



WE SEE THE WORLD THROUGH BLACK EYES

PPS wrong again

The Portland School District is coming under pressure from the Exposition-Recreation center to give up the choice land it has acquired in the Coliseum area.

The land, which is in a choice spot for development -- close to downtown and the freeway, with a view of the city and the river -- the ideal spot for a convention and recreation development.

The school district acquired the land over a six-year period, most of it through pressure and some through condemnation proceedings. The announced purpose for the land is a warehouse, maintenance shops, audio-visual, a garage, and administrative offices.

The district estimates a savings of at least \$1,333,000 per year from the centralization of services to be made possible through the new development.

Several years ago the suggestion was made by Commissioner Frank Ivancie that a better use for the land would be an extension of the Coliseum center, along with the hotels and facilities that would greatly expand the city's ability to serve as a site for large conventions.

This idea is now being proposed again and thus far the school district has taken the stand that it has "legal, oral and ethical commitments" to the former owners of the property. It is true that if the school district now gives up the land, especially at a substantial profit, after forcing the residents out of their homes, they will come under fire: was this the plan from the beginning? If they decide they can use other pieces of their property the question will be: why did they need to buy the warehouse site?

These questions and the question of judgement and integrity will be asked anyway. They should not stand in the way of the best use of the property. The damage to the previous owners has already been done.

If it is determined that the city would benefit then the school district should relinquish the property. It really doesn't matter too much to the individual who lost his home whether the land eventually has a warehouse or a swimming pool on it.

Of course the most equitable plan would be to include the former owners in a profit sharing plan in the new development. No matter who builds on the site, the original owners are the losers since they did not receive payment for the true value of their land. The only fair resolution is to develop a plan that will include them in the profits.

Another Point of View

Inside School busing

from The Willamette Week

Portland School District No. 1 appears to have done something right in its program of student busing for racial integration.

The school board and the administration have vigorously supported a program which they believe is aimed at a social good. They have tried to make it a voluntary program, as it should be. And they have tried to make it work. In fact, racial imbalance in Portland's Public Schools has been significantly reduced.

However, there are deficiencies in the district's efforts.

• In several schools the percentage of Black students is more than double their percentage in the district as a whole. In two schools, the percentage rises over seventy percent. There needs to be substantially more busing of white students back into these schools, even if this means the voluntary nature of the program must be bent. Some boundaries should also be redrawn.

• The school district has made no attempt, after eleven years of busing, to assess the educational impact of the transportation of students out of their own neighborhoods. Instead, it says the busing has goals other than simply bringing achievement levels up. But, since it has not evaluated the educational impact of its program, it has no information with which it could improve the program -- to make it more educationally sound or deal with problems busing may cause for some students.

• Evidence shows that achievement levels in schools with high percentage of minority populations have not improved, despite millions of dollars of compensatory money spent in these schools. The school district says achievement is related to socio-economic factors, not race, and therefore we should not be surprised by the low achievement levels.

That may be true, but it does not change the district's obligation to show results for its compensatory program. It would have a difficult time doing so.



"IT ISN'T BUSING WHICH IS WRECKING THESE CITIES AND THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS, IT IS DEEPLY INGRAINED RACISM THAT MILLIONS OF WHITE AMERICANS CAN'T SHUCK OFF -- NOT EVEN IN THE FACE OF RULINGS BY THE MOST EMINENT JUDGES IN THE LAND."

CARL ROWAN N.Y. POST



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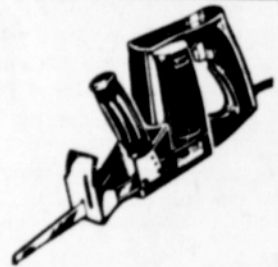
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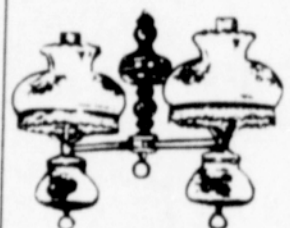
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bring blood pressure down and keep it within safe limits. It is important to follow and remain on whatever therapeutic program is prescribed in order to avoid possible complications.

Oregon Heart Association