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Harris charges police harassment

Joe Harris, candidate for the office of Mayor of Portland, has charged the Portland Police Bureau with harassment and brutality. Harris, who lives at 823 N.E. Mason, has made police brutality in the Black community a major issue of his political campaign.

Harris was arrested Monday evening and held overnight in jail, then released Tuesday afternoon on \$332 bail.

Harris said he was stopped by Portland Police for failure to stop for a red light at Northeast Union and Fremont at about 10:00 p.m. Harris, who claims that he did not run a red light, denied the officers request that he take a balloon test to determine if he had been drinking. According to the officer, Harris then returned to his car and drove home. As he attempted to enter his front door, he was wrestled to the

floor of the porch and handcuffed.

Officer Maroney verified Harris' account of the incident and agreed that Harris told him a number of times that he is a candidate for mayor.

Harris was arrested and the breath test administered, showing a blood-alcohol reading of .03 percent, not enough to indicate that he was intoxicated. Harris denied that he had any alcohol that day.

A community meeting to discuss alleged police harassment of Harris will be held Friday at 1:00 p.m. at Matt Dishman Center.

Harris claims that he was injured by the police as he was being arrested and that he was struck by a Multnomah County Deputy Sheriff at the court-

house. Following his release from jail, he was seen by a physician.

Harris has been a critic of the Portland Police Bureau and of Police Chief Bruce Baker. He filed charges against the police department in 1975, following an arrest in August on the charge of "criminal activity involving drugs." Harris charged that the police gained entry into his home by indicating that one was his brother, Roy, and arrested him based on allegations of another person that he had used cocaine.

Harris' mother, Mrs. Roy Harris, Sr., said her son had been at her home watching television before the incident and previous to that had attended an Albina Action Center meeting. She indicated that her son had never had a drinking problem.

Emanuel employees file charges

Two nurses, Naomi Wrighten and Wilma Graham, and a housekeeping employee, Jesse Blocker, Jr. have filed charges of racial discrimination against Emanuel Hospital.

The suit, filed in federal court in Portland, asks \$5 million in damages. Defendants are Metropolitan Hospitals, Incorporated, the parent body of Emanuel Hospital; Emanuel Lutheran Charity Board, doing business as Emanuel Hospital; and Red Top, Incorporated, which holds the contracts for housekeeping services.

Mrs. Wrighten alleges that she was suspended by the hospital on March 12th after publicly charging the hospital with racism. Mrs. Graham alleges that she was suspended on the same date. Both state that they have been denied promotion and that they have been harassed by hospital employees because of their concern for Black patients and employees.

Blocker alleges that he was hired in the sanitation and garbage section of the housekeeping department, and that although he was transferred to the

position of floor waxer, he was denied an increase in salary. Blocker charged that he has been harassed and has been the subject of racial slurs in connection with his duties as a shop steward for Local 49 of Service Employees International Union at Emanuel Hospital.

Following the original charges in March, Emanuel director Roger Larson appointed a fact finding committee to investigate the charges of discrimination against Black employees and patients. Mrs. Wrighten and Mrs. Graham were suspended, according to Larson, to work with the committee. The committee asked to be relieved of their responsibilities and was dismissed, but the two nurses have not been called back to work.

Answering complaints by the press and other individuals that the Emanuel Black Employees Organization had failed to document cases of discrimination against Black patients, Mrs. Wrighten explained to the *Observer* that many of these instances of discrimination were in the area of patient care. "Nursing care requires touching the patient.

That can be a caring and loving type of touching, it can be pushing and pulling on the person. It can give the patient a feeling of well-being or it can leave an atmosphere of not caring. Some of the white nurses don't want to even touch the Black patients."

Mrs. Wrighten explained that some members of the white nursing staff are known for their neglect of the patients. "When you put something on a patient and come back the next day and it hasn't been changed, you know something is wrong."

Mrs. Wrighten maintains that white patients do receive proper care at Emanuel, that Black nurses would not be allowed to neglect white patients and retain their jobs.

"Many of the Black patients are too sick or too afraid to complain," she said.

Having taken the problem to the hospital administration last fall and not receiving the response they desired, Mrs. Wrighten and the EBEO took their plea to the public. Mrs. Wrighten states that she now intends to pursue the matter through the courts.



Left to right: Director, John Brookway; program narrator, Dr. William Harris; producer, Pat Wheeler; and OEPBS photographer, Ed Geis prepare to film another segment for the television documentary "Freedom Frontier". This program explores the history of Blacks in Oregon from the early 1870's to the mid 1950's. It is through the use of old motion picture film, photographs, dramatic re-enactments, and interviews that the story is told. (Please see page 5, column 2).

Current addresses NAACP

Gloster B. Current, Director of Branches for the NAACP, will speak to the Portland Branch at 3:00 p.m. Sunday. The meeting will be held at Mount Olivet Baptist Church, 116 N.E. Schuyler.

Current, who is responsible for coordination and direction of the local branches, is second to Roy Wilkins in

the NAACP hierarchy. Mr. Current is in Portland for the General Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Ellis Casson, president of the Portland Branch, invites the public to hear Mr. Current speak. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Committee pushes Brooke for VP

A nationwide movement was kicked off in Pittsburgh to push the selection of Senator Edward Brooke (R-Mass.) as a Vice Presidential candidate on the Republican ticket with the announcement of the committee to nominate Senator Ed Brooke Vice President of the United States.

The committee's formation and its campaign strategies were made public at a news conference during the Pittsburgh Conference of the Council of 100, an organization of Black Republican leaders from across the country with a large cross section of its members in attendance, the Council of 100 endorsed the committee's plans as announced by Burrell L. Haselrig, Jr., the committee chairman and host for the Council of 100's Conference.

Haselrig, a prominent businessman and general contractor in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, said in the announcement, "Senator Brooke is the person who is right for the position. He is eminently qualified. He is a man of unquestionable integrity and moral character, free from any taint or wrongdoing."

The committee chairman added that the committee was formed specifically to push the nomination of Senator Brooke as Vice President of the United States. "We have the explicit endorse-

ment of Senators Hugh Scott and Richard Schweiker in this endeavor," Haselrig said.

Flanked by members of the Council of 100 and its president, Samuel Jackson, Haselrig added, "Senator Brooke is not seeking the nomination, nor has he asked us to seek it for him. If the party wants him - if President Ford wants him, he can hardly refuse." Jackson, formerly Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, is an attorney in Washington, D.C.

The goal is to obtain a total of two million signatures by the August Convention - 40,000 from each of the fifty states.

Convention delegates are included also in the committee's strategy. The committee plans to contact convention delegates and others prior to the convention as part of the project.

The newly-formed committee feels that Senator Brooke can help to solidify and broaden the Republican party. Haselrig said, "Senator Brooke can help solidify the party and bring with him the leadership and dynamism that will give the Republican party the kind of boost it needs to put the Ford/Brooke team in the White House in November. As a group and admirers, we are urging his nomination."

Gilcrease attends White House ceremony

Cleveland Gilcrease, executive director of the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee, was one of 35 invited guests who attended the swearing in ceremonies for Samuel R. Martinez, the new director of the Community Services. President Gerald Ford swore Martinez into office in the Rose Gardens of the White House.

The President stated, "Sam Martinez brings to Washington more than a decade of experience in dealing with public policy on many many levels. Sam Martinez and I share a personal commitment to help the poor and disadvantaged Americans served by their Community Services Administration. Its programs demand strong and effective and very imaginative leadership. I am fully confident, Sam, that you will provide that leadership."

Martinez said during brief remarks that, "I believe I understand and appreciate the complexities of providing meaningful experiences for the poor who want a better life for themselves and their families. In terms of resources, the Community Services Administration plays a small role in this total effort, but a giant role in providing the delivery systems and serving as a catalyst and advocate for the programs that serve our disadvantaged citizens. Our national resources are abundant, our human resources equally so, and coupled with proper initiatives, significant achievements are indeed possible. My convictions are firm and I will apply my energies with dedication and sincerity."

Gilcrease returned to Washington for the ceremony, after having presided over the NACD 12th Annual Conference at the nation's capitol. The Conference was attended by 2,000 delegates from across the country. Gilcrease said, "We carried to the national administration a petition on behalf of the poor of this nation. Requesting the immediate

enactment of legislation to address the many ills which beset nearly 40 million Americans."

"The petitions," Gilcrease said, "Carried nearly 300,000 signatures of poor people and their supporters throughout the nations, and others are still coming."

Keynote speaker at the NACD Conference was Senator Edward M. Kennedy who stated, "I wish to express my appreciation to your (NACD) President, Mr. Cleveland Gilcrease, for convening this conference, which can serve to remind all America that the struggle against poverty still has a long, long way to go."

"This budget (current administration) reduces education, manpower and social services by \$5 billion. And, this budget cuts \$3 billion from federal health programs."

"The Administration's political rhetoric thunders across the land with demands for more spending - even wasteful spending - on national security; but where is the concern for the security of the elderly to walk from their homes to the market, where is the concern for the health security of our people and the security of a quality education?"

Another major speaker at the NACD Conference was Arthur A. Fletcher, Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States for Urban Affairs. Fletcher spoke at the annual conference banquet saying, "The Civil Rights Legislation, like Court decisions, are not self enforcing. Unless there are some human entities involved, committed to paying the price of enforcing the law after it gets on the books, an individual shows how to use the legislation, his budget and the human resources so that it makes it happen, it'll never happen."

Fletcher continued, "I'm not opposed to law and order, I just want to start enforcing the law and bring about some (Please turn to p. 2 col. 4)



Senator Edward Kennedy and Cleveland Gilcrease

African independence nears: Colonial influence remains

The agreement of France to grant independence to its last colony, Afars and Issas, has a historical significance that has been largely overlooked.

The Afars and Issas is not only the last French colony in Africa, but its independence will end direct rule over Africa from Europe. Rhodesia is technically a British colony but has not been ruled from London for so long that its dependence is merely legalistic. Namibia is occupied by South Africa, but the colonial power is white majority regime in Africa. South Africa is not independent state that is rejected by Black Africans for its system of apartheid. Spain has finally evacuated Western Sahara, ending its long colonial history in Africa.

The Afars and Issas are the last full-fledged colonial territory in Africa and its independence will end the 400 year dominion of the continent by Europe.

The final liberation of Africa will be a

boost to the idea that all people have a right to govern themselves and to the organization of the Third World nations as a political and economic block.

The liberation of Africa will not be complete until Namibia, Rhodesia and South Africa are freed from the control of white minority governments that impose racist practices on the Black majority.

Over 400 years of a dehumanizing colonial control, which pillaged the natural resources of the continent, will have a lasting effect on the new nations. Even today, the colonial heritage is a dominate influence in national and inter-continental affairs.

Africa was partitioned and divided among the nations of Europe without regard for natural boundaries or ethnic groups. The border problem has been a serious one as new nations have gained their independence. Kwame Nkrumah advocated the establishment of a continental government before the boundaries

became hardened by the new nationalism, but this concept has not been followed. When the Organization of African Unity was formed in 1963, the new African states agreed to accept permanently the boundaries drawn by the European powers. Where logic, political experience or ethnicity would have dictated shifting national boundaries, the new nations have expended their resources to defend borders they admit are arbitrary.

Another evidence of the adherence to the colonial heritage is the degree to which African states still identify politically, economically and culturally with their former rulers. The patterns of institutions - schools, courts, laws and modes of behavior differ between the former French and English colonies.

Nothing shows the influence of the colonial heritage better than the economic dependence or close cooperation with the former European "master."

About 30 percent of Nigeria's trade goes to the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom is the main trading partner of most of its former African colonies. The same is true of France and its former colonies. Even Libya's trade is largest with Italy, from which it gained independence in 1951. Even those nations which won their independence through violence have maintained economic ties.

A sense of nationhood has taken root in the more than forty states. Whereas there was free travel through Africa, now borders have been closed with entry only by permit.

Rivalry for lending favors from the industrial nations is another block to African unity. Unfavorable price movements for imports and exports have hurt their economies, making them more dependent on overseas capital. The outstanding debt of the African countries trebled between 1965 and 1973.

Capital financing is not the only problem of industrial development. African nations lack the mass population to support domestic marketing. Africa's share is about 5 percent of the world's industrial production, and it has about ten percent of the world population, distributed over a land area of about twenty percent of the world's land surface. More than half the African states have less than five million residents and only four have more than twenty million. Added to this is an overdependence on particular products.

The area in which the African nations have made the most radical departure from their colonial masters is in government. The colonial powers had been repressive, and they did nothing to promote a republican form of government, and in many instances handed over independence to puppet successors.

Today there are three African states that permit official opposition - Botswana, Gambia and Mauritius. Eighteen

states are under direct military rule; three (Egypt, Algeria and Zaïre) are military governments in civilian clothing; two (Morocco and Swaziland) are absolute monarchs; and the remaining twenty are one-party governments.

Although the independent nations of Africa face a myriad of problems stemming from their colonial past, none would deny that independence has not been of value. Despite the influence of the colonial heritage, which has reduced the desire to maintain an indigenous culture and has produced prejudices, the African nations have succeeded in keeping the OAU alive. Last year fifteen nations established the Economic Community of West African States to standardize tariffs and trade procedures in the West African region. There is also the six-nation West African Economic Community, set up in 1973, the Central African Economic and Customs Union, and the Maghreb Permanent Consultative Committee in northwest Africa.