



Straub comes through

Governor Bob Straub is to be commended for his executive order requiring more aggressive steps in affirmative action and for his informing the heads of state agencies that he means business.

Affirmative action begins at the top and requires a strong commitment accompanied by tough action, by the Governor. Following the passage of legislation, requested by Governor Straub, he hired an affirmative action officer responsible directly to him. The affirmative action office is no longer caught in the middle -- accused by agency directors of pushing too hard and by minorities of not trying hard enough.

The affirmative action officer and his activities are now the direct responsibility of the Governor. He gets the credit and the responsibility.

Governor Bob Straub has taken that responsibility by informing agency heads that affirmative action is no longer a voluntary matter. He has clearly stated his commitment and has asked them to join him in this commitment, we predict that many of those who have failed to comply will suddenly see the light.

Governor Straub claims that his commitment and action is unmatched by any governor in the nation. This may be true. He certainly has outstripped his predecessors in Oregon. Although in office for less than a year he has already named two Blacks to top positions on his personal staff -- Gladys McCoy and Harold Williams.

His commitment is also reflected in the recent hiring of Blacks in other areas including: James Hill in the Attorney General's office; Marsha Ryon, Department of Transportation; Dorothy Jones, Workmen's Compensation; Donny Adair, Labor Bureau; Sarah Martin, Education; Sam Aikins, Executive Department; Gilda Maffatt, Division of Affirmative Action; Y Jacob, Executive Department.

Prior to his election the Governor told us that affirmative action would be a top priority and that he would select his administration assistant with that in mind.

Kieth Burns was for many years counsel to the NAACP and has donated much time to the legal defense of Black and poor clients. We can see his influence in some of the Governor's work.

We commend the Governor and encourage him to continue his efforts, for there is much yet to be done.

Redefine MHRC

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission will soon come before the City Council for a determination of if and how it will continue to function.

The Commission has come under fire for its apparent inability to predict and prevent human relations conflicts, and its apparent lack of a positive program of activities to prevent inter-group strife. It is accused of reacting to crisis -- and then sometimes only slowly.

There seems to be much confusion over what the role of the MHRC is or should be, and question as to a continuing need for its services. There is also question as to how much direction and support it has received from the Council.

We believe there is a need for a publicly funded human relations organization and that it has a critical duty to perform. There is still racism in Portland and Multnomah County and discrimination against many ethnic and cultural groups. These groups often need an advocate to intercede for them or conciliate, or to present their problems and interests in a succinct way to governmental bodies and to the public. There are often serious problems that can be solved outside the courtroom if there is prompt and able intercession.

There is no question that there is a need for a MHRC. The question is whether the existing body is functioning as required.

The members of the Commission and staff have volunteered to resign so that the concept can be considered without the possibility of personalities preventing an objective evaluation.

We recommend that the Council accept these resignations. Any of these individuals could be reappointed at the proper time.

The Council should then evaluate the need for a human relations commission, define its functions and priorities, and determine what the board make-up should be. This should be a serious effort, outside the realm of emotions and personalities. We don't believe this can be done with the existing staff and commission on board for fear of hurting those staff and commission members who have done a creditable job. It is difficult, and should not be necessary, to criticize persons who volunteer many hours to a thankless and controversial job.

The MHRC is important enough to the people of Portland that the Council make the commitment and take the responsibility to see that it works.

Benjamin L. Hooks FCC COMMISSIONER



The national economy may be "bottoming out" as some economists say, but the disastrously high unemployment (about fifteen percent, for Blacks, more than double that of whites; more than forty percent for the nation's Black teens) among Blacks and other minorities raises a profound question with uglier implications for the present and future:

Will the apparently dwindling number of jobs in this country spur the inevitable scramble to secure them among fiercely competing groups at the bottom of the economic ladder, thus triggering explosive racist and sexist conflicts in the United States?

Already there are portentous signs that such an ultimate confrontation is brewing between two of America's most oppressed groups: Blacks and women, with other minorities -- American Indians, Orientals, and the Spanish speaking set to be drawn into the fray.

The question: How can we defuse this potentially explosive situation? Division between minorities and women must be bridged.

Black men, understandably, live in a primary relationship with economic and

physical chaos and destruction, and hence must concentrate on first things first -- personal survival. Black women know the pain of the Black man. They share it. They share his physical humiliation and the debasement of his spiritual values in a system that historically has excluded him.

They know well the frustration of loving a man and of watching with horror as he grows into a raging monster of a drunk, or a criminal, or erodes into a sniveling shadow of his manhood because he simply cannot find a job that pays enough to keep body or soul or his family together.

They know the bitter dregs of hurt and rage when their man by desperate design, or painful resignation, deserts the family, leaving it to the clutches of a merciless welfare system because there is no other choice.

A Black woman suffers additional prejudices because of her sex and so like it or not has common cause in the job mart with her white sister, her Spanish-speaking sister, her Oriental-American sister and her American Indian sister.

Indeed, Black men and Black women,

and white women and Spanish-Americans and other minorities, share a common bond -- all are victims of a racist, sexist society that must be changed if this nation is to live up to its glowing constitutional promises.

It is a matter of historic truth that most of the present-day movements -- women's liberation, the struggle of the Spanish speaking, the American Indians, etc., -- parallel or grew directly out of the great civil rights drive of the 1950's and 1960's and before.

We have all suffered similar outrages -- we Blacks, we Spanish-speaking, we American Indians, we Oriental-Americans, and Yes, we women. We are victims of the same oppressors. The privileged white American male stands presently supreme. We come, you might say, out of the same oppressive bag. We are the cutting edge of a new wave of social consciousness that ultimately will transform America.

It would, therefore, be disastrous for us to permit oppressive forces to continue to divide us by purposely tossing out a bone of a job and watching with satisfaction as we fight like dogs over it. We must respect the aims of each minority group, and of women's organizations. If we cannot join them fully, let us support those principles in keeping with our own.

As Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson says: "We must seek allies regardless of color (or sex). Our protracted struggle must be one of good people against bad ideas."

Drugs in Portland

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working within the organization responsible for dispensing the drug. While John Cuie of the Drug Treatment Center notes that methadone is much stronger, more debilitating than heroin (discounting the impurities of street heroin), and that you "can kick a heroin habit in about a week -- if you want to." Cuie yields to his colleague Jim Goodwin's fiat: "we don't really know anything about methadone."

Odd for people working in an agency that has about 500 methadone-addicted individuals in its program.

What prevails in the drug enforcement community is an acute heteronomy. Particular institutions deal with their assignment level; little statistical data or coordination exists. According to the DEA, there are between three to ten thousand heroin addicts in the Portland area; the major areas of use are the Southeast, Northeast, and Northwest sections of the city (in that order). Portland ranks about fifth on the west coast in heroin traffic (discounting San Diego). DEA studies suggest that

valium, heroin, marijuana, and LSD are the four top hospitalizing or death-causing drugs. By themselves, these statistics mean virtually nothing, as the DEA notes. Methadone and amphetamines are lower on the list.

In the past few years, Portland-based industry (heavy steel and pulp and paper primarily) have called in the SID for investigations into drugs being used in industrial plants. This compares favorably to the mid-west auto industry, where amphetamines and painkillers have been tacitly condoned by industry and union alike. According to Scott of the SID, heavy industry was seeing an increase in accident rate due to the use of the drugs "grass, amphetamines, barbiturates, and even heroin."

The Portland school system notes an increase in LSD "now that the scare over LSD has (unfortunately) subsided," says Leonard Schurr, Chief of Security for the Portland School District. SID's Scott notes that following marijuana, ritalin is perhaps the most commonly abused drug in the public schools. Ritalin enters the

drug traffic "chiefly from the kids' parents medicine chest, though some of it is through forged prescriptions and the like." Ritalin is also made available to students by family physicians with the rationale that a drugged docility will increase the "hyperactive" student's ability to learn. Unlike California and many other states, Oregon's schools do not dispense drugs.

Somewhat typical of the parental response to the use of ritalin, parents of seventeen school children in Taft, California have filed a suit against the local school district charging that their children are being forced to take the drug ritalin in order to attend school. According to an editorial statement in the *New York Times*, between 500,000 and a million children are affected by such a practice of ritalin use on children. The suit states that the side effects of ritalin include psychotic episodes, hallucinations, weight loss, headaches, nosebleeds, stomach aches, insomnia, nightmares, crying spells and sometimes permanent stunting of growth.

ONA hearing

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The North Portland Citizen's Committee said ONA should not make rules governing NA and that any group should be recognized. Liz Welt, speaking for the North Community Action Council, existing in the same territory as NPCC, proposed that the exclusive recognition of one group in each area be deleted. She said her organization has been told that it cannot obtain city contracts at that as long as NPCC holds contracts.

James Loving, Chairman of the Model Cities Planning Board, said all Model Cities NAs except Irvington voted to support ONA. Relating the concept of citizen's participation to Model Cities, Loving said, "The federal government realized there was an element of citizens who were not involved and wanted to pull in these people who were left out. They did not have the expertise, expectations, etc., and were depressed of some of their basic rights."

Loving said the ONA ordinance assures citizens of the right to participate and if it is rejected, small interest groups will develop as they have in the past, depriving the common citizen of the right to participate.

Loving expressed the opinion that much of the satisfaction is with the ONA staff. Also speaking to this point were persons from Mt. Tabor, Montavilla, and Southwest Portland neighborhoods.

Attorney Warren Deras questioned the constitutionality of the ordinance,

pointing out that if its benefits go only to selected NAs or their members, it discriminates against the remainder of the citizenry. He also cautioned that if the city enters into contracts and gives official recognition to these non-profit citizen groups, it becomes liable for certain of their activities. He questioned whether giving official recognition would make the NAs "arms of the state" and put them in a position of being legally liable to all types of civil rights obligations.

Don Bell, speaking as an individual, said he and others had been threatened by being told by Ms. Pedersen that NAs failing to be recognized could not receive city funds. "I do not see why the council should support a Bureau that is out intimidating people."

Commissioner Mildred Schwab, who supervises ONA, replied angrily. "Are you saying Mary is intimidating?" Bell said she had attempted to intimidate him and that he had overheard her attempt to intimidate others. Amid angry protests by Ms. Schwab, Mayor Goldschmidt asked Bell for a written report.

The Commissioners expressed some opinions, but set a continuation for Wednesday at 3:30, at which time they will make recommendations. Commissioner Connie McCready will introduce a substitute ordinance.

Commissioner Ivaric said, "I don't think it is the role of the city to control citizens...." If you have a question of funding, it is political. Recognition is a

threat that has been heard during this entire hearing."

Commissioner Jordan expressed his opinion that if benefits of the city were withheld from those whose organizations are not recognized, "It is clearly discrimination."

Africa

(Continued from p. 1 col. 6) wider perspectives, especially recognizing its links to high unemployment and poverty at home. Thus, unless there is new thinking about the total world economy we will too easily attribute the suffering of our own people to the "irrationality" of OPEC and by extension to the poor peoples of the developing world. In other words we will blame the victims. If only to protect ourselves, we must share our limited resources with those people in the Sahel who are worse off than we are. But more important, we must continue the educational campaign to alert the Congress and people of the United States to the larger issue of dangers and immorality of economic underdevelopment.

[Editor's Note: Dr. Elliot P. Skinner is presently the National Co-Chairman of "Relief for Africans in Need in the Sahel" and Chairman of the Anthropology Department at Columbia University, New York, and is the former Ambassador to upper Volta.]

Spanking discriminates

The United States Supreme Court has determined that spanking children by school staff members is not unconstitutional.

We believe this is a bad decision and hope it will not lead to a policy of spanking in Oregon schools.

The question of the right of the school to spank or of the parent to prevent it, the possible psychological and or social damage to be done, and the usual reasons for opposition to spanking are valid, but of more importance is the probability of discrimination against individual children.

It is too easy for the "bused" child, the one resented by students and teachers alike to be the object of physical punishment. It is too easy for the child who is culturally different, whether through misunderstanding or through prejudice. It is too easy for the poor and shabbily dressed child, the neglected child, the slow child, the emotionally disturbed child to become the class scapgoat.

Of course there are other forms of punishment that can devastate a child, but let's not add spanking to the arsenal. We believe young children can be corrected and should be corrected by their teachers, and that teachers must command the respect of their students. We do not believe, however, that the teacher who cannot control her third grade class will be aided in her task by the right to spank.

Discipline is an important aspect of the educational process and deserves more research and attention. Perhaps respect for the child, his family and his community, and a sincere effort to educate the child to the fullest extent of his ability would go a long way toward solving the problems of classroom discipline.

Support jobs for all

Augustus F. Hawkins, Representative from California, has introduced House Resolution 50, the Equal Opportunity and Full Employment Act, which, if passed by Congress, would guarantee the right to useful and meaningful employment to every adult American able and willing to work and would require the President to reduce unemployment to a temporary level of three percent within eighteen months.

The bill requires the President to submit to Congress each year a "Full Employment and National Purposes Budget" as a guide to meeting such national priorities and programs as conservation, development of natural resources, adequate health care, decent housing for every family, mass transit construction, promotion of small business and competitive private enterprise, and the elimination of poverty.

Job Guarantee Offices would be established to create and administer employment projects and develop jobs. All federal agencies would be required to act consistently with the provisions of the act.

The bill envisions the creation of meaningful, useful jobs, paying adequate compensation, so that every able citizen would have the right to be employed.

This is a revolutionary idea in an economy which is based on the existence of a large reservoir of unemployed or underemployed workers. It goes a step beyond the guaranteed annual income, in that it gives the individual the right to earn his own way through useful and satisfying work.



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