



We see the world
through Black eyes

More pie in the sky . . by and by?

A news release issued by the Oregon Association of Realtors and the local HUD office describes their joint signing of an Affirmative Marketing Agreement as a symbol of Oregon progressiveness. If that document (which was conceived in 1975) represents progressiveness to them, and if the people of Oregon have to depend on that document for substantial enforceable equal opportunity in housing, then we had better be prepared for more of the proverbial pie-in-the-sky-by-and-by.

Two aspects of their action represent particular reasons for concern: first, the lack of local community input into the process and secondly the affirmative Marketing Agreement document itself.

In regard to local community input, a number of questions could be raised but let's just look at one. How many local groups or agencies that are generally considered to be concerned about fair housing were allowed to preview the document and offer comments on it? Precious few, if any at all. Instead of symbolizing progressiveness, does not this kind of paternalistic approach symbolize that once again the people whom this agreement is ultimately intended to benefit will be ignored in the process of establishing fair housing practices?

Regarding the document itself, the specific questions about who will be the major beneficiaries of this agreement are too numerous to describe here. If you are interested, just try and get a copy from HUD.

However, we should point out a few of the problems. On page two it states that the Board of Realtors will place an advertisement in "a newspaper of general circulation . . ." once each quarter. It is hoped that this will be changed to specifically include minority media, since the purpose is to reach minority people.

Also on page two it states, "Each member (all realtors signatory to this agreement) shall strongly encourage their sales personnel, agents and employees to comply with this Agreement and with Fair Housing Laws." Should not members of this group require such compliance under penalty of expulsion?

But since the agreement does not spell out sanctions, how can it possibly work? This is a critical point when one correlates this with the fact that in a later part of the document (Section VIII) HUD allows all those signatory to this agreement "shall in lieu of submitting an individual affirmative marketing plan or executing the Nondiscriminatory Certification" to simply make reference to the fact that he is participating in the program described in the Agreement. Now when all this is added to the fact that in Section VB it states that "Each member (all realtors signatory to the Agreement) will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the progress of his firm's affirmative marketing procedures . . ." Draw your own conclusions; it sounds, on the face of it, that HUD is pulling back.

If all of this is being done in good faith, but the participants have simply made a few errors -- then at least some clarification is due. And in this age of citizens participation, it is no longer considered "progressive" when local government officials, public and voluntary agencies, and local citizens are not made a part of a process whose intention is to address a social justice issue like fair housing. It's up to you, HUD and Oregon Association of Realtors.

Please don't help us

We witnessed it in the sixties and here it comes again: the phenomenon of the fanatical far-lefters looking for a cause. As if poor people and minority peoples and other oppressed peoples don't have enough problems, in addition they are all too often burdened with fanatical hangers-on.

The scene at Lewis and Clark College Tuesday night was another illustration of a lesson that most Black activists learned in the sixties -- that the International Socialists, the Revolutionary Student Brigade and similar groups have nothing in common with the struggles of Black people. They have shown little real understanding of the issues we face. In their doctrinaire arrogance, they demonstrate the same kind of paternalistic elitism that we refuse to tolerate.

After all this time it's interesting to note that their tactics are the same; they've learned nothing new and their only interest in our cause is to use us.

From the Legislature

by Rep. Gretchen Kalsary

SCHOOL FINANCE MEASURE-- "SAFETY NET" DEFEATED

The Oregon Legislature turned its sights to other school finance proposals following the defeat of Ballot Measure #1 at last Tuesday's special election. Defeat of the school measure, in an election characterized by a low voter turn-out, brings into focus two bills passed by the House by large majorities. House Bill 2040 and House Bill 3209 are currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Revenue and School Finance, chaired by Senator Vern Cook.

House Bill 2040 is a major increase in the amount of property tax refund payments people will receive under the Homeowner's and Renters Property Tax Relief Program. In passing this bill, the

House recognized the heavy burden of taxation on property owners and updated the 1973 refund schedule to account for inflation.

House Bill 3209 is the product of the Governor's Task Force on School Finance and the work done in the House Committee on Revenue and School Finance. It represents a major revision and improvement of the Basic School Support formula which provides state monies to local school districts.

The measure increases State support to 40 percent of net operating expenses of schools. Another measure, House Joint Resolution 68, is a constitutional amendment which puts expenditure limits on total school budgets, but permits slight increases with raises in the cost of living. Legislative leaders indicate that House Bill 3209 and HJR 68 could provide the "fundamental school finance reform" necessary for the efficient operation of the state's schools.

HOUSE "CORRECTIONS PACKAGE" DEALS WITH TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

This past week the Oregon House dealt with eight bills designed to address concerns in the criminal justice system in Oregon. The bills include tougher sentencing laws for felons, mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes, restitution to victims of criminal acts, revision of certain parole practices and tougher laws relating to the use of a firearm during the commission of a crime.

The corrections measures are the product of the House Committee on Judiciary, which examined proposals to improve the criminal justice system developed by individual legislators and by the Interim Committee on Judiciary.

NOTE: The eight measures include HB 2011, 2012, 2013, 2309, 2248, 2250, 2472, and 3041.

From Senator McCoy

Landlords and tenants may no longer need to carry all of their grievances to a small claims or district court. Often people are on their own to obtain the necessary legal advice prior to any court action and because a great portion of the public have little or no education in legal matters they never attempt to seek remedies. SB861 would allow the Consumer Services Division to act as an arbitrator-referee between a landlord and tenant while they arrive at an agreement out of court. The Consumer

Services Division have no legal powers in handling complaints and the results of any outcome must be obtained from mediation between the consumer and businessman. If either party can not or refuse to make any adjustment the Consumer Services Division would then refer the complainant to the Small Claims Court. The purpose of this bill is to conserve time and energy for both parties; eliminate possible unnecessary costs especially for marginal groups who cannot receive legal aid, yet can not

afford the cost of an attorney and avoidance of retaliation by either party. Senator McCoy sole-sponsor of SB861 states the bill would not change the present Landlord-Tenant Act but would provide an alternative to the present system of reconciling disputes.

If you have any special concern relating to Senate Bill 861 please write: Senator William McCoy, S209 State Capitol Building, Salem, Oregon 97310. Or call toll free: 1-800-482-0290.

The Nation

NEW YORK -- When President Carter names Mrs. Axie Taylor Merton to the \$51,000-a-year post of Treasurer of the U.S. and Director of the U.S. Mint, she will become the first Black woman to have her name appear on U.S. currency. During Reconstruction, the late Mississippi Congressman Blanche K. Bruce served as Registrar of the Treasury as later did Bishop William T. Vernon of the AME Church.

The Urban League's Vernon E. Jordan received the Alexis de Tocqueville Society Award at the United Way of America's Volunteer Leaders Conference recently in Atlanta. The award, established in 1972, recognizes people who have given outstanding service to the voluntary movement in the United States and to recognize the value and

importance of voluntarism to the nation.

Former Secretary of Transportation, William T. Coleman, Jr. is a very, very busy man. Since leaving the Dept. of Transportation he has rejoined the NAACP Legal and Education Defense Fund of which he is board chairman. Last week he joined the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers, the largest law firm in California as a senior partner. With about 210 lawyers, the firm has offices in Washington, Paris and Los Angeles. Coleman has also rejoined the board of directors of Pan Am and become a director of IBM, PepsiCo, Amex and American Can.

When the White House released its complete salary schedule last week, three Blacks were among the top salaried. They are Martha M. Mitchell, special assistant for special projects, \$51,000 a year;

Laurence Bailey, deputy assistant for intergovernmental affairs, \$47,500, and Valerie Pinson, associate for congressional liaison (House), \$42,500.

U.S. Judge Edward Weinfeld has dismissed a complaint alleging that leading commercial banks in New York City discriminated in hiring against Blacks, Hispanic people and women. He found that the suit failed to establish direct injury to conspiracy. Suit was brought by the NAACP and NOW and three other organizations.

Harlemite Ray Robinson, who left HUD for the U.S. State Department leaves June 6 for his first assignment as a Foreign Service Officer in Panama. His wife, Darien, and daughter, Kim, are going with him.

Letters To the Editor

Support school plan

To the Editor:

Your editorial of Thursday, May 12, 1977, in my view, does a disservice to the Portland School District's voluntary desegregation program and to efforts of the Portland School Board of Education to not only maintain its efforts, but to make continued and meaningful progress toward the elimination of racial isolation

as required by the laws of the State of Oregon. I would urge you to attempt to correct the false impression given by the editorial on recent Bd. of Ed. action which made approximately \$167,994 available to attract more majority students to Jefferson and Adams High Schools. Your editorial stated that this action "has nothing to do with desegregation." We feel that this action is consistent with and directly responsive to the District's requirements to eliminate racial imbalance which existed at Jefferson

and to prevent racial imbalance from occurring at Adams. As you are aware, the District also attracts majority students to Early Childhood Centers and to primary grades in support of desegregation. We are responding to a special need with this new high school effort. It is our hope that it will be successful and that the community will support this action. Let me try to help you further understand how this action and the funds are responsive to desegregation.

First of all, your article states: "Why call these desegregation funds?" You state further, and I quote:

"Desegregation funds should go to aid minority students in white schools, or white students in minority schools -- but to white students in white schools? Strange."

We find this a very puzzling statement and apparently it is in error. The guidelines for the Title VII Emergency School Aid Act Project, for example, specifically requires that desegregation funds be spent on both white and Black students in affected schools. In other words, we are required not to spend funds on students of only one race but must spend the funds on both races of students in learning situations together.

We hope these facts about Portland's Public Schools' voluntary desegregation program will prove useful in our mutual desire to keep the community informed and appropriately served on this difficult social issue.

Sincerely,
E. Shelton Hill
Title VII Parent Advisory Committee
Member

Joan Vranizan
Title VII Parent Advisory Committee
Member

(Editor's Note: We have no question about "desegregation" funds going to majority white schools which receive minority students, for the assistance of the minority students and their white counterparts. We have no question about "desegregation" funds being used for white students transferring to racially isolated schools or for their fellow students. One of the greatest failings of the desegregation program, one which is partially addressed by the Title VII project, is the lack of preparation of the transferred students and the students and staff of the receiving schools.

We do question the use of "desegregation" funds for the use of the white students staying behind in their predominantly white schools. This is not "desegregation."

We would support additional funding for schools that are in need because of falling enrollment, poor achievement, or other factors -- but we would question calling this "desegregation."

We have always supported "cross-bussing" or the transfer of white students into racially isolated schools and are glad to see that this type of recruitment will increase. We hope that this move is successful so that the school district's Black children will no longer have to bear the burdens of desegregation alone.

Institution dehumanizes Black men

Dear Editor:

My name is Dee Williams. I'm an inmate of the Oregon State Penitentiary. More importantly, I'm a Black man confined in a white racist institution. An institution whose foremost goal seems to be to dehumanize me and the other Black men confined here.

It's necessary that you understand that I'm not speaking merely as an individual, but rather as one voice of all the Blackmen confined here as well as the numerous other hell holes called prisons. I ask that you lend an ear and listen to just some of the problems that we are faced with as prisoners and Blackmen.

It is said that we have been placed here to be rehabilitated, to be corrected of some negative element in our personality but such is not the case, for instead we are simply taking up space in what can be called a human warehouse. Prison is indeed a hard experience, one that is made worse by the conditions here. The Blackmen in Oregon's penitentiary receive the leavings, we are expected to accept the token displays of the so called rehabilitation programs, by this I mean that when all other spaces are filled we are then sprinkled in to make all seem even. Blackmen make up 24% of the prison population, but is there a recognizable percentage of Blacks in the transitional release programs? The answer is No.

The Blackmen here cannot be optimistic about making parole for they are faced with four people who have negative backgrounds in so far as Black people are concerned people who have no interest in Blacks, other than to kill them mentally and spiritually.

The Board consists of 5 members, only one is qualified to relate to Blacks, he has only one vote so in many cases, his vote is negated, made void in any meaningful

way.

We are asking that you the people in Albina lend us your support, we are asking that you out there help us to clear our heads of the bitterness self doubts and all other negatives that aborts our attempts to be successful, productive citizens.

As tax paying Oregonians, we hope that you will see the need to ask why things are like they are here in this place. We hope that you will ask and seek answers as to why Blackmen are sentenced to such out of pocket time, why the parole board continues to destroy families and hopes.

We have no voice from behind these walls, and if we speak about the wrongs that happen here, we are threatened with being put in the hole or being transferred to some other institution far from our loved ones. The intimidation is made quite clear: "Shut your mouth, or else!"

Yes, we need help here, we need the support that only can come from our own people. It is my hope that some of you will be concerned enough to reach out, to lend us your support. Watch our backs so that these people will stop killing us.

Uhuru!!

Dee Williams #37433

Notice

People in Prison are in a social vacuum. Before they are released they need to start thinking realistically about their place in the outside world. We try to provide this release orientation. If you want to help, call the 7th Step Foundation at: 233-2442.



ALFRED L. HENDERSON
Editor/Publisher

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