



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

Go to the people

The Portland School Board has decided to hold another election in May to pass a three year operating levy. This levy is designed only to continue the current program and to allow for inflation.

A four year levy was defeated on January 11th. There was much mixed feeling and confusion expressed by school board members, and some bitterness over the narrow defeat of the levy, but there was little analysis of what actually went wrong. Some observers have blamed the low voter turnout due to icy weather and others have blamed high taxes and lack of interest.

School Board member Wally Priestley presented statistics that demonstrated a decline in voter support aside from the low turnout, that there was a lower percentage of favorable votes in those districts that usually support school measures.

Priestley suggested a series of public hearings be held throughout the district to ask the people for their thoughts and ideas on the education system.

In listening to the people, there does seem to be a great deal of misunderstanding about the school district's program -- the old question about which subjects are essential and which are "frills".

There are parents who feel their children are not receiving an adequate education and rumors of large numbers of students graduating in spite of not being able to read and write.

Some of these people say openly that they will not support the schools until they can see where their money is going.

Public education is in trouble across the state and across the nation. If the public schools are to receive the financial support that they need to provide sound educational programs they are going to have to get their message to the people.

It is true that there are school advisory committees and area advisory committees, but many members of the public either do not know when these meetings are held or believe that they are controlled by a few active members or by the district.

It is a problem to get public input; all agencies find it difficult. Sometimes meetings are held and no one attends. But we believe a series of highly publicized meetings held throughout the community would bring an understanding of the district's problems to the public and would help solicit the good will and support of the voters.

It's up to Bell now

The Senate has confirmed the appointment of Griffin B. Bell to become Attorney General and he has joined the Carter cabinet.

This appointment was the most controversial of President Carter's appointments and met the most opposition in the Senate -- because of Bell's mediocre record on Civil Rights. After six days of hearings and many angry exchanges there still is confusion over Bell's past role in the civil rights struggle.

Senator Edward Brooke (Rep.-Mass.) said there are "great gaps" in the record and he unsuccessfully attempted to refer the nomination back to committee. Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem.-Mass.) said Bell did not "exercise leadership in the development of civil rights law at a time of critical and rapid change."

Bell has been sworn in as Attorney General. President Carter named him as the best qualified person he could find for that position. Whatever his past failures, it is now the responsibility of the Attorney General to use his office to vigorously pursue equal rights and opportunities for all people. He will be watched carefully and if he fails, it will be the President's prestige that suffers.

Watch South Africa

Prime Minister Ian Smith has pulled out of the Geneva Conference discussing the future of Zimbabwe, refusing to discuss terms for handing over control of his government to the Africans.

This was to be expected. Most Africans and many British did not believe that Smith would give up his government and peacefully bring about majority rule -- Black rule.

We predicted when the talks began that Smith would use this period of negotiation to build up his own military strength to prepare for the war that will surely come.

It is still possible to salvage the Geneva Conference, to force Smith back to the negotiating table, but this can only be accomplished by South Africa and the United States. The U.S. must put pressure on South Africa to intercede with Smith.

If guerrilla warfare becomes necessary to free Zimbabwe, as the Africans have assumed it will, it will spread to South Africa. The South African government has the most to lose since it will soon be the only white controlled nation on the continent and cannot stand alone for long. The US multinational corporations have too much at stake in South Africa to stand by and watch its destruction.

We can predict intensified guerrilla warfare in Zimbabwe and an increased political intervention by South Africa.

Violence in America

by Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

Copley News Service

On Thursday, January 6, I sat intently at my television and watched "Violence in America" along with 55 million other Americans.

I could hardly resist calling the network to comment on the tremendous gap in the explanation presented. Though the program was introspective and thorough, in its thoroughness the gaps were evident and appalling.

My lasting impression of Detroit was that if there is urban violence, it is Black. This is disturbing and particularly frustrating because of two overriding factors that were omitted.

First, today in urban America, high crime rates accompany poverty. Cities with high crime rates consistently share one characteristic with Detroit: high unemployment. In March 1976, Detroit had an unemployment rate of 11.4 percent. Among young Blacks, trapped in urban America, the rate is well over 50 percent.

Daily, television portrays the "good life" to which most Black youth can hardly aspire. For them, legitimate jobs are few and far between. Idleness compounded by frustration and anger often leads to violence.

Second, the reality of drugs and violence in America. Detroit is the drug capital of this nation. But Detroit is not alone. Recently it was reported that in Los Angeles 40 percent of the income-producing crimes are drug related.

There are between 110,000 and 120,000 persons addicted to heroin in California. They require 15 tons of heroin a year. It is paid for, dearly, by all of us. It adds up to one California resident in 40 who is a victim of a drug-related, income-producing crime each year.

Violence in America is concluded with a portrait of a teen-ager called Benji, a handsome Puerto Rican who looked like a cherub but who displayed vicious and cold emotionless anger. He is part of the cult of violence in the gang world. His greatest desire is to stay high on drugs.

Somehow the part drugs play in violence was not emphasized. If we really want to, we could put a stop to drug traffic.

If we are willing to enforce strong treaties with our neighboring countries and if our neighbors to the south had necessary resources to destroy and monitor the development and production of heroin and opium, it could be done.

The final part of the program, for anyone who stayed up that long, was the discussion by a group of panelists. I wish we had heard from some criminologist in addition to the one expert, Dr. Marvin Wolfgang.

The statement was made that as societies become industrialized they become more violent. Nothing could be

further from the truth. We have watched countries as vast as China industrialize and end up crime free. China had depended upon opium as an important part of its economy, but it was able to eliminate narcotic traffic.

I don't recommend shooting landowners who grow opium, as the Chinese did. But there are other ways.

What I'm saying is that we can stop violence. With effective programs to put to work those 40 to 50 percent of urban teen-agers combined with a commitment to eliminate drugs, the results would be

dramatic. But, ultimately, the underlying theme throughout the program must be accepted. If we allow our children to grow up on a steady diet of violence through television, they get an attitude that violence is natural and acceptable.

Maybe the program "Violence in America" is the first step to stop the glorification of violence in our entertainment. Maybe we will be able to turn on our TV one night and find that every program is no longer the chronology of the life and times of the criminals among us.

Meet Tri-Met's Driver-of-the-Month.

When our riders like their driver the word gets around. We think that's part of the reason there has been a steady increase in ridership on Gary Mendenhall's #42 Southwood Park line. Gary is no "old-timer," but in his four years as a driver, he has seen vast im-

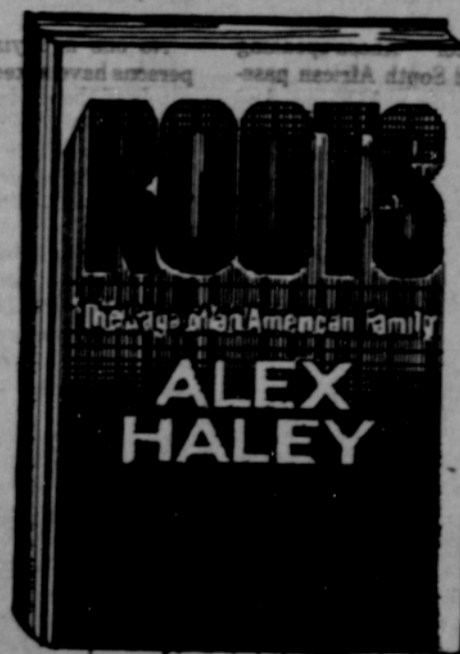


provements on his favorite line. "When I first drove this route," he says, "one bus provided hourly service. Lots of days we'd lose a whole trip! People really appreciate the 25 trips they now get every weekday."

Better service for more people.



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Human Rights

(Continued from p.1 col.6)
situation in a number of countries that receive U.S. aid.

The human rights pressure groups supporting their efforts in Washington and through extensive national letter-writing campaigns include Amnesty International, a number of Protestant and Catholic-related working groups and a network of former anti-war groups called the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy.

Perhaps the most decisive component of the human rights lobby, however, consists of former political prisoners and others whose direct experience with repression in Latin America makes them compelling witnesses to the policies of U.S.-backed regimes.

Among the most active is Isabel Letelier, widow of former Chilean ambassador to the U.S. Orlando Letelier, whose death in a bomb explosion last fall in Washington was attributed by some to the Chilean secret police.

Another is Juan Ferreira, son of former Uruguayan senator and presiden-

tial candidate Wilson Ferreira, whose family was driven out of its country by death threats and other harassment. A third is Olga Talamante, a young U.S. citizen who was tortured and held a political prisoner in Argentina for 16 months during that country's rightward slide into a military coup.

"Our feeling," Talamante says, "is that as the facts come out on Argentina, South Korea and other regimes, people will more and more resist the use of their tax money to support them."

Meanwhile, in expectation of the coming showdown, many of the governments in question have already moved to undermine their critics and mobilize U.S. public opinion in their favor.

Chile released 300 political prisoners in a well-publicized move prior to Christmas. Other governments such as Argentina, Bolivia and Uruguay quickly announced they would follow suit. And shortly after that Argentina's Gen. Jorge Videla told a specially invited group of American journalists in Buenos Aires that continued U.S. aid was necessary to fight leftist subversion.

Church investments

(Continued from p.1 col.6)

banks, and the credit line was not renewed. The current resolutions are the first major effort by churches since that time to stop loans to South Africa.

The Morgan Guaranty resolution was filed by the Episcopal Church, which owns 15,000 shares of stock. Joining in the Manufacturers Hanover Trust resolution were the Episcopal Church (11,380 shares), Union Theological Seminary (7,000) and agencies of the United Church of Christ (109,884).

The Adrian Dominican Sisters and the Dominican Fathers, Province of St. Albert the Great, filed the Continental Illinois and First Chicago Corporation resolutions. The Adrian Sisters own 400 shares of Continental Illinois and 3,000 shares of First Chicago stock. The Dominican Fathers own 10 shares of each.

Filing the Citicorp resolution were: Eastern Province of Servites (4,300 shares), Franciscan Friars of the Atone-ment (3,400), General Assembly Mission Board of The Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (4,000), The Grail (600), Loretto

"A 'No' averts seventy troubles." Indian Proverb



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