



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

Governor's plan misses the point

Governor Bob Straub has asked that the Economic Development Administration waive the requirement that each grant awarded in Oregon contain at least ten percent set-aside for minorities.

The motive of the Governor - we are sure - is a sincere desire to insure that minorities get their ten percent. The Governor would allow political jurisdictions that apply for the grants to designate certain projects or portions of projects for minority business and excuse the prime contractors in other projects from including minorities.

For example, a county building ten bridges could set aside one bridge for minorities and the prime contractors in the other nine bridges would not have to include minority sub-contractors.

Not only does that smack of segregation, but it

leaves the minority company in a position to be cut off by financial institutions or supplies so the job can't be completed satisfactorily. Then we hear the old, "We told you so."

One of the important by-products of the EDA plan to include minorities in every project is that it will help bring minority construction firms into the mainstream of the industry. The Governor's plan negates that potential.

On this basis, we must assume that the EDA Regional Office will deny the Governor's request.

Those who wish to do something to assist minorities - like the Governor and the School District - would do well to consult those minority people before they develop their plans.

Parents oppose plan

(Continued from P.1 Col.6)
at Jefferson.

4. The recruitment of students for magnet programs at Jefferson be supported and pursued aggressively by school administrative personnel.

"The process" of integration must involve the entire administrative/academic/parent/student community in order to be truly representative. Thus, we of the Jefferson community, non-white and white alike, urge rejection of the current proposal on integration. In its stead, we suggest, urge, that a task-force be selected which would include concerned members of the Jefferson community, to plan a comprehensive integration program that will involve and be acceptable to federal, state, district, and community representatives.

The eighth graders coming out of the Jefferson feeder schools are 75 per cent white, yet the school population is only 47 per cent white, indicating that many white students are going to Benson, Monroe and other majority white high schools. Jefferson school personnel say that if students living in the area were obligated to attend Jefferson, and if those accepted by Benson and Monroe reflected the same percentages accepted from other high schools, the enrollment problem at Jefferson would not exist.

Sarah Cogan, speaking for "Schools for the City", expressed concern about the impact of the plan on the Boise and King neighborhoods and urged a delay until representative groups from the Black community have the opportunity to study the plan and give their opinions. Mrs. Cogan also angrily advised the board that she was distressed that this important issue was placed last on the agenda so it would be discussed at midnight and without proper media coverage.

Don Fuller, representing the Portland Chapter of the National Association for

Community Development, explained that one of the purposes of federal funding for desegregation is to involve parents and citizens but the school district has not met this objective. The Educational process and outcome of desegregation are what is important and they are being questioned, Fuller added. The Black community has not been involved and no documentation of educational results from the existing desegregation program has been offered with the plan.

Vesia Loving, parent from the Boise area, said the district has played around with desegregation for twelve years and has been using minorities to achieve their goals. "It is time to look up and recognize that we are fed up. We must have a truly integrated system and that means cross busing, not a one-way system." She pointed out that when the upper grades are removed from schools, busing is no longer voluntary. Stating that the Black community was not informed about the proposed change, she said, "We are tired of being the last to know what is happening to us."

Mickey Harris, a Jefferson parent, said that Black children sent in small numbers to white schools are "racially isolated". Costella McCullough, with children and grand children in King, told the board that in effect they are finally ordering Black students good programs and Jefferson and then taking them away. Jefferson has been involved in a "Turn-about Program" designed to offer better educational programs as well as to build school pride. "I would like to see you pick it apart and come up with something the community will accept."

Bob Write, speaking for the Committee for Equal Education for All Children, asked that no changes be made until the entire community has been involved in planning a comprehensive integration program that is acceptable to the community and that the School Board meet with the committee and other interested

community groups to develop a Community Involvement Program to involve the community in the planning process. Reverend John Parker stated that the Albina Ministerial Alliance has endorsed the Committee's proposal for a planning year.

Claudia Fisher, a King parent, asked why the district is now using the 18 per cent minority average to deny Black students admission to some schools. She sees concern for numbers without real regard for what it is like for a Black child in a school where he is not wanted. Stating that she would not send her white child to a school where there were only two or three whites in a class, she feels that stipulating that Blacks be in small numbers is unfair and that it isolates them.

Newman replied that Wilson and Lincoln were selected for King and Boise students because integration has the greatest success where "you connect between low-income and middle-upper income".

Gladys McCoy, the only School Board member other than Newman who was allowed to comment, stated that she appreciated the people staying through the long meeting to be heard. "At this point, I tend to support the proposed plan because it is educationally sound and legally defensible," she said. Stating that she has always opposed one-way busing, she said she believes it is the best option for the present time. "You have to consider the options."

Warning that delaying the decision could remove federal funds from the district, she said that the district needs to deal with the bad things that are happening to Black students who are transferred - these are "crucial issues that I would expect we would deal with at a later date."

The School Board will again address the issue and make its decision on July 25th at 7:30 p.m. at the administration building, 7th and Clackamas.

HEW finds PPS not in compliance

Because of the interest in and confusion over the letter of non-compliance sent to the Portland School District by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Observer is printing that letter and the District's reply below.

Dr. Robert W. Blanchard
Superintendent
Portland Public School District 1J
637 N.E. Clackamas
Portland, Oregon 97206

Dear Dr. Blanchard:

We have received your school district's application for assistance under the Emergency School Aid Act (ESAA) and have reviewed the district's compliance with the eligibility requirements contained in the statute and the implementing regulations.

I.

On the basis of this review, we have determined that your district does not meet the requirements for eligibility for the reasons described below.

45 CFR 185.43(d) of the ESAA regulations provides in pertinent part:

No educational agency shall be eligible for assistance under the Act if, after June 23, 1972, it has had or maintained in effect any practice, policy, or procedure which results or has resulted in discrimination against children on the basis of race, color, or national origin, including but not limited to:

...

(4) Imposing expulsion, suspension, or corporal or other punishment, in a manner which discriminates against minority group children on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

A.

The Seattle Regional Office of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) conducted an on-site review of your district on April 12-15, 1977. After analyzing the information received during that review we have determined that your district's application of suspension procedures discriminates against minority group children in the following manner.

OCR Seattle Regional Office staff were advised that the primary purpose of most suspensions was to effect a conference with the parents of students whose conduct warranted the suspension. The purpose of the conference is to involve the school, the student, and the student's parents in determining ways to correct problems which might prevent the student's success in school year reinstatement.

It further appears that, although conferences are supposed to be held within five days of the suspension and normally lead to reinstatement of the student, if the student's parents or guardian does not appear for a conference the student is often not reinstated for a substantial period of time. Some suspensions have in fact lasted longer than the ordinarily more severe penalty of expulsion which is limited in length to the remainder of the semester in which the expulsion took place.

Those suspensions which last substantially longer than five days as a result of the student's parent or guardian not appearing for a conference (hereinafter long term suspensions) apparently occur more frequently both proportionally and absolutely to minority children. Because of this and because the practice of long term suspensions appears to serve no valid educational purpose and, indeed appears contrary to your district's own policy and intent, it is our conclusion that this practice is prohibited discrimination within the meaning of 45 CFR 185.43 (d)(4).

B.

A second discriminatory practice can also be traced to the existence of long term suspensions as part of your district's disciplinary practices. As a result of your otherwise commendable intent to voluntarily reduce racial isolation in your schools through a system of voluntary transfers, a situation has arisen where the vast majority of transfer students are minority students. Accordingly, a disproportionate number of parents of minority students are confronted with the problem of traveling above average distances in order to attend a suspension conference. The added difficulties created by this situation contribute to the unwarranted disproportionate impact upon minority students of long term suspensions.

C.

A second impact of the problems of increased distance to school created for the largely minority population of transfer students under the voluntary transfer plan is the frequent, albeit nonuniform, practice of imposing suspensions based on an accumulation of a fixed number of incidents of being late to school. On some occasions it appears that one such instance of tardiness may result in suspension should the individual school principal believe such policy to be appropriate.

It appears that in applying such an attendance rule, based on a set number of incidents of tardiness, no consideration of the increased problems of transfer students in getting to school on time is taken into consideration. Failure to take into account the problems of transfer students in this regard is a practice which falls disproportionately on minority children in that most transfer students

are minority students. While your district is, of course, not barred from discouraging tardiness on the part of students through the use of disciplinary measures, subjecting transfer students to the same standards as students who live in the immediate neighborhood of the school when transfer students are disproportionately minority students is prohibited discrimination under 45 CFR 185.43 (d)(4).

II.

Your district may request an opportunity to show cause why the determination of ineligibility should be revoked and its application considered for funding. Such a request should be directed to:

Dr. Herman R. Goldberg
Associate Commissioner
Equal Educational Opportunity
Programs
Room 2001, Federal Office Bldg. #6
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.

If your district requests the opportunity described above, an informal conference with representatives of the district will be held within 7 days of the receipt of the request. Please understand that the purpose of such a conference is to provide your district with an opportunity to demonstrate why it should not have been found ineligible; if your district wishes to take corrective action, see Part III below concerning an application for a waiver of ineligibility.

III.

Your district may establish its eligibility for assistance by applying to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare for a waiver of ineligibility pursuant to section 706(d) of the ESAA (20 U.S.C. 1805(d) and section 185.44 of the program regulations (45 CFR 185.44). An application for waiver must include information and assurances which show that any activity resulting in ineligibility has ceased to exist and will not recur after the submission of the waiver application. (20 U.S.C. 1805(d)(1); 45 CFR 185.44(b)). Specifically, an application for a waiver of ineligibility based on the findings set out in Part I above must contain the materials required by 45 CFR 185.44(f), which provides as follows:

An application for waiver shall contain evidence that this practice, policy, or procedure prohibited by 185.43(d) has ceased to exist or occur and that the effect of such practice, policy, or procedure has been remedied or eliminated.

An application for a waiver of ineligibility should be directed to:
David S. Tatel, Director
Office for Civil Rights
Department of Health, Education and Welfare
330 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 5514
Washington, D.C. 20201

Washington, D.C. 20202

The request must be received (not merely sent) within 14 days of the date of this letter.

In order to allow sufficient time for review of applications for waivers prior to the timely commitment of currently available funds, such an application should be submitted as promptly as its full and complete preparation permits. We urge that your district file any application for a waiver, or inform Mr. Tatel of your intention to do so, within 21 days of the date of this letter.

IV.

It should be emphasized that this letter relates solely to your district's eligibility for ESAA assistance. The establishment of eligibility does not, by itself, ensure that an application is funded. Funding decisions, of course, are made on the basis of the quality of applications submitted by eligible applicants.

Sincerely,
Herman R. Goldberg
Associate Commissioner
Equal Educational Opportunity Programs

(letter dated June 23, 1977)

The reply of the School District follows:

July 6, 1977

Mr. David S. Tatel, Director
Office for Civil Rights
Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare
330 Independence Avenue, S.W. Room 5514
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Tatel:

This is written in response to the letter dated June 23, 1977 in which it is stated that the Portland school district does not meet the eligibility requirements for ESAA assistance because our "application of suspension procedures discriminates against minority group children." While we have not received from your office specific information regarding the 17 schools at which questionable practices may have taken place or the specific instances we should ourselves follow up on, we have prepared a plan for communicating to all of our schools our expectations regarding the implementation of District policies related to suspensions. We are confident that the District regulations themselves (copy enclosed) are not discriminatory. Problems identified by Office for Civil Rights officials, therefore, must be associated with practices in a limited number of our schools.

The material contained in this letter is intended to assure you that our suspension procedures are being reviewed.

(Please turn to page 4 col. 3)

Blacks organize

(Continued from P.1 Col.6)

Lee Moore, Employment Committee Chairperson, Portland; Razz McClay, Housing Committee Chairperson, Eugene; and Herbert Golliday, Political Action Committee Chairperson, Salem.

OAFBA is a statewide, non-profit organization. Any person who is in accordance with the principles and policies of the Assembly may become a member of the corporation with the consent of the Board of Directors. Membership dues are \$12.

The annual meeting will be held in December for the election of permanent

officers and chairpersons and membership meetings will be held quarterly.

OAFBA plans to host a Black political convention in April of 1978 and will work with other Black organizations to finalize plans. The convention will discuss issues and develop a platform as well as endorse candidates running for offices throughout the state.

"A better Oregon for the Black community can only be built if there is better communications, coordination and cooperation among Blacks," Henry said. "Public officials, white and Black, must become more accountable, responsive and productive to the Black community."

Receives letters

To The Editor:

I'm writing this in regards to an article printed 6-23-77, for myself, Luther Guss, an Ohio inmate.

Thank you very much for helping me while trying to help myself. Letters have already started to pour in.

I decided to show my appreciation and thanks by writing you a letter of thanks-for showing your concern.

Yours truly,
Luther Guss #145-538

Portland Observer

Published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, 2201 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217. Mailing address: P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Telephone 283-2486.

Subscriptions: \$7.50 per year in the Tri-County area, \$8.00 per year outside Portland.

Second Class Postage Paid at Portland, Oregon

The Portland Observer's official position is expressed only in its Publisher's column (We See The World Through Black Eyes). Any other material throughout the paper is the opinion of the individual writer or submitter and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Portland Observer.

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York

1st Place
Community Service
ONPA 1973

1st Place
Best Ad Results
ONPA 1973

5th Place
Best Editorial
NNPA 1973

Honorable Mention
Herrick Editorial Award
NNA 1973

2nd Place
Best Editorial
3rd Place
Community Leadership
ONPA 1975

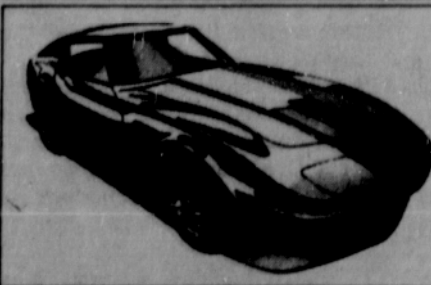
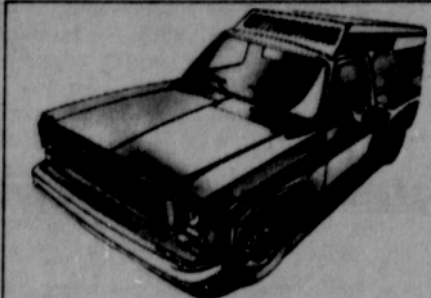
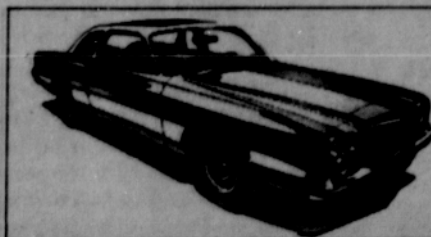


ALFRED L. HENDERSON
Editor/Publisher



48-MONTH AUTO LOANS

Designed to make a new car more affordable.



With today's sticker prices, it makes sense that you want more out of a new car. It also makes sense that you want more out of a car loan.

That's why you'll be glad to know about our 48-month FirstLoan for autos, if now's the time to replace your present car with a brand new one.

Depending on the purchase price, it gives you more time to pay for the new car, van, camper, wagon or light truck you need.

It also can save you money when you borrow. With a simple-interest FirstLoan for autos, you're only charged interest on the amount you actually owe... only for as long as you owe it.

In addition to 48-month auto financing, First National offers a complete line of shorter-term FirstLoan auto plans.

So, when you've got your eye on a new car, we can lend a hand with money to buy it.

Example: 48-Month Auto Loan

Amount Financed	48 Monthly Payments	ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE	Total of Payments
\$4,650	47 at \$119.20	10.55%	\$5,720.59
	1 at 118.19		

Example based on first payment due 30 days after loan date.

There's a 1st time for everything.
FIRST NATIONAL BANK
OF OREGON