



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

Profit motive controls Africa policy

In the face of growing insistence of the Black nations of Africa and the Black people of Rhodesia and Namibia for Black majorities government, the United States has finally begun to attempt to define an African policy.

Secretary of State Kissinger's recent trip to Africa, during which he announced U.S. support for majority Black rule, is a response to the threat of Soviet influence in Africa rather than a judgement based on morality.

Kissinger chose to avoid any endorsement for Black majority rule in the Union of South Africa. The reason for the oversight is American investment in South Africa. Currently U.S. investment in white-majority-ruled South Africa -- nearly \$2 billion -- surpasses U.S. investment in all of Black Africa.

Fifty of the 100 largest American companies operate in South Africa, and in spite of recent liberation of Angola and Mozambique and a push for the overthrow of the Smith government in Rhodesia, American investments are increasing.

Trade with South Africa also is increasing. U.S. exports to South Africa rose to \$231 million in the first two months of 1976. U.S. import of South African goods has remained at \$65 million.

This investment by U.S. multinational firms, of course, is the deciding factor in U.S. foreign policy. The U.S. imports Rhodesian chrome, violating a long-standing United Nations sanction against trade with the Smith government. Congress has repeatedly refused to repeal the Byrd amendment, which legalizes the trade. Opponents of repeal are Union Carbide and Allegheny-Ludlum.

A test of the new Africa policy will be whether Kissinger's stated support of a Black government for Rhodesia will have any impact on Congress, or whether the U.S. will continue to support the Rhodesian economy.

Of even greater interest is South Africa. If Black liberation comes to Africa, it must also come to South Africa. It is here that we will see the U.S. suddenly lose its new interest in liberation and self-government, and make its last stand for colonialism.

U.S. economic interests are far greater in South

Africa than in Rhodesia. Last January U.S. firms supported a small group of congressional leaders who lobbied to repeal the U.S. Export-Import Bank policy forbidding loans to South Africa. They argued that without Eximbank credit, millions of dollars in jobs would be lost to foreign competitors. One of the firms leading the fight to repeal the Eximbank loan ban was Fluor Corporation, which will build a facility to extract gasoline and fuel oil from coal. When completed, the Fluor project will make South Africa the world leaders in coal gasification technology.

American foreign policy is being controlled by multinational corporations whose interest is in profit and not in the furtherance of freedom. The American government must come to terms with the fact that when the chips are down its Black citizens, who comprise over one-fifth of the population, will not allow a continued subjugation of Black Africa.

Lee Brown best choice

Congratulations to Multnomah County Board Chairman Don Clark, for appointing Dr. Lee Brown as Director of Justice Services. Brown will take office June 1st, following the resignation of Jake Tanzer, who is running unopposed for a judgeship.

Clark appointed Brown as County Sheriff a year ago, making good his word that Blacks will receive equal consideration for high appointed positions in his administration.

Brown is well suited to this position and has shown his ability and judgement in his year as Sheriff. He has reorganized the Sheriff's Department and has attempted to bring law enforcement people closer to the community through the team policing plan and through community service projects.

Brown has the educational background and the practical experience to direct and coordinate the county's many corrections programs.

We congratulate Commissioner Clark for his appointment, and assume that the Board will concur with his selection.

LETTERS Women now

To the Editor:

This is in response to Hazel Hays' recent letter regarding the employment of Black women at the Bureau of Labor. I wish to inform you and the community that the Civil Rights Division presently has one investigator, and by May 17th will have two investigators, who are Black females. The Bureau of Labor, as are all state agencies, is bound by the rules and regulations of the Personnel Division of the Executive Department. We are prohibited from hiring individuals who do not first pass the initial screening of the Personnel Division.

As to the point Ms. Hays incorrectly raises in her letter about the Civil Rights Division administering affirmative action for Black women, it should be noted that since the Executive Department is directly under the Governor's Office, and since the Governor's Office is responsible for affirmative action through Mr. Harold Williams, I suggest that any concern about affirmative action and the state personnel rules and regulations be reviewed with Mr. Williams.

In this connection, the Bureau of Labor, and particularly the Civil Rights Division, has one of the best records of any state agency in terms of affirmative action compliance and minority composition in our work force.

Sincerely,
Bill Stevenson
Labor Commissioner

Nuclear ban

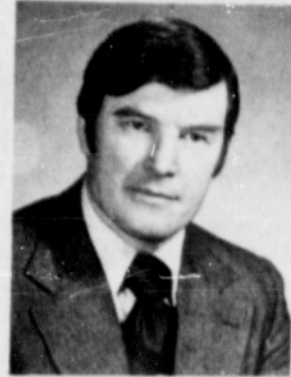
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a major role in promoting solar energy. The power energy could, for example, install solar power units in homes. The homeowner would then pay a small monthly charge, just like a utility bill, until the solar unit was paid off.

"On the local level, the city of Portland can have a significant impact on reducing energy waste by changing building, zoning and other city codes. Right now, the city is conducting a pioneering study to identify such energy savings. I will study the final report carefully, and will recommend to the Council code modifications which will increase energy conservation. The city must continue to take the lead in promoting mass transit. It should also encourage the MSD's plan to generate energy from municipal wastes, a practice that is being tried successfully in many parts of the country.

"As I see it, passage of Measure #9 can be the incentive to begin some of these vital moves. More is at stake here than the future of nuclear power. Measure #9 gives every Oregon citizen an opportunity to make a choice. We can go on as before, continue to waste energy, and eventually face an energy shortage far more serious than the last one. Or we can start to look at the future, look at our options, and make a decision to head off shortages by beginning now to conserve energy.

"It is human nature to do little until faced with a crisis. But Oregonians have taken the lead on crucial issues many times in the past. I have faith that they will do so again."

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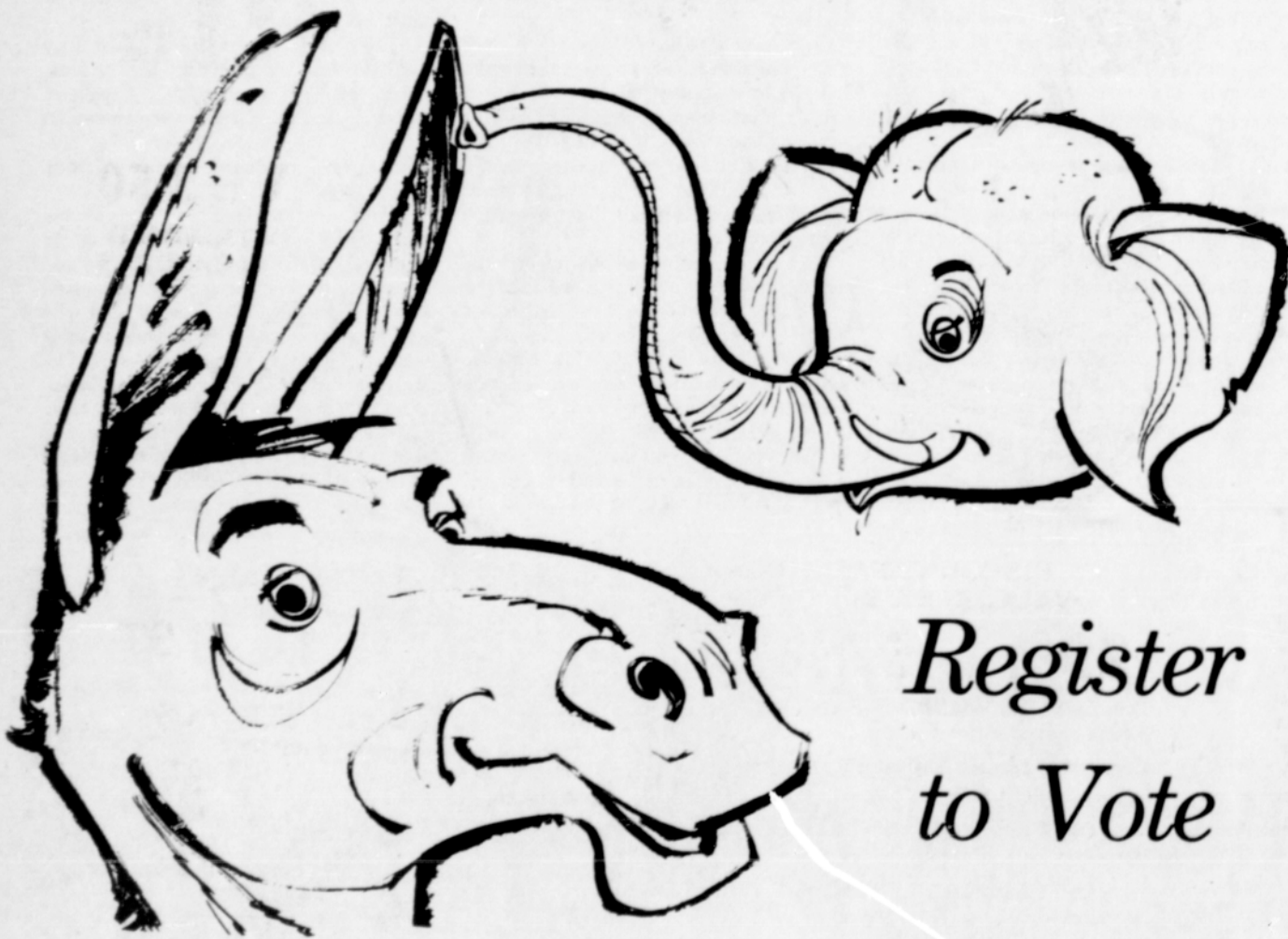
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