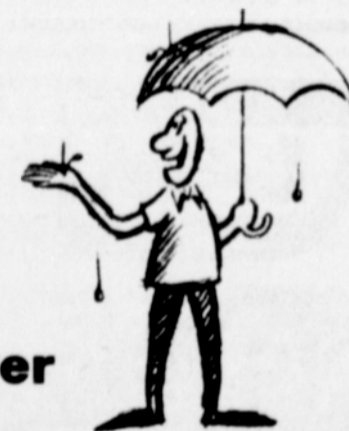
V. Lester Jackson and Associates

Happy New Year

We'll tell the world we wish you the best! Thanks for your good will and confidence.

Robert Smith

Not Everyone Subscribes To The Portland Observer



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

How About You?

RATES:
\$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 _____