



We see the world
through Black eyes

Law breakers in the halls of education?

The Oregon open meetings law and open records law will work only if public officials let them work and the people make them work.

After State Senator Dic Groener alleged that the Port of Portland had kept a report on one of the potential bidders on its drydock project secret, Lloyd Anderson, the Port's executive director, said he saw no value in the public hearing the details of "every stupid subject that the commission might discuss."

This is reminiscent of a recent letter from School District attorney Mark McClanahan, circulated to School Board members and staff. The letter, which was in regard to McClanahan's earlier opinion that minority set-asides are illegal, asked that the letter be kept confidential because there had already been too much discussion of the issue in the press -- discussion which could be of no benefit.

This policy of secrecy and fear of public scrutiny is one of the district's major problems. A little bit of honest and open communication could do a world of good, but based on the Board meeting of July 25th, this is not going to happen.

Frank McNamara's remarks at that meeting bared what may well have been an infraction of the open meeting law, a law that states that no decisions may be made by a public body except in public meetings. McNamara stated that he had discussed with Superintendent Robert Blanchard the Superintendent's intention to change his recommendation on the Newman plan, to defer the Jefferson High School section until January and allow certain community organizations to make recommendations. Since Jonathan Newman changed his proposal to meet Dr. Blanchard's recommendation, we know that these two had also discussed the matter.

We must assume that Gladys McCoy, who actively lobbied for the Newman plan, and Chairman Robert Ridgley were in the know. That is a minimum of four Board members who participated in the change. Now if these board members discussed this issue either in person or by telephone and reached the conclusion that they should follow the Superintendent's recommendation -- then the open meetings law was broken.

Judging from their behavior at the Board meeting -- there were no questions, no discussion -- there were no surprises.

We suggest that the members of the Board of Education provide an explanation to the people how such a momentous decision -- one that had been called impossible by Board members Newman and McCoy and Superintendent Blanchard only days earlier -- could have been reached without discussion.

The people have the right to know whether their elected representatives are obeying the law.

Straub cools reactors

According to press reports it was Governor Straub and the superintendent of the state police who kept their heads and prevented potential violence at the Trojan nuclear plant during last weekend's demonstrations. Reportedly, PGE officials called for immediate arrests when the gates were blocked by demonstrators last Saturday, but Governor Straub denied state police participation until at least Monday. The arrests took place -- non-violently -- early Monday morning.

The Governor's action was especially commendable in light of the well-organized opposition to the demonstration -- opposition in the form of telephone calls to PGE and to public officials demanding punishment to the fullest extent of the law.

We must not forget that this country was born through civil disobedience and most of its civil rights and human rights progress has been made through legal and illegal protest.

Those who are willing to be arrested and go to jail for a principle deserve our respect.

Labor bars contractor

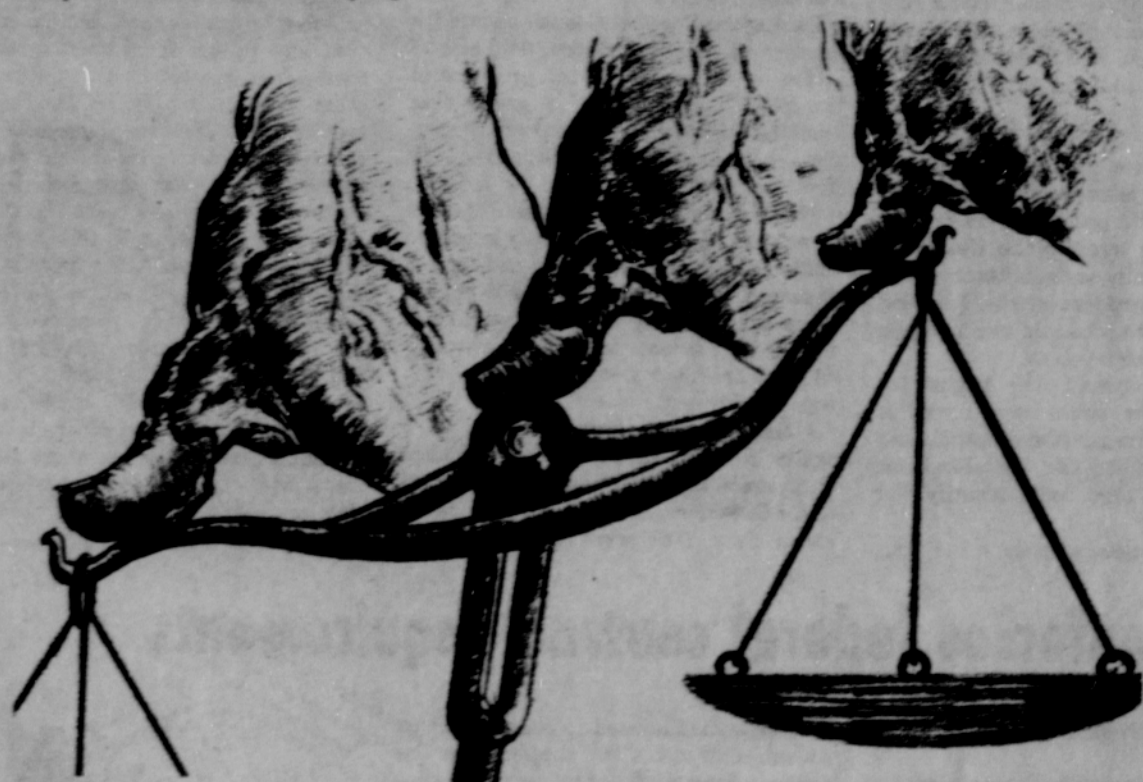
The Carter Administration has barred the Ingersoll Milling Machine Company of Rockford, Illinois, from all federal contracts for alleged discrimination against women and minorities. This is the first company to receive such a strong penalty, but according to Labor Secretary Ray Marshall, other companies are slated for similar action.

Not too long ago, the Treasury Department barred a Texas bank from all participation in federal deposits.

These actions are in keeping with Jimmy Carter's orders that all federal departments and agencies be alert to and eliminate discrimination.

President Carter's detractors, those who say all he has done is appoint Blacks to a few jobs, should realize that those Black people in crucial positions are the ones who will make these kinds of actions possible. Placing Blacks in positions where they have control over programs and funding will do more in the long run than a few more social programs.

It takes a while to replace all those top and middle level positions in government, but this is gradually being accomplished and when it is completed we will find government more responsive to those it is supposed to serve.



Black hands on the scales of justice

Is the Russian bear on the run in Africa?

by Clark Norton

PNS -- Somalia's apparent switch from staunch Soviet ally to potential U.S. arms recipient strikingly underscores not just the Byzantine nature of politics in the Horn of Africa but the dilemma the Soviets are facing in their bid for influence across this continent.

Until recently, Somalia was regarded as the Soviets' only true "client state" in Africa. Strategically situated along the Indian Ocean sea routes connecting Europe with the Middle East, Africa and Asia, this Texas-sized country provided the Soviets with key naval and air facilities in exchange for all its arms.

But Somalia's revolutionary socialist government quickly cooled on the alliance when the Soviets began supplying arms to its bitter enemy Ethiopia after the radical military regime there expelled the U.S. Now, with Somalia reportedly phasing out its Soviet forces, the Somalis may be receptive to President Carter's recent offer of military assistance.

The immediate question for the Soviets is whether to write off their Somali stronghold in favor of the far more populous and potentially powerful -- though currently beleaguered -- Ethiopians. But the long-term dilemma Somalia poses for the Soviets goes to the heart of their entire African policy.

The Soviets have based their bid for African power on two main tenets: offering a preponderance of arms aid over economic trade and assistance, and developing close relations with governments of ideology similar to theirs. The case of Somalia illustrates how fragile such associations can be.

While Soviet arms aid has been vital to the Somalis, who are arming insurgents in the Ogaden region of Ethiopia, the Somalis have already been forced to turn partially toward the West in the difficult job of building their economy.

A poor, underdeveloped, largely desolate land, Somalia is a former Italian

colony that despite its wishes is still dependent on the ex-colonial powers of the West for trade in livestock and bananas. Somalia is anxious to take advantage of its 5,000-mile coastline to expand its shipping trade and obtain vital machinery, transport equipment, chemicals and fuel for a crash industrialization program.

While the Soviets have equipped the Somali port at Berbera, funds from the European Economic Community -- which Somalia has joined as an associate member -- have been crucial to building deepwater facilities at the capital of Mogadishu.

And Saudi Arabia, Somalia's pro-Western fellow Islamic neighbor across the Gulf of Aden, has reportedly been a major factor in wooing the Somalis away from the Soviets by offering \$300 million in economic aid.

If the West does get a wedge in with the Somalis, such an alliance could prove far more durable.

The Soviets just don't have the economic clout or desire to be a big economic factor in Somalia or anywhere in Africa," says Bob Price, Africa specialist at the Institute of International Studies at the University of California-Berkeley. "If the Somalis decide they no longer need or can count on Soviet arms, the Soviets will be out."

A similar situation developed in Egypt in 1972 when Anwar Sadat, then supplied militarily by the Soviets, turned to the West instead in economic desperation.

And, Price predicts, "The same thing will probably happen in southern Africa when the fight against racism is over and Soviet arms are no longer needed there. Even the revolutionary socialist governments will have to count on the West, not the Soviets, for economic trade."

The other basic Soviet tenet in Africa -- friendship through Marxist ideology -- suffers from the fact that almost all African socialist governments place nationalism before Marxism.

The Soviet Union, for instance, would seem to be a natural ideological ally of the Somalis. But by the same token, so would Somalia's leftist neighbor Ethiopia -- actually its worst enemy.

While Somalia pays official lip service to socialist solidarity, it is far more committed to its dreams of a "greater Somalia," including its territorial claims to the eastern Ogaden region of Ethiopia and the newly independent enclave of Djibouti, which Ethiopia also covets.

The Somali flag, a five-pointed star, represents the five territories over which Somalia lays claim.

In these nationalistic fights, Somalia can much more logically look for support to its Islamic brothers, including conservative Saudi Arabia and pro-Western Sudan, than to ideological brothers like the Soviet Union -- or certainly Ethiopia.

Elsewhere in Africa, Angola and the Shaba revolt in Zaire have amply demonstrated that the ideological aspects of territorial disputes are far less important than their capacity for disrupting the usually fragile power bases of neighboring countries.

Modern African governments, plagued by internal rivalries and secessionist movements spurred by artificial colonial-era boundaries, are struggling mainly not for ideological purity but simple territorial survival.

"We don't even know the true political color of revolutionary countries like Angola and Mozambique," says University of Nairobi Professor Carl Rosburg. "Right now they're trying to consolidate their power and have to rely on the Cubans and Soviets. Rhetoric gets confused with ideology. Once these societies become economically and politically stable, then we'll see how strong the Soviets are in Africa."

[Clark Norton, has just returned from two months on assignment in Africa.]

Concordia community fights housing development

(Continued from p. 6 col. 3)

additional housing units on the area. The agencies estimated that traffic flow would double, that the addition for more families would bring a need for increased police surveillance, and that the neighboring schools would be impacted. After several meetings with the community, HAP decided not to build.

That fall, the Concordia Neighborhood Association conducted a poll of residents. Of those responding, 40.7 percent gave as their first preference the development of a park on the remaining vacant property. The second preference (30.5 percent) was for rezoning for single family homes so the area would be similar to the surrounding neighborhood. Nearly all were opposed to privately developed apartment units.

In the meantime, Russell Dawson, the area director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, sought and received authority from the Secretary of HUD to sell the property and to

use the proceeds of the sale to acquire scattered sites for the construction of public housing.

Although the Neighborhood Association had been promised that it would be informed of any changes in HAP's plans for the property, its members learned of the pending sale through the press. The decision to sell was proposed by HAP Chairman Fred Rosenbom at the regular HAP board meeting on March 9, 1977.

In March, Alvin Batiste, CCA president, asked Patricia Harris, HUD Secretary, to deny permission for the sale of the property for apartment use. The local HUD office responded that the sale will take place.

In April, Wally Priestley, a resident of the Concordia area asked the City Council to "down zone" the undeveloped property so it could be used for single-family housing only. In June, Batiste requested a hearing before the City Council regarding disposal of the property.

The CCA contends that since the property was first acquired by the city

(at no cost) for a park, and was later taken by the federal government for temporary housing (again at no cost) it should now revert to the city for use as a park. If the city does not want the property for their use, the Association would not object to the property being used for private homes.

They object to multiple-family dwellings on the basis that the neighborhood already has enough apartment units, the 40 units at Dekum Court and a large complex on Lombard -- and further development of apartments will detract from the neighborhood environment.

The property, along with Dekum Court and privately owned property on Lombard, is an island of A2.5 zoned land surrounded by property zoned for single-family homes.

At a meeting of the Planning Commission held last Wednesday, the Commission agreed to review the neighborhood's request during the next sixty days. A spokesman for HAP stated that no sale would be made during that time.

Portland youth wins national scholarship

(Continued from p. 1 col. 3)

dence and successful role models to follow. Education, like almost everything in a capitalist society, caters to the majority; therefore, in school, achievements of minorities as well as their cultural heritages tend to be ignored, creating an almost insurmountable abyss between the majority and the minority. As very young students learn, from exposure in the classroom and reinforcement from role models, that the traditional outcasts of the free enterprise community (poor, unemployed, minority, handicapped, aged, etc.) are just as worthy of equal opportunity in education, employment, recreation, housing, and business as the majority, capitalism may prove to be the best economic system. Since the 1960s, when a cultural upheaval

took place in many free enterprise nations, liberal educators have attempted to raise a new level of awareness in their pupils, teaching them: although people vary in appearance, beliefs, intelligence, and talent, each person is essentially the same and deserves the same chance for happiness in life. In times prior, the excuse for discrimination in employment was lack of education or experience, but as amendments like the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 are adopted, these societies are forced to examine the real reasons why most working minorities, women, and children are employed in menial jobs. Civil rights groups help stimulate intercultural awareness to free enterprise societies and equal opportunities in education, recreation, the law, housing, employment, and politics. Pressure from

equal rights groups encourage local and federal governments to provide financial support to those who need it, so that motivated, disadvantaged students do not feel defeated by unfavorable economic conditions.

Prejudice attitudes must be eliminated in young children through education, if in the future, free enterprise societies are to provide equal opportunity for all. When everyone -- regardless of race, income, sex, physical condition, or religion -- is given an equal level of education, each citizen will have an equal opportunity to be successful and happy.

* U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Racial Isolation in the Public Schools. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1967, p. 1.

Al Hicks

(Continued from page 1 col. 5)

minority workers in order to meet their obligations for providing equal employment opportunities.

Fortunately, Hicks doesn't have these difficulties all the time. But when non-compliance or apparent discrimination is found, either in construction projects or elsewhere, he suggests citizens actively seek redress through the appropriate agencies. The media can also play a watchdog role, helping to safeguard the rights of Americans that have been established and guaranteed by law.

Mr. Hicks has received various awards including the Outstanding Civil Rights Officer award presented by the National Council of Minority Consulting Engineers, one from the Western Association of Minority Consulting Engineers and he also received an Outstanding Performance Rating in May of 1976 from the Regional Administrator of EPA. He has received awards for outstanding Federal Service and a Certificate of Appreciation from the National Urban League.

Northwest Minority Contractors Association

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