



We see the world
through Black eyes

Restore a community

Six years ago the state was reapportioned, rearranging the legislative districts. For some reason, known only to Secretary of State Clay Myer, who was in charge of the project. Albina became the center of the state, with all legislative districts in the state fanning out from a point at Union and Fremont.

Perhaps the people of Albina should have been happy -- it is not often that we are at the center of things; we are usually on the outside looking in. But we found that in this case, being at the center divided us into four parts. We now had four state Senators and four State Representatives -- more than any other neighborhood of course, but without a substantial voice in the selection of any of these.

No other neighborhood in the state was divided. In fact, no other city was divided. Other areas had the political clout to protect themselves but Albina was a political vacuum.

We don't think this could have happened in 1976. The days when one could ignore the Black community or control a few "leaders" for permission are over. The people have learned to make their voices heard.

We believe this division was purposeful, that it was designed to "divide and conquer" to leave us out of the political process. We see our neighbor in St. Johns call in their Representative and Senator when they have a problem. But who shall we call?

Now we call for a new reapportionment that will restore a community. Reapportionment can be accomplished by the legislator, and an adequate plan has been offered several times by Representative Wally Priestley (one of over four representatives). Never fear, this district would still be less than fifty percent Black, but it would represent a viable community, one that has political and social identification. We propose that the new district, approximating the Model Cities boundaries, has the experience and the structure to become a Model of democracy.

Renew the fight

This week is "Black History Week" in the nation's Bicentennial year. It is a time for assessment of the history of Black people in the United States -- the history of a struggle to be free. It is a time to renew that struggle, for the struggle of Black Americans will bring freedom for all Americans.

In the years of American History we have seen Black people at the vanguard of the struggles to bring liberation to all people. The fight against slavery, for voting rights, for women's equality, for the union movement, for full employment, and for the programs that would guarantee health care, adequate housing, full education, to all people -- all of these struggles have found Black's at the forefront.

Since its founding, Blacks have served as the conscience of the nation; yet Blacks are the last to benefit. We were counted as 3/4 of a man in the United States Constitution and still today we are treated as 3/4 of a man. Where are the benefits to Blacks in those movements for which we fought and died? The unions have shut us out; employment is for others; election fraud still steals our vote.

But the struggle must go on with renewed strength. But the struggle must not be a selfish one -- it must be a struggle for liberation for all people.

As we celebrate Black History Week we must remind ourselves that the strides that have been made by this generation were made possible by the sacrifice of our forefathers. It is easy to belittle those who lived in earlier times because they suffered hostility and ridicule to make a better life for their children.

We are also in a Bicentennial year -- a year where the nation celebrates its 200th birthday. Many Blacks are opposed to any participation in the Bicentennial since Black people and other minorities do not yet have the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. However, we have a right and a responsibility to participate in the Bicentennial observance...it is the ideal vehicle by which to make all Americans aware that Blacks have been an integral part of the building of the nation since the beginning and that we are not yet free.

The United States owes its Black citizens a debt and we must not be silent when we have the opportunity to speak.

Third World Wrap-up

by Roy Harvey

New World Economic Order Institution Established

The Group of 77 Non-aligned nations in their Manila meeting last week completed initial steps for instituting the new world economic order, forming a tri-continental headquarters in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Mexico City, and Conakry, Guinea. At the Manila meeting Peru seconded Algeria's President Boumedienne call for (1) the reduction of indebtedness for the Third World countries (2) an integrated global program for international trade (long term multi-lateral trade contracts, raw materials production) (3) transfer of technology from advanced sector for Third World development.

The leadership of this group is currently meeting in Paris (February 11th), in a reopening of the North-South Conference. The Group of 77 will meet in Nairobi in May, and in the United Nations in the Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) before that.

In spite of the fact that the implementation of debt moratoria was not begun following the Manila meeting, the international machinery has clearly been set up. It is significant that the Africa headquarters are in Conakry -- rather than Algeria -- this is a move toward involving Black Africa. Sekou Toure, president of Guinea, stated a month ago that his country would pull out of the OAU if that organization did not overwhelmingly recognize that direction of Africa. This is a move in that direction. Though February 10th the OAU itself recognized the People's Republic of Angola.

Southern Africa Upheaval

January 28th Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda proclaimed his country was in a state of emergency, due to the PRA's victories in Angola. The actual reason for Kaunda's efforts towards outright dictatorship is the collapse in the world copper market, and the cut-off of IMF credits. Kaunda is expected to impose 'draconian austerity' in order to get IMF World Bank loans. It has been the shut-down of industry in the industrial countries that Forces for the Liberation of the Congo, Zambia and Zaire, while the CIA and its agents push the notion that the cut off of the Benguela railroad is responsible (copper earns up to 90 percent of Zambia's foreign exchange). Kaunda's efforts to create a war atmosphere are backfiring, as students and laid off copper workers are pro-PRA. The *London Daily Telegraph* (January 30th) suggests the

likelihood of a coup attempt against Kaunda. Food prices (basic foodstuffs: meal, milk, rice, etc.) jumped 100 percent in Zambia, as well as fertilizer and other petroleum products.

In Zaire General Mobutu fears political upheaval due to the collapsing prices of copper -- (Bema mine workers are being laid off as one copper plant after another shuts down) and the returning Zairean troops from defeat in Angola. Much of eastern Zaire, according to IPS, is already in the hands of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo, headed by Antoine Gizenga (Gizenga was second under Patrice Lumumba, the Prime Minister of the Congo who was assassinated by the CIA in 1961).

In South Africa support among Blacks for the People's Republic of Angola -- and against the South African regime -- is so strong that it is openly expressed in that police state.

'Homocidal Maniacs'

The use of mercenaries in Angola has dominated coverage of the war this week, with one of the CIA-funded British recruiter-mercenary revealing his CIA connection and calling his leading mercenary 'a good soldier and a homocidal maniac'. Last week General Mobutu made noises to the effect that he would not conduit mercenaries into Angola through Zaire. This public move was in response to Senator Clark (head of the Subcommittee on Africa) determination that foreign assistance to Zaire is predicated on Zaire's cutting off the CIA-funded FNLA. Mobutu to brother-in-law Holden Roberto: 'It's over Holden -- you can either go to South Africa, or you can join Moynihan at Harvard, and teach African history.'

The State Department continues to hold out for some sort of coalition in Angola, but the PRA last week said this was 'fantasy' while *Izvestia* February 1st called the UNITA and the FNLA 'traitors to Angola'. The PRA army has taken the FNLA-UNITA headquarters Novo Lisboa (Huambo), now holding better than half of Angola.

Mexico suffers set-back

The fight in Mexico is one of implementing the new world economic order versus the right wing latifundist and the banking groups tied to the IMF-World Bank. President Echeverria

leads the pro-development forces in the government, refusing to offer up their populations for the genocidal labor-intensive public works projects in return for World Bank credits (virtually non-existent).

The president of Mexico was initially one of the leaders in the fight for the new world economic order, though Echeverria hesitated to organize and arm the peasantry in their land reform program, leaving the field open to the large land owners and their vigilantes to terrorize and break the peasantry.

The right wing, headed up by Finance Minister Mario Beteta (representing the IMF) and Interior Minister Moya Palencia, have met extensively with IMF representatives in the past two weeks, and have pledged Mexico's population (sixty million) to "work and austerity" through labor-intensive road building, full peasant debt repayment, and an expansion of the disastrous Yucatan

labor-intensive agricultural-hydro electric project.

Armando Labra, columnist for the Mexican Daily *Excelsior* writes (January 30th): "colonialist pressures of North American agencies and the IMF are attempting to take advantage of the crisis of transition of executive power in Mexico to deepen and extend economic and social dependence...the permanent penetration of the IMF comes paired with the retraction of productive expenditures and the retraction of the generation of socially and economically profitable employment."

Triagist (genocidalist) William Paddock predicted some years ago in his book *Famine 1975* that Mexico was destined to lose some forty to fifty percent of its population through starvation (along with many other Third World countries -- called the 'Fourth World'). It was the pro-development policies of Echeverria that stopped this genocide. With Echeverria now isolated from a working class and peasant base, with the Soviet Union still sitting on their thumbs ('contained') with regard to the extension of credits (allowing for a moratoria on dollar debt) and trade agreements (an embracing of the new world economic order), Mexico now again lurches toward genocidal austerity and the police state necessary to implement it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor:

One of the problems when a paper like the *Oregon Journal* exposes weaknesses in government funded programs like those operated by the Portland Development Commission, is that the articles do a good job exposing weaknesses, but fail to come up with a solution to correct them.

Dear Editor:

Inclosed you will find a letter that I sent to the *Oregon Journal* on February 2nd, 1976 at the time the *Journal* was headlining problems that have developed in the PDC's Grant and Critical Maintenance Programs. Reading the articles one can't help but get the feeling that the *Oregon Journal* is more interested in getting rid of the Program and the PDC than trying to improve the delivery of much needed emergency housing repairs.

Our members aren't so short that we have forgotten last years attack by the *Oregon Journal* on the PMSC and its leader Cleveland Gilcrease.

To date the *Oregon Journal* has not seen fit to print my letter in their Letter to the Editor section. I would appreciate it if you can find room to print it in your paper.

The thrust of the articles in your recent editions, for example, is to kill the program of Home Rehabilitation and to even destroy the PDC. Why don't you use the exposure to strengthen home rehabilitation delivery that is so necessary to all of us in Portland?

Whether we like it or not, the Portland Development Commission is the agency, by law, that must carry out programs in our city dealing with government supported housing rehabilitation and repair. It is the agency legally responsible in these matters every bit as much as the Portland School Board has the legal responsibility for the education of our children.

I have, as a member of the Sabin Community Association and the Sabin representative to the Model Cities Planning Board, sat through many meetings where problems of education in our schools were discussed, but have yet to hear anyone discuss these problems from the point of view of getting rid of the Portland School Board. I have heard this lots of time about PDC all over town.

At the insistence of neighbors interested in improving the quality of Portland education, changes have been made in the way the frequently reluctant School Board does things. The Community School concept is just one example of this. Changes should be made in the way the PDC carries out its programs when they are shown to have

weaknesses. Especially the Grant Programs or those like the Critical Maintenance Loans.

There is no reason why we cannot approach this problem, which is really two fold (one of combining benefits to low income recipients and the training of skills) in the same manner that we approach the training of doctors in our County Hospital. Future doctors, few of whom come from low income families, receive their training by practicing on the poor.

The key to the success of this program, is that the trainees are under constant supervision of some of the finest doctors in Portland.

I propose, as I have in the past when this question came up, that any PDC program involving grants, be used as a training program set up under the supervision of skilled mechanics from the various building trades. Retirees could be involved in this. These men should be placed on the payroll of the PDC or some funded agency with the responsibility of seeing that the recipients of the Critical Maintenance Loans and other funds in the form of grants get work performed on their homes in the manner of "Best Trades Practices." These men would have under their supervision paid trainees who would learn the various trades by working with these skilled men as they do the work on the recipients'

homes.

This will eliminate the problem we have today where a homeowner, with in many cases a bottomless pit of home-repair problems feeling cheated by a contractor who can't do much for \$1,500 to a home in the first place.

There is another aspect to this whole urban renewal program that the *Oregon Journal* should consider. In the past, as it will be this time, whenever the economy has been in a slump, one of the major methods of getting the economy moving again is through home building and remodeling. This work which involves every kind of commodity from concrete-lumber paint, etc. to refrigerators-rugs-drapes, etc. puts lots of people to work. For grant programs, dealing as they do with many hundreds of thousands of dollars, consider that every foot of lumber and bucket of paint is brought from some Portland store where the mark-up of profit is in no way discounted because the merchandise is used to fix a low income families home.

We should improve this program and continue to qualify as many neighborhoods of the city as possible. Then when the government finally begins to cut loose with funds for this work, Portland will be ready to use it.

One final word: If a *Journal* reporter will call on me at my shop office at 4306 N. Williams, I will be glad to take the time to show him or her some work on homes in the \$60,000 bracket that will make your heart ache. I only hesitate to include addresses in this letter so as not to embarrass individual homeowners who I can assure you are just as angry at their contractors as the homeowners mentioned in your articles.

Yours truly,
Herb Simpson

Wrong!

To the Editor:

There probably should be some exception to a statement in the *Portland Observer* Community Calendar of February 5th, 1976.

As a private citizen, I feel that the public should know that the above-mentioned calendar fails to consider that at least one area of Portland Public Schools has formalized plans. There might be others. Enclosed is an Area III brochure regarding February 1976.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Osly J. Gates



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