

Study reveals voting right results

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 played an important role in the dramatic increase in Black participation and the number of Black elected officials in the South, according to a new report on the Act and its enforcement.

The Act was renewed for five years in 1970 and will expire in August, 1975, unless again extended by Congress.

The study was published by three organizations concerned with equal access of Blacks to the electoral process — the Joint Center for Political Studies of Washington, the Voter Education Project of Atlanta, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of Washington.

Titled **Federal Review of Voting Changes: How to Use Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act**, the study was written for the three organizations by David H. Hunter, an attorney in private practice who was formerly an assistant general counsel of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

It is the culmination of the Election Law Project of the Lawyers' Committee. Over the past several years this project has monitored and assisted in many legal cases and Justice Department complaints challenging discriminatory changes. The project will come to an end late this year.

"The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is one of the milestones on the path toward full civil rights for Blacks in the United States," said the heads of the three organizations which cooperated in publishing the book. They are Eddie N. Williams, president of the Joint Center; John Lewis, executive director of VEP; and J. Harold Flannery, director of the Lawyers' Committee.

"Under its provisions thousands of Blacks have been registered and voted, some for the first time in their lives. This, in turn, has led to an increase in the number of Blacks who have run for and won public offices throughout the South, including some in states where there had been no Black

public officeholders since Reconstruction," they commented.

J. Stanley Pottinger, chief of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, said of the volume:

"The handbook treats this complex subject in a clear and straightforward way and should become a valuable tool for both laymen and professionals who wish to invoke this important statutory protection. Of particular interest is the catalog of the types of submission and theory of the Department's objections. This is the first such comprehensive analysis of Section 5 issues and should be very useful."

In 1969, there were 299 Black elected officials in six southern states entirely covered by the Act — Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Virginia. By 1974, the number of Black elected officials had risen to 805 in those states, an increase of 169 percent, according to figures provided by the Voter Education Project and the Joint Center for Political Studies.

Besides these six states, the Act covers 39 of the 100 counties in North Carolina; scattered counties in Arizona, California, Idaho and Wyoming; and three boroughs of New York City — Brooklyn, Bronx and Manhattan.

The 1965 Act was designed to curb historical discrimination against Blacks which blocked their easy access to the ballot. Areas covered by the Act were those which had previously imposed some

form of restriction on who could vote, such as literacy tests, and where fewer than half of the voting age population had voted in the most recent, presidential election.

Although the Act provided several remedies for racial discrimination in voting rights, the one which is still most frequently used is Section 5, the requirement for Justice Department clearance of all changes affecting voting in areas covered by the Act.

"The most frequent use of Section 5 in recent years has been to combat practices which were barely realized to be discriminatory when the Voting Rights Act was passed," the study reports.

The Joint Center for Political Studies, sponsored by Howard University and the Metropolitan Applied Research Center, is a private, non-profit and non-partisan organization which provides research, education, technical assistance and information for minority elected officials nationwide.

The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law is a national organization with many local affiliates. It acts as counsel or offers assistance to lawyers involved in litigation designed to secure equal rights for all citizens.

The Voter Education Project is a non-partisan organization operating in 11 southern states. It makes voter registration and education grants to local minority organizations and provides technical assistance to other local groups and to minority elected officials in the South.

Oregon work updated

A revision of the most comprehensive and exhaustive work compiled on Blacks in the State of Oregon is slated for release this summer. Lenwood G. Davis, an instructor of history at Portland State University, is the author. He has been working on the bibliography for the past four months and was notified recently by the Council on Planning Librarians of Monticello, Illinois that the publication date is set for June.

Entitled "Blacks in the State of Oregon: 1788-1974: A Bibliography," it is primarily designed as a reference for those who wish to learn more about Blacks in Oregon. This work was first published in 1971. The materials listed cover every period of the State's history from the earliest records of Blacks' arrival to present. The bibliography has attempted to list every source pertaining to Oregon as well as to nearby states including newspapers, articles in periodicals, official documents and unpublished works pertaining to Blacks in Oregon.

Davis stated that because of the many demands to revise the bibliography he decided to up-date it. "After three years," he said, "the original bibliography is still

the standard work on Blacks in Oregon." Most of the materials added to the forthcoming work were published and made available to the general public since 1971.

Davis has done extensive research on Blacks in Oregon. He has written several articles on Blacks in Oregon and Blacks in the Pacific Northwest. Besides teaching, traveling, speaking, writing articles and book reviews, Davis is presently doing additional research on Blacks in the State and hopes to complete it in early 1975.

The PSU African and Afro-American history instructor is also author of "I Have a Dream: The Life and Times of Martin Luther King, Jr." that was published in 1969 and reprinted in 1973. He also has written several other bibliographies: "The Black Woman: An Annotated Bibliography"; "The Woman in American Society"; "Pan-Africanism"; "The Black Family in the Urban Areas in the United States"; and "Blacks in the American West." The author was recently notified that he will be included in the 1974-75 edition of "The World Who's Who of Authors," published in Cambridge, England.

Student wins honor

Continued from page 1 col. 3) She was also chosen as an Oregon Scholar.

Active in the community, she was the student member of the Portland Public School's Citizens' Advisory Committee for Area III and is Council Representative in the Girl Scout's Town Hall Cabinet, which is composed of Senior troops for the area. She writes "Senior Ripples" in the Girl Scout newsletter, *Columbia River Current*. She received the Elks Oratorical Award and will compete again this year. Miss Gates participates in Volunteer Service, her projects include working at the University of Oregon Medical School bacteriology laboratory, working with the Girl Scouts, and assisting at the Cerebral Palsy Center for Handicapped Children. She also finds time to work as a

switchboard operator for Pacific Northwest Bell during the summer and on week-ends.

After completing her four years at Bryn Mawr, Miss Gates plans to fulfill a dream she has had since she was six years old, that of becoming a doctor. She hopes to attend medical school on the west coast, preferably at the University of Oregon Medical School.

Miss Gates is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Osly J. Gates. Her father is director of the City-County Council on Aging. Mrs. Gates, known professionally as J.M. Gates, is the originator of "Reversible Poetry," which has brought national acclaim.

Miss Gates chose Bryn Mawr after a visit to the campus and to Stanford University, which also offered a scholarship.

ACLU demands meeting access

The American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon is representing plaintiffs in a suit filed Monday in the 3rd, asking the Court to force that representatives of the news media must be permitted to attend any future meetings of the Portland Police Department's Firearms Investigation Committee.

The suit, in the Multnomah County Circuit Court, stems from the exclusion of an *Oregon Journal* reporter from an April 30th meeting of the FIC to investigate the April 24th shooting of an innocent citizen, Frank Brauner, by a police officer.

The ACLU protested Chief Baker May 1st that the Open Meetings Act of 1973 requires that reporters be permitted to attend executive sessions of governmental bodies, subject to agreements regarding nondisclosure of confidential matter. Baker's response noted his disagreement and the bases on which the holding of an executive session was justified.

The suit will test the application of the Open Meetings Act in these circumstances. The ACLU does not

maintain that Oregon law requires that the meetings be open to the public generally.

Stevie Remington, Executive Director of ACLU of Oregon and one of the plaintiffs in the suit stated, "A free society cannot tolerate absolute secrecy in investigations of the police, by the police. We must either ensure some public scrutiny of the process or provide for Citizen Review Boards to investigate allegations of police misconduct."

Plaintiffs in the suit are the *New Oregon Publishers*, a corporation which publishes the *Oregon Times* and Portland residents and taxpayers Mason Drukman, Charles Davis, and Stevie Remington. The individual plaintiffs are also asserting their interests as subscribers to the *Oregon Journal* and, in the case of Mason Drukman, as editor of the *Oregon Times*.

Named as defendants are Neil Goldschmidt, Mayor of Portland; Bruce Baker, Portland Police Chief; James Brouillette, John Fraser and John F. Roley, members of the Firearms Investigation Committee; and the City of Portland.

U of O director

(Continued from p. 1 col. 6) Accordingly, in-kind and financial assistance will be channeled directly to the Para-Statal Committee of the Sahel nations in N.Y., and in Ougadougou, capital city of Upper-Volta, and will be earmarked for emergency projects designated by the six nations consultative Conference of Presidents of September 1973.

According to a spokesman for the Panamerican Association, the topics of discussion at the Embassy encompassed problems of world food supply, nutrition, water supply, and new sources of food. It was also pointed out that the endeavor will be characterized philosophically by a new holistic approach to the management of assistance on the basis of humanisticly conceived methods which differ from the important continuing efforts of the World Bank, U.S. A.I.D., the European Development Fund, the UN Food & Agricultural Organization, Africare and Rains, and others.

One of the pace-setting endeavors will be launched in a spectacular announcement by noted Black celebrity, political pundit, social commentator and author, Dick Gregory. To draw public attention on the plight of famine and death in the Sahel Region, Gregory will run from Chicago to Washington, D.C. on a diet of water only. Pledges from individuals, organizations and industries will be solicited to aid Gregory's proposed Food for Peace Program, a project which will support and benefit both the Southern Christian Leadership Conference assistance programs for America's poor as well as the United Nations Sahel Committee.

Commenting on the support that this entire effort has attracted, Dr. Pritchard, a noted Africanist, cited Benjamin Downes as an example. He added, however, that while Downes' commitment had received the commendation of the African United Nations Committee, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dick

Gregory and himself, the academic community with which Downes could share this most relevant experience had appeared to exhibit no or little response or interest in the sacrifices of time and personal resources made by their own doctoral candidate when in fact the funds were available at the University of Oregon to support such undertakings as those being diligently pursued by Mr. Downes.

Benjamin Downes has also been invited to join the professional voluntary staff organizing the forthcoming Midwestern and Southwestern State Leadership Conference on Multi-Cultural/Multi-Ethnic Studies scheduled to take place at Mankato State College, Mankato, Minnesota, June 28th, 29th, and 30th in 1974. Co-sponsored by the Panamerican Association and Mankato State College, this is the fifth Encounter in the field of Multi-Ethnic Studies administered by the Panamerican Association. The New York State based foundation is credited with pioneering in research from which emerged the concept of a Multi-Ethnic Approach to Total Education, legitimized in the Ethnic Heritage Studies Act, (Title IX of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act) drafted and sponsored by Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania. The Panamerican Association has been playing a key role in disseminating information on the legislation throughout the country, and in providing consultation and assistance in the preparation of Applications for Federal Assistance for Fiscal Year 1974 funding under Title IX. Legislation for a four year extension of ESEA goes before the House-Senate Conference this month, and the forthcoming Conference at Mankato State College is expected to make an important contribution to the dissemination of information vital to those institutions concerned with the four year extension of Title IX through 1978.



W.J. HARRIS

Harris named

William J. Harris, a career federal employee, has been named director of the Manpower Administration's Office of Investigations and Compliance in the U.S. Department of Labor.

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Manpower William H. Kolberg said Harris will direct special inquiries, reviews, investigations and inspections for him. In effect, Harris will be Kolberg's chief troubleshooter.

As director of the Office of Investigations and Compliance, Harris will be responsible for directing and coordinating all activities relating to review and processing of audit reports in the Manpower Administration. Harris will also provide policy, procedural guidelines and technical assistance to regional office staffs to ensure compliance with the Manpower Administration's responsibilities for promoting equal employment opportunities.

The office identifies operational problems, including potential illegal or improper activities. An employee with 29 years of federal and state service in the field of employment security and manpower, Harris participated in developmental efforts leading to the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA).

The Black official was recently cited by the Spanish Heritage Day Committee for developing job training programs for the Spanish speaking community of Washington, D.C., and by the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) of the Commerce Department for "outstanding achievement in developing opportunities for members of minority groups to participate in America's competitive enterprise system."

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WEBELO Keith Nelson was among some 6,000 Cubs, Scouts and Explorers involved in the big 1974 Scout Capades May 17-18 at the Expo Center in Portland. Keith demonstrated project with Mrs. Geraldine Yeager (left), Webelos leader for Pack #61, sponsored by the Clarendon School PTA. The show, one of the year's highlights for Scouts, was seen by more than 10,000 visitors.