



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

No rate increase

Portland General Electric is asking for another rate increase. If the pattern is to continue, after a series of hearings in which public opinion is sought, the company will receive its increase.

Electric rates are already at the point where they are unfair to most consumers. We must not lose sight of the fact that in our society electricity is an essential for life. There is already evidence of elderly citizens becoming ill or dying from hypothermia caused by prolonged exposure to improper warm heating. It is getting to the point that persons on welfare, social security or with low incomes just cannot pay housing and utility costs and still have enough money left for food.

Utilities is a regulated industry. This state, through setting of rates, guarantees a profit to the companies.

The utilities are faced with higher wages and national costs and with building for the future. But a compromise must be made. Perhaps a reasonable solution would be to decrease the profits and not pay stockholders dividends in this period of depression. If the stockholders have faith in the capitalist system, they will hang tight and look for future gains.

Perhaps the nuclear plants should be built by the federal government as the dams were, and allow the utilities to purchase and distribute power. This seems to be a less costly arrangement.

If the utilities cannot find a way to provide their services at a reasonable cost the ultimate answer will be federal ownership. The fate of the private utilities lies in their own hands.

Join campaign now

The deadline for candidates filing for office has passed with no great surprise. The hottest races will be for Mayor of Portland, Secretary of State, State Treasurer and State Attorney General.

Now is the time for those persons who are interested in political participation but don't know how to get "in" to become involved. Every candidate needs help -- from writing speeches and talking to perspective voters to stuffing envelopes and delivering lawn signs. Not only is campaign work necessary but it can be exciting as well. And it is the best way to meet people and get on the inside of the political systems.

Oregon is an open state politically. Neither party is a closed society. Both are always looking for workers and it is surprising how easy it is to meet and know the candidates and the office holders. Oregonians have no excuse for thinking they can't participate or that they "don't know the right people" to gain influence.

This week the Multnomah County Democratic Central Committee is considering its new Affirmative Action program. The object of this program, which is a nation-wide endeavor, is to bring minorities and women into the party and to insure that they participate at all levels of decision making. The party needs and wants minority participation. Let us no longer say that Blacks are "left out", but let's take this opportunity to make our voices heard.

Another Point of View The Kremlin looks at Africa

taken from the *Chicago Defender*

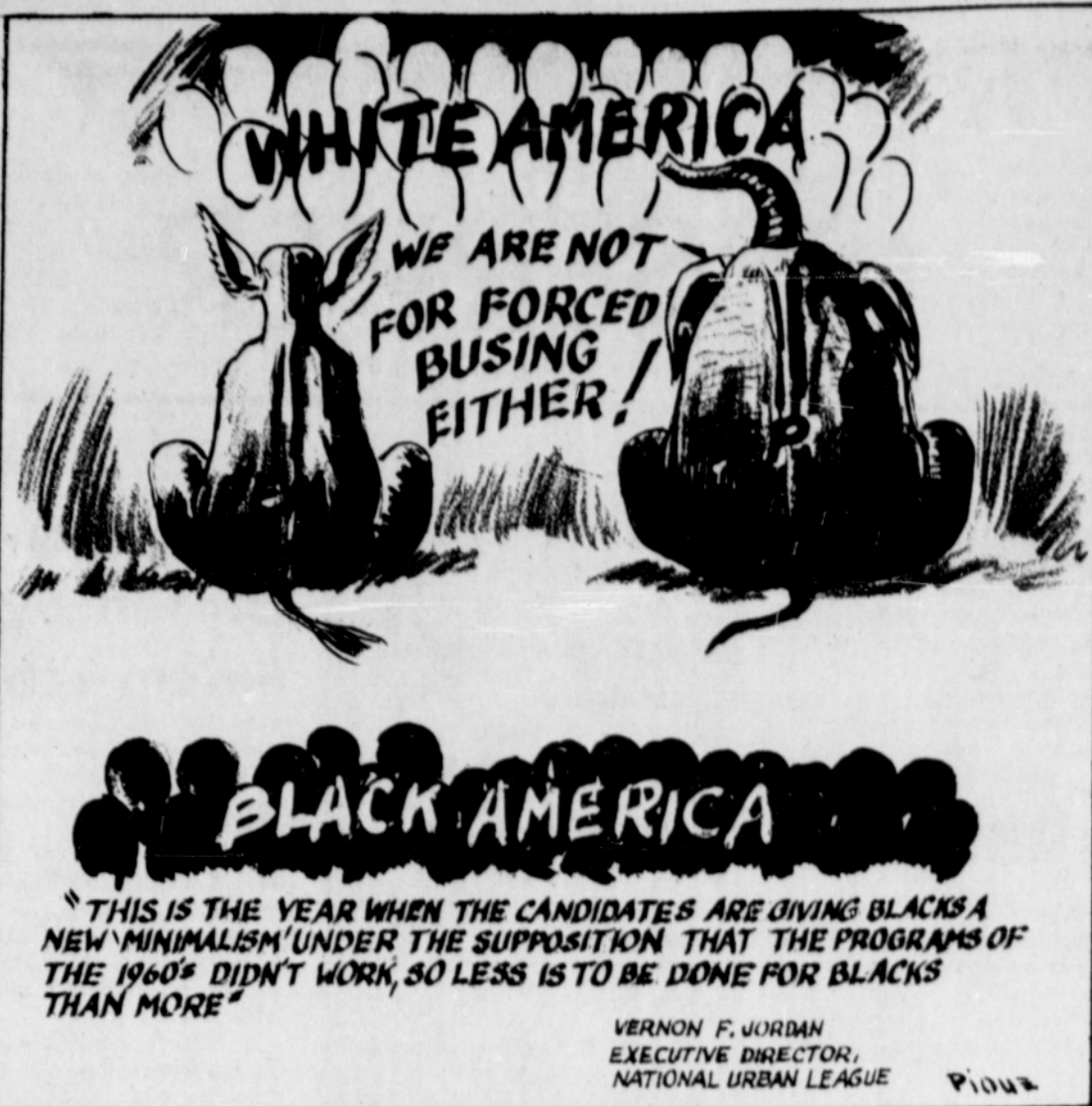
In his speech to the 25th Soviet Community Party Congress, Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev, hailed the successes of Kremlin foreign policy. He said the Soviet Union would pursue detente with "redoubled energy" while also continuing to support nationalist movements, as it has in Angola.

There is much to be read, especially in the Kremlin's commitment to nationalist movements. It is a warning to the Western powers who did not go to Angola's aid when it needed it, and to the United States in particular whose foreign policy has pushed Africa aside as a non-entity in the political world, that Moscow intends to continue to help African liberation forces attain their legitimate objectives.

The United States has failed to conceive of Africa as a nascent world power. It has looked upon the Black continent as a collection of poverty-stricken states with leaders lacking in capacity and vision to guide their destiny into a future more akin to the impulses of Western civilization than a continuity of internal warfare at the tribal level.

This misconception has virtually cancelled out the American influence in the land south of Sahara. Russia apparently entertains a different perspective of Africans. It sees them as having vitality and a great potential for economic growth and cultural orientation.

In Brezhnev's speech one can see a determination to help Africans become masters in their own house. Africans will accept that help without compromising their autonomy and their own political ideology. This can be done without endangering the peace of the world.



Abortion: A false issue

by Kenyon C. Burke

While watching the customary jockeying for position and attempts at manipulating public opinion that accompanies Presidential and Congressional races, one wonders why we continue to fall prey to false issues.

Law and Order, crime in the streets, bussing, and now abortion is being offered up by some special interest groups as a major campaign issue.

Most people in our country today are looking for executive and legislative leadership capable of dealing effectively with such gut survival issues as high unemployment, poor schools and health care, inadequate housing, fear of personal safety in our own neighborhoods and the affect of racism and discrimination.

We are searching for leaders who can understand and act upon complex problems of the energy crisis, a sagging economy, along with working toward a world that has more peace than war and more humanity than inhumanity.

One thing we don't need in our survival game plan is another false issue to distract us from keeping our "eyes on the ball." While abortion and its physical and psychological ramifications are not to be taken lightly, access to medically supervised abortion does bring about significant health advantages to individuals and their families.

Since the 1973 Supreme Court decision gave legal sanction to abortion, the maternal death rate and infant mortality rates have materially declined. Any attempt to interfere with a woman's right to personally make a choice on this crucial matter would reverse that trend.

The price of illegal abortion in the days preceding the Supreme Court's abortion decision was paid in the currency of women's dignity, women's health and even women's lives.

Though many paid the price, none paid it more often or more cruelly than minority groups and the poor. More than nine out of ten of those who died at the hands of incompetent practitioners in the days before abortion was legal were

Black and Spanish-speaking.

As serious and important as this subject is, we find it difficult to understand how and why a Presidential or legislative candidate's stand on abortion has anything to do with almost overwhelming problems of survival that we face today.

Indeed, in a pluralistic society such as ours, with many cultures, sub-cultures

lifestyles, special interests and values we can expect differences of opinions.

However, we must be alert to those who are single issue folks and would impose their value on all and keep us from focusing on the real issues.

Beware of false prophets among us for they are riding the abortion horse in our current Presidential and Congressional campaigns.

Questions for candidates sought

The League of Women Voters of Portland and Oregon Common Cause are organizing a series of forums or press conferences for Presidential Candidates, at which they will be asked to respond to questions on issues of concern to the widest range of Oregon citizens possible. This is part of the Common Cause Campaign '76 activities, and the League's Issues not Images program. Because in recent years, doubting that their concerns will be answered by any candidate, many citizens have turned away from politics and voting. The organizations are undertaking this program in an effort to change the conduct and content of political campaigning and to introduce new standards of integrity, responsiveness and accountability into campaigns.

A coalition of interested groups in the community have been asked to join with us to form the "Oregon Asks" Committee. Members include: Chamber of Com-

merce, World Affairs Council of Oregon, American Association of University Women of Portland, Agri-Business Council of Oregon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Junior League of Portland, Schools for the City, AFL-CIO, Oregon Consumer League, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Education Association and Associated Oregon Students Lobby.

Participating groups are being asked to submit the priority questions of their members. Newspapers, television, and radio stations will ask their readers, viewers and listeners, "If you could ask just one question of the Presidential candidates, what would you ask?" The questions will be compiled into a representative list best reflecting the mood of Oregon citizens. These will be used to question Presidential Candidates who come to Portland in April and before the May 25th Primary election.

Ballot

If you could ask the Presidential Candidates just one question, what would it be? "We ask what you ask," says a non-partisan group of Oregonians who wants to know your questions.

We'll ask the Presidential Candidates to answer the questions Oregonians want answered. We'll compile them into a representative list reflecting the mood of Oregonians by April 1st and release them to the media.

Write: "Oregon Asks", Box 02458, Portland 97202.

"Oregon Asks" participating organizations are: Common Cause of Oregon, League of Women Voters of Portland, American Association of University Women, Junior League of Portland, Agri-Business Council of Oregon, Chamber of Commerce of Portland, Schools For The City, World Affairs Council of Oregon, AFL-CIO of Oregon, Oregon Consumer League, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Oregon Environmental Council, Associated Oregon Student Lobby, and Oregon Education Association.

The question that I would like to ask the Presidential Candidate is:

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Notice

Prison reform and community centered corrections programs will be discussed at a 7:30 p.m. March 19th, Friday Night Special at St. Andrews Community Center, 4940 N.E. 8th.

Jerry LaBarre, an attorney and instructor in criminal justice, and Rita Clinton, director of the Portland YWCA's Women's Prison Project, will be the featured speakers.

This is the third in a series of six "Friday Night Specials" at St. Andrews to inform parishioners and community members of issues and to lead to community organization and action.



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