



We see the world
through Black eyes

A time for answers

When Cleveland Gilcrease resigned as Director of the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee and long-time Board Chairman John Rice also resigned, we predicted that dissident elements on the Board - possibly aided by outside political forces - would attempt to gain control.

A small group within the Board has surfaced - this time in an attempt to take the chairmanship of the Board from the duly elected Chairman. This move was carried out through a "secret" meeting and an attempt to substitute their own agenda for that of the Chairman.

Is it a coincidence that three members of this bloc are appointed members and that the fourth county appointee - Dr. Ernest Hartzog - did not make the meeting but voted with the bloc? This brings to mind the Sterling - Feeney - Green - Clark connection that surfaced three years ago when the Oregon Journal attacked Gilcrease.

The question then was whether the attack was a personal vendetta against Gilcrease, or whether the play was a larger one - an effort to control or destroy the multi-million dollar agency.

The answer seems to be near at hand. The Black community has waited those three years knowing that when Gilcrease decided to move on to bigger and better things, we would finally see the conspiracy unfold. Gilcrease is gone and now the fight turns to whether PMSC will continue to operate as a community based corporation with responsibility for millions of dollars in federal funds.

If the county appointed delegates to the PMSC Board continue to demand their own hidden agenda and if they cannot be controlled by those Board members who seek to serve the area's poor, PMSC's days are numbered.

It is time for Don Clark to speak to this issue - what is going on?

Jordan's position on Carter valid

by Herb Cawthorne

We could feel it 3,000 miles away. What happened at the Urban League Convention in Washington, D.C., especially during the keynote address on July 24th, seemed to startle the nation.

It startled some Black people too. The Portland Observer editorialized that the criticism of the Carter Administration by Vernon Jordan, Jr., was poorly motivated, in part prompted by Jordan's desire to grab a corner of the national headlines so as to secure himself from the coming of Benjamin Hooks. I wonder whether the editorial writer read Jordan's address!

The white community was startled. The Portland Oregonian editors suggested that Vernon Jordan had gone beyond himself with the insistence that the Carter Administration show greater sensitivity and more activity on behalf of the Black community. But the Oregonian, as is often the case in editorials, missed the boat.

As he spoke to the multitude who gathered for the 67th Annual Conference of the National Urban League, Jordan struck the right cord. His voice was reinforced by many Black leaders across the land who came forward to underscore the basic criticism of this new administration: "The sad fact is that this Administration is not living up to the First Commandment of politics - to help those who helped you."

Vernon Jordan, Jr., personally placed the significant question before the convention. After noting the advantages and accomplishments of the Carter Administration, Jordan asked, "Why then, are Black people disenchanted with the Administration they elected?"

"And why do so many Black people feel that their hopes and their needs have been betrayed?"

In the bold language of which he is familiar, Jordan answered, "The sad fact is that the list of what the Administration has not done far exceeds its list of accomplishments."

In spite of what the hopeful might want to believe, the record of this Administration toward Black people and poor people has not been much to shout about. Jordan was right - and Carter would do well to hear his call.

"Black people, having tasted the sweetness of victory in November, recent the sour taste of disappointment in July," Jordan told his audience. "Our resentment is fueled by impatience. We, who have been patient for so long, are finally running out of patience. The cries of pain from impoverished rural areas and urban slums ring out, and cannot be stilled by minor measures. Our longing for true equality will not cease, nor will it be diverted by stylistic flourishes."

Judging from the onslaught of criticism, of the Administration following his remarks, Jordan served as the pointman of Black dissatisfaction. He was the bold

one who pointed out that the Carter image and the Carter record are aimlessly wandering about in the forest of American politics, unable to mediate the miles between them.

Jordan's keynote address startled the nation - both Black and white. It's not unusual for the Oregonian to misunderstand. The fact that the editors of the Portland Observer were hostile to his comments surprises me. But the fact that no one from the local Portland Urban League bothered to bring home the message of the Convention is even more surprising.

I have been fortunate to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Urban League for the past two years. No one is more sincere than Vernon Jordan. No one in the Civil Rights Movement is more in harmony with the mission history has provided than is Vernon Jordan.

The leadership he works tirelessly and boldly to furnish on the national level ought to be duplicated in our local community. The fight Jordan wages nationally ought to be fought right here in the City of Roses.

The Portland Urban League, by implication, has a high standard to uphold. The burden of leadership is great. Yet, our affiliate here has been unable to reach such high standards. From my vantage point, it flounders like a wounded deer, not sure of its direction or its strength.

To some close observers it seems as though our local chapter is really out of its league.

PMSC plot thickens, coup fails

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

promised technical assistance from Region X for the fiscal department.

Some board members questioned Finley's accusatory tone and the fact that the Oregon Journal apparently received the 467 word telegram before most members of the board received their copies. It is rumored that Finley's increasing hostility toward PMSC is an effort to stabilize his own position at CSA. It was recently determined that Finley, a Nixon appointee, had been appointed illegally and there is a definite possibility that he will be removed. The seventeen member Oregon Community Action Program Executive Directors Association has asked that Finley not be retained.

In response to Liz Welt's repeated demands and in spite of the promise of Finance Committee Chairman Ruth Lyon

that full fiscal information will be provided at the September 7th Finance Committee meeting and Roger's invitation to all board members to attend that meeting, the Board voted with a margin of one vote to hold a special board meeting within ten days to review that information. Although Ms. Lyon explained that the time involvement in compiling the information is great and promised all that is "humanly possible", Ms. Eckton demanded that everything be available even if "inhumanly possible". Throughout the meeting Ms. Welt had demanded expenditures and balances on all line items, information that had been requested at the July meeting. Ms. Lyon repeatedly attempted to explain that although the information had been promised, due to staff illness it was not complete, and that no specific date had been set for submitting the information to Ms. Welt.

The board approved proposals and budgets for fiscal year 1978. Headstart funds for the Portland Public Schools Early Childhood Education program were approved with the stipulation that the district work with PACT to develop a plan, within four months, to open a center in Southeast Portland. Although school district represented the move as an effort to close a center in North or Northeast, the board made it clear that this was not their purpose. It was brought out that in addition to several Headstart centers in North and Northeast, 1200 children attend PPS Early Childhood Centers in those areas. PACT representatives denied the school district's allegations that centers are not needed in Southeast. Jim McConnell, director of PACT, claimed that although the Southeast center was underenrolled PPS personnel refused to interview applicants sent to them by PACT.

Discipline plan

(Continued from page 1 col. 3)

and to resolve with the student alone, where necessary, the problem giving rise to the suspension.

Point No. 2

The following material should be appended to Item C, page 4:

A concern was expressed regarding the use of suspensions ostensibly for disciplinary reasons that really reflect a basic academic problem. For example, a teacher might desire a parent conference because a student is achieving poorly, but the reason cited for suspension is a behavior problem that might otherwise be minor in nature.

RESPONSE

This matter will be a workshop topic

Jackson

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

play the large number of workers untrained for office work, few jobs have been created. Inner-city unemployment remains high.

Jackson's firm opposition to municipal labor unions, however, has reinforced his popularity. Though elected with support from the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, which represents blue-collar city workers, Jackson has tangled with the union half a dozen times, including a 23-day strike last spring.

Union members, whose pay starts at \$6,240 a year, have received only one 10-cent-an-hour raise in the past 30 months. When they demanded a 50-cent hourly raise three weeks before the city's final budget deadline, Jackson turned them down, arguing that the city had no money. The workers ignored advice from union officials and decided to strike.

The strike coincided with a nationwide anti-Jackson advertising campaign that AFSCME had planned previously. "Our campaign was frustrated by the frustration of the workers," AFSCME president Jerry Wurf said in a recent interview. "The Atlanta power structure that would have looked upon Maynard as an unnecessary appendix to their agenda instead saw him as the vehicle of anti-unionism in the Southland."

When the city began hiring replacements for striking workers, the strike quickly subsided. Most of the strikers were eventually rehired.

Desegregation coalition

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

before the School Board, consists of meetings in each public school, "Town Hall" meetings, and an eventual election of a city-wide committee to study desegregation. The local meetings would ascertain the attitudes on, fears of, hopes for, restraints concerning, and perceived benefits of integration. The proposal estimates the cost about \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Those present elected Ward as temporary chairman. Ms. Betty Thompson will chair a committee to set an agenda for the next meeting. Ward emphasized that meetings are open and all interested citizens are welcome.

Letters

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Executive Committee and members of the Portland Branch NAACP we want to thank you for the excellent coverage we received on the occasion of the Honorable Benjamin L. Hooks' visit to Portland on August 5. We especially appreciate it since the time for preparation for his visit was so short.

We must note that having a story before the event is very useful. This cooperation we very much appreciate. We did not get it from the city dailies.

Sincerely

John H. Jackson



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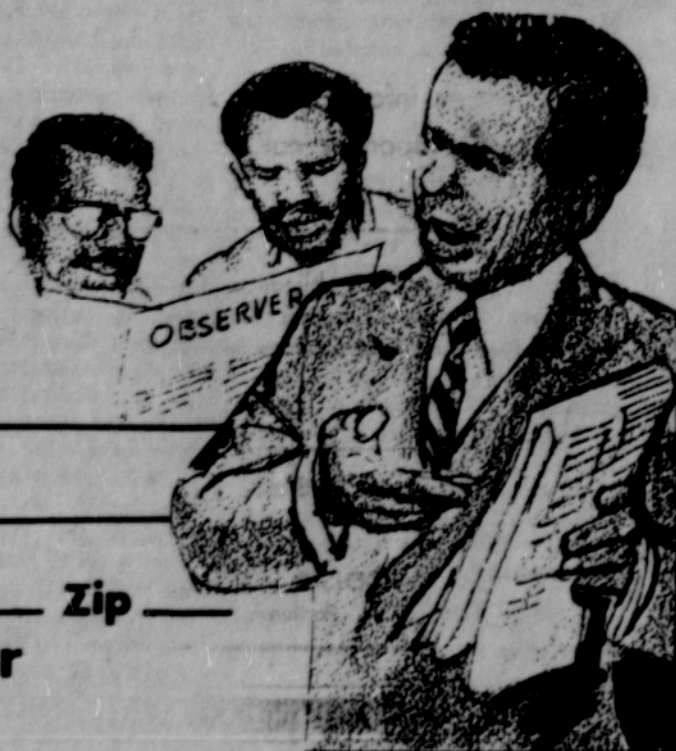
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