

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Vol. 6 No. 21 Portland, Oregon Thursday, April 8, 1976 10c per copy



Brown joins Carter staff

Georgia State Representative Ben Brown has been named a deputy director of former Governor Jimmy Carter's national campaign for the presidency. Brown, a Black, is a graduate of Clark College.

Carter announced Brown's appointment at a Real Estate Awards Banquet in Atlanta, which presented a service award to Jesse Hill, Jr. president of Atlanta Life Insurance Company. In paying tribute to Hill, Carter said, "Jesse Hill and others have fought to liberate Blacks and have, in the process, liberated whites as well."

In commenting on his political campaign, Carter said, "my most solid voters are Black voters. In Florida I carried every single precinct that was majority Black."

"It would not have been possible fifty years ago for a Georgia governor to run for president because he had a stigma because of the race issue."

Carter also received a sizable Black vote in New York and Wisconsin, Tuesday. Carter has gained respect and sold support among Blacks in his native state, Georgia.

State Senator Bill McCoy, Senate District 8, was elected to the Democratic National Committee this week. Also elected by the Oregon state convention were Franklin Lamb and Mitzi Scott.

Senator McCoy, who currently chairs a sub-committee of the Interim Committee on Human Resources which deals with delivery of services, is seeking election to the Senate post he now holds.

Commission on Aging jeopardized

Controversy over the City Human Resource Bureau's aging program is coming to a head as the Bureau moves to eliminate the City-County Commission on Aging, headed by Osly J. Gates.

The City-County Commission on Aging was established in 1968 to serve as a planning and advocacy board for the elderly. A staff was hired and programs established. Under Gate's leadership, the Commission reached a high of \$800,000 annual budget and a staff of 112 persons. The Commission created the senior center concept and established six centers throughout the county.

In 1974 the Commission was transferred from county control to the city. Commissioner Jordan, at that time stated his belief that the Commission should not operate programs but should be a planning body, shifted the programs to the aging division of the Human Resource Bureau. Bob Holdridge was hired to head the department and approximately 100 staff members were transferred from the Commission to the city department.

Gradually the Commission staff was cut to the current three members. Now Holdridge, reportedly in trouble with his advisory board, the Area Agency on Aging, has turned his attention to the elimination of the Commission.

Recently the AAA advisory board refused to approve the 1976-1977 plan presented by Holdridge, presenting it to the City Council without their approval. Among the sections not approved were budget items and the award of contracts

to former contractors without allowing new potential customers to bid.

Homemakers Upjohn, a national company that has been in Portland since 1969, is among those that will protest that aspect of the plan. Currently Homemakers Upjohn has contracts with the State Welfare Division to provide homemakers, with the Veterans Administration to provide nursing and homemakers, and with several hospitals to provide staff relief.

Upjohn asked for an opportunity to submit a proposal but were told the contracts would go to previous contractors. A spokesman told the *Observer* that contracts with Holdridge had led nowhere and that they feel they got a "run around."

Members of the AAA board are expressing the concern that they do not have adequate input, that the plan was written by staff and presented to them without adequate time to make changes.

On April 30th, Holdridge presented a plan to the AAA advisory board that would have eliminated the City-County Commission on Aging. The advisory board rejected the plan, saying that Holdridge was out of line, that he is not a policy making person, and that they should not take it upon themselves to attempt to eliminate a statutory commission.

The City-Council on Aging was created and appointed by the Portland City Council and the Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners. The City-County Commission on Aging, in

time, established the AAA advisory committee as an arm of the Commission.

One member claims that no written minutes are produced so that action is not taken in motions that have been posed or the action is altered to fit the staff's idea rather than the board's.

Earlier this week, Ed Frankel, Director of the City Bureau of Human Resources, meeting with control agencies (senior centers) that if the City-County Commission were eliminated, center budgets could be increased by ten percent.

On April 6th, Holdridge asked contract agencies to appear at the city budget hearings on April 12th and fight for the increase (elimination of the City-County Council on Aging).

Commissioner Charles Jordan told the *Observer* that he has not determined that the Commission should be eliminated, but that in light of funds shortages its role should be examined. If it is a duplication of services, the money could better be spent on direct services to the elderly than those on administration, he said.

One option Jordan will present to the Council is to move the director City-County Commission on Aging to his office, directly responsible to him, to serve as an advocate for the poor to whom they could go directly with problems or complaints. The other two staff members would be eliminated. He has not made a decision as to the possibility of retaining the Commission, and is exploring this matter further. (Please turn to p. 2 col. 4)

IRS harassment of Black business, politicians alleged

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The "Nation" magazine has reported that the *Delta Democrat Times* newspaper of Greenville, Mississippi "was routinely audited" from 1954, when the paper endorsed the Supreme Court's desegregation edict, to 1972, when its publisher, Hodding Carter, died.

Carter's son, Hodding Carter III, the paper's current editor, said, "We always assumed it was harassment, but there was no way to prove it. Reputable accountants have always handled our books. We never had to pay adjustments, but God, what a nuisance."

"Nation" claimed it had found numerous instances of IRS harassment of

civil rights figures "at a relentless pace." The magazine said that "The South's small Black businessmen - tavern owners, shopkeepers, grocers - have been pursued even more than political activists." It added that these people, who tend to be self-made and often are semiliterate, "often err out of ignorance."

"In the last three years alone," "Nation" reported, "more than 50 prominent members of Black-liberal alliances in Deep South states have been audited or investigated, lied to, harassed, divested of many dollars in attorneys' or accountants' fees. And others with little money to tax have been deprived of countless hours of personal time spent reporting their returns."

Those whose tax returns have been audited included Georgia State Senator Julian Bond; eight Black elected officials from Atlanta; the presidents of the Mississippi and Alabama NAACP's; five Black legislators from Memphis including Emmett and John Ford; Morris Dees, the leading civil rights attorney in Alabama; and five of thirteen Black Alabama legislators.

In Mississippi, the IRS audited 26 members of the predominantly Black Loyalist Democratic Party and its New York fund raiser; the President of the ACLU; and secretaries of the Delta Ministry. In Tennessee and Georgia, the books of the ACLU are under study by the IRS.

The "Nation" charged that "the statistical probability that such a pattern of audits could be legitimate is highly unlikely."

The authoritative Federal Tax Guide Reports, in its February 15, 1974 issue, indicates that about one in every 57 Americans was selected for audit in 1973. An IRS official in Boston said there is less than a two percent chance that the average citizen would be audited.

The article charged, "In Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama, the IRS functions, in effect, as an arm of political systems which are trying by economic means to keep Blacks out of power."

Do You

- Need health insurance but can't afford it?
- Worry that you could not pay for medical care in an emergency?
- Wish you and your children had a regular family doctor?

Project Health is a new county health program that is looking for families and individuals who need comprehensive health.

Project Health is a unique program that provides health services for low-income people by providing health insurance through the private medical insurance companies - Kaiser, Oregon Physicians Service, Cascade Health Care and the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center.

"There is nothing to distinguish the person whose insurance is paid for by Project Health from those where insurance is paid for by the employer or union," Lee Wilcox, Health Planner said. "Each is issued a card, like everyone else's card, and takes it to the clinic or his doctor. Patients will no longer have to

fear embarrassment or differential treatment because they are poor."

The project is aimed at people who are not on welfare but whose income does not allow them to purchase private health insurance. Guidelines for eligibility are flexible, with income, size of family, and prior obligations factors in determining eligibility. Project Health will pay the bulk of the insurance premium, but the family will be expected to pay a small percentage of the insurance payment, depending on economic factors and choice of the insurance company.

The coverage provided is more comprehensive than most plans. Coverage includes: unlimited hospitalization; laboratory tests; physical therapy and other treatments; full payment of all

doctor visits; family planning and maternity benefits; treatment of psychiatric, drug or alcohol problems paid up to \$1,000 per year each; full payment of hospital emergency care; full payment of routine examinations; full payment of eye exam and glasses; payment for prescription drugs.

Applications are now being received. "Those families being sought are among the 40,000 working poor in Multnomah County." We want the normal families with the ordinary amount of sickness," Wilcox explained. "No insurance program can exist if all its clients are already sick. We want to enroll people, get them on a regular medical routine - examination, inoculation, etc. - and prevent illness as much as possible." Public health nurses will be available for follow

up and health education.

The second activity of the project is the Episodic Program, which is for those who are not enrolled in the prepaid insurance. It is designed to cover emergency needs of those who otherwise could not pay for medical care. A number of clinics and doctors are authorized to provide care following determination by eligibility. Call 248-3354 for referral.

Project Health is funded with county money that was previously used to provide care at the Multnomah County Hospital, Federal and state funds.

Eligibility is determined by income, family size and other economic factors and can be determined quickly, without a lot of forms and "red tape." Persons who think they might be eligible are urged to apply by calling 248-3354.

Roots of war at Pine Ridge

[Editor's Note: Pine Ridge Reservation, the site of the 71-day confrontation at Wounded Knee three years ago, is again setting a precedent for all other Indian reservations in this country.]

With a new tribal president taking office April 12th, the Oglala Sioux are moving to dismantle the system of political power and land use that has guaranteed domination - not only of Sioux lands but of those of other tribes across the country - by an alien white culture. For the first time in 100 years, the Sioux are at a turning point in their quest for self-determination.

Yet the violence of the last four years continues. Since the election on January 27th eight people have been killed on the reservation.

In this two-part series, David Corkery, the only national newsmen on the reservation during the recent wave of terror, presents the situation that has plagued Pine Ridge; the second looks at the new nationalism that has emerged among the traditional Oglala Sioux, now demanding their rights as a sovereign nation under their 1868 treaty with the United States.]

by David Corkery

PINE RIDGE, (PNS) - Three years after the confrontation at Wounded Knee, the visitor to Pine Ridge Reservation is still confronted with the shocking sense of entering a war zone.

The reservation's population of 15,000 is totally polarized between traditional,

often full-blood Sioux on one side, and whites and their Indian allies - near white mixed bloods who share the white culture - on the other.

Few on either side dare go anywhere unarmed or alone, especially at night. Bounties on the heads of traditional leaders are common, beatings routine.

Wambles, a town of 500, was recently terrorized for 24 hours by a caravan of mixed bloods who firebombed homes, riddled them with bullets and murdered one person. The town has formed its own sixty-member armed patrol to provide its own security.

Since mixed-blood Tribal President Richard Wilson was defeated by traditional-supported Al Trimble in a federally-supervised election January 27th, eight traditionalists have been killed: three shot, two beaten to death and three killed when their car was forced off the road in a high-speed chase.

At root, the struggle is between the Sioux nation and the U.S. government. Pine Ridge Reservation, a land-locked area the size of Delaware, is an American Rhodesia.

All government and police power and ninety percent of all land is controlled by a white and near-white minority.

Children of the traditional Oglala Sioux are taught from birth that they are an occupied people, a sovereign nation that never joined the United States and that - by an 1868 treaty between the Great Sioux Nation and the U.S. - legally remains independent. (The Oglalas on

Pine Ridge Reservation are one of five bands of the Sioux nation.)

Landless now and virtually jobless (the unemployment rate on the reservation is seventy percent, but worse for full bloods), with an average life span of 42, the traditional Oglala people have lived for decades in defiance of U.S. policies barring practice of their religion, forcing Christianity and the English language on their children and imposing a form of government totally at odds with traditional tribal ways.

Only those who have assimilated to white ways - usually those with little Indian blood - have been able to manipulate the white man's government and land policies and escape his prejudice to rise to power and wealth. For traditional full bloods, both race and culture - an unwillingness to abandon their roots and adopt white ways - have prohibited that path.

But now, after three years of simmering war that has cost an estimated seventy lives, the reservation is at a turning point. Al Trimble's election as tribal president, widely heralded as a path to peace for the reservation, in fact threatens to alter the entire power system which has frozen land, federally funded jobs and power in the hands of mixed bloods and whites.

As a result, outgoing President Wilson's supporters - called his "goon squad" by the traditionalists - are striking back. And when Trimble takes office this (Please turn to p. 3 col. 1)



Doing their part to help with this year's Camp Fire Girls community service project to collect usable items for The Salvation Army Men's Social Service Center are, from left, Rachel Sneed, Jael Reese, Terry Lyn White and Kim Jenkins, all from Boise school and members of the Camp Fire Girls group

led by Mrs. Ernestine Broadous. They are getting a preview and encouragement from Brigadier Clinton Irby, director of The Salvation Army Men's Social Service Center, whose work therapy program helps some 500 men annually. (Please see page 7.)