



**WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH BLACK EYES**

**'Affirmative Action' must be affirmative**

by Commissioner Charles Jordan

**Appoint Black man**

Governor Straub has indicated that he would like to appoint a woman as his affirmative action officer because "in many cases women have more severe discrimination problems than Blacks in some circumstances."

Women have been discriminated against in the areas of job and salaries in this country and by many of the state agencies -- but to say they have it harder than minorities is an error.

The governor has long been interested in equal rights for women and has demonstrated that concern in the past. We hope that he will develop the same concern for the rights of minorities.

Blacks across the county have feared that the drive for women's rights would diminish the concern for and emphasis on employment opportunities for minorities, that white women would be awarded positions that could have gone to Black men. We have seen this happen as contractors place white women in construction related jobs and are able to count them in EEO statistics on "minorities", therefore bypassing the meaning of contract compliance which calls for employment of minorities.

We would like to see this governor appoint a Black man to this position -- a Black man who has proven his ability and his commitment in the state personnel department's affirmative action office -- one who has worked as hard and has been as successful in placing women in top state jobs as he has ethnic minorities.

Harold Williams has been offered by the governor's staff as the best candidate for this position. We believe his work in the past two years has demonstrated that he is the best individual for the job.

**Another Point of View**

**King and Vietnam**

from the Michigan Chronicle

It has been eight years since Dr. Martin Luther King's pleas for America to get out of Vietnam were heard but not heeded. Now that realization has come to the American government as U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said in a recent interview that America "probably made a mistake" in getting involved in the Vietnam war.

Dr. King advocated non-involvement in Vietnam despite his critics and foes, and was even branded as a Communist. His statements that "our nation was on the wrong side of a world revolution," and "a positive revolution of values is our best defense against Communism," raised the ire of FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, and resulted in his being hounded by the agency.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner continued to address himself to the issue of America and Communism in his book, "The Trumpet of Conscience," and prophesied.

"These are revolutionary times. All over the globe men are revolting against the old systems of exploitation and oppression. The shirtless and barefoot people are rising up as never before. We in the West must support these revolutions..."

Now, with the pullout of all American influence in Vietnam, and with increasing pressure from neighboring Thailand to diminish relations, it is apparent that Dr. King's prediction that "War is not the answer" is true.

Affirmative action is positive action. It is specific goal-oriented action which goes beyond passive non-discrimination. All employers must identify and eliminate artificial barriers which deny some persons an equal chance to be employed. Employers must move aggressively to correct all deficiencies in their employment process, their internal personnel and pay procedure, their treatment of employees.

Portland's affirmative action efforts must extend beyond City government and its internal operation. We must assure that the people and companies who do business with the City are equal opportunity employers. Benefits and services from the City must be equally available to all citizens regardless of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, or physical ability. All opportunities in all areas of life in Portland must be available equally to

all persons on the basis of ability, merit, and potential. One City affirmative action program which will go beyond City government is the Contract Compliance Program. The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission prepared a Contract Compliance Ordinance which the Portland City Council approved in October, 1974. Persons doing business with the City are required to be equal opportunity employers or show that they are working to achieve the goals of an affirmative action plan. Now the City notifies local minority contractors when bids are being received for City contracts. The Purchasing Division is up-dating its lists of minority businesses. The informal bid and contracting process is being examined to assure that it is fair and provides equal opportunity to all persons wishing to bid on City contracts.

Affirmative action means that we assist minority businesses improve their business operations and increase their business. A project is being conducted to increase the number of minority contractors, trades and craft workers on federal, state and local construction projects. This four-part project will (1) identify and determine the capabilities of minority construction contractors; (2) identify planned federal, state and local construction projects which minority contractors can perform; (3) obtain and deliver assistance to minority contractors to help them receive a larger share of these contracts; and (4) identify and train minority citizens in the crafts and trades.

We have been meeting and working with federal and state officials, minority organizations, minority business owners. This project will require the efforts of

many people. Our entire City will reap the benefits of its success.

To achieve equal opportunity, all construction contractors must hire minority persons in the trades and crafts. Joint apprenticeship and training councils, crafts and trades unions, and contractors organizations must actively enlist minority citizens in their memberships. We are trying to identify minority apprentices and journeymen in Portland. This will help us assist contractors to implement affirmative action.

Affirmative action helps assure equal opportunity. Assuring equal opportunity means protecting each person's right to a fair, impartial chance to a job of their choice. Equal opportunity in Portland means that government, business, and industry are aggressively implementing affirmative action.



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Honorable Mention Herriek Editorial Award NNA 1973



**Housing desegregation sought**

(Continued from p. 1 col. 6) that leased housing be located in median or above median income neighborhoods.

3) That the Portland office of HUD require completion of the Affirmative Housing Agreement in

1975, disseminate information on the agreement widely, especially to neighborhood associations, and monitor the program.

4) That a housing service center be created in metropolitan Portland, to give information including that

concerning sources of funds for housing maintenance, repair, rehabilitation in construction, mortgage and available housing.

5) That neighborhood groups, the Housing Authority of Portland, and other groups or individuals entrusted in equal education opportunity undertake efforts to understand and to speak out in support of public action consistent with recommendation.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Where to turn?**

To the Editor:

Where does a person turn for help? After spending ninety-two days in jail because of minor hassles, I am now back in my community where I've been seeking help. The Highland Community Center has given minor help in the past with such as they have, but the director has been sick with a heart attack and is not able to carry the burden any longer.

I've been to Multi-Service Center on Alberta and Vancouver, the Employment section where I saw a whole group of people which were supposed to help me get a job. I got nothing but a run-around.

I went to the Housing Authority for a house and they told me that it would be at least one year.

I went to the Emergency Help Department of the Multi-Service Center where I was told by the worker that he couldn't even as much as write me a letter of recommendation for housing.

I've been to CETA to be told that they had a quota

system; but they did not say whether the Black quota was filled.

I went to DVR to find out that I didn't have an address so they couldn't sign me up.

I've explained to many people that I'm willing to work, that I'm best at working with senior citizens or youth. That I have past experience as a teachers aid and have done volunteer work for many of these same organizations eg: transportation of senior citizens, working as a State Welfare volunteer driver. I am at my wits end and don't know where to turn from here. Maybe somebody can tell me what the bureaucracy is all about.

I have been referred -- referred -- REFERRED so it seems that the whole system is a referral system. I am sure that there are a large number of other poor who are going thru the same system.

Where does a man turn from here to simply earn a living and go straight?????

Joe Wilson, Jr.

**Masons**

(Continued from p. 1 col. 4) young people of the area. Having taught for twenty-three years, my natural interest is in helping the youth develop their potential."

Officers elected by the Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, are: Grand Worthy Matron -- Beatrice J. Mason; Grand Worthy Patron -- Willie Whitley; Grand Associate Matron -- Margaret J. Isaacs; Grand Associate Patron -- A.W. Denton; Grand Conductress -- Layola Brown; Grand Associate Conductress -- Charles Person; Grand Treasurer -- Ruby Cannon; Grand C.C. of S.C. (Correspondence for Foreign Jurisdictions) -- Mabel Neal; and Grand Lecturer -- Ozella Canada.

**Exploring**

(Continued from p. 1 col. 3) little kids playing around."

"Finally, within the Explorer program, there are personal goals which Theresa wants to accomplish. One primarily was to fully understand the inner feelings of a police officer. "I just want to learn more about what police officers do, how they must feel, their inner feelings during a shoot-out. I know right now, if I were out there during a shoot-out, I'd wonder, 'why I'm out here?' What am I gonna do? I'd be kinda scared."

She continued, "But after a while you're gonna have to get used to it it's just not fun and games. I wonder if they are (the police officers) scared. If someones gonna get hurt, are they gonna do anything? When I get out there, I can't take the time to ask myself these things and what is it gonna feel like!"

**While you're watching watts,**



**PGE's John Bush is watching vehicle costs.**

PGE has cut \$544,000 from next year's vehicle budget to help keep purchasing/maintenance costs down.

When you pay \$48,000 today for a new articulated boom truck that cost \$28,000 only five years ago, you think more than twice about vehicle purchasing/maintenance costs.

And, when you have to operate several hundred vehicles in the interest of customer service, PGE people like John Bush think more than a few times about operational costs, too.

PGE's budget for the purchase of new and replacement vehicles

has been almost cut in half in 1976 from approximately \$1,300,000 to \$756,000.

Part of this cutback will be realized by changing from heavier, eight cylinder cars to compacts and subcompacts. Running these lighter vehicles affects savings in fuel and tires also, as many American families are realizing.

Another PGE rule demands six years' running out of every passenger car, which keeps a fully staffed and equipped company garage busy maintaining the large fleet of service vehicles.

Actually, the wide range of mechanical know-how at the garage enables PGE maintenance

people to work on everything from subcompact passenger cars to complicated hydraulic ladder or bucket rigs and cranes.

In spite of savings like this throughout the company, inflation and growth are causing the cost of electricity to go up... but it's nice to know that PGE people like John Bush and the maintenance crews try not to miss a chance to save money for you wherever they can. Conservation is important everywhere.



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