



We see the world
through Black eyes

Labor Day 1977

Next Monday is Labor Day, a day set aside to honor the nation's workers. This year finds us not only still in a period of high unemployment but also in a growing controversy over civil rights.

The week of September 4th through 10th has been designated as "Full Employment Week" by a national coalition calling for no more than three per cent unemployment within two years. Unemployment still is a major problem in this country and effects all phases of life. It impacts the crime rate, broken homes, business bankruptcy, health services, etc., etc. The effects of prolonged unemployment will be felt for another generation in loss of tax revenue needed for education, social programs and public works.

The unemployment rate for Black young people has reached an all-time high. The overall unemployment rate is 6.9 per cent which, although declining, is far too high. A number of new federal programs to deal with youth unemployment are in the beginning stages, but these are not enough.

The profits of many American corporations are rising in spite of recession and inflation that have so drastically hurt most Americans. Why don't these companies — insurance, financial institutions, oil, utilities and others — use some of their excess profits to train and hire young people. They are the first to complain about "government give-aways", so let them try some investment in the youth of the nation.

As usually happens in a period when jobs are hard to find, Blacks and other minorities are last hired and first fired. In spite of this fact, those white workers who cannot find work or who do not get the advancement they would like see the few token Blacks the government forces private industry to hire and they become the scapegoats. Although Black unemployment is twice that of whites, and Blacks are still locked out of the more lucrative jobs and professional schools, whites are blaming their own fate on "reverse discrimination".

What is even more discouraging is the lack of effort by the white press and the educational establishment to give the people the true facts about "equal employment opportunity" and "affirmative action".

Musicians expelled

For months — or is it years — the people of Portland have waited for the Downtown Mall to be finished. Many envisioned that this would bring a more festive atmosphere to the downtown core — with hotdog wagons and strolling musicians.

But rather than encourage music amid the rushing, honking cars that make up the downtown scene, the

spoilsports at City Hall cut off a Navy Band concert held in Terry Schunk Plaza, between the federal office building and City Hall.

The complaint came from the Bureau of Buildings, located in City Hall. Noise control officer Paul Herman reportedly said he liked the music but could hear it two blocks away.

What now? Are we going to get rid of the bells that peel the hours downtown, the melody played at noon? Will there be no Rose Parade or no celebration if the Blazers win again?

It's too bad when a few "public servants" can't sacrifice a little of their own comfort to allow others some enjoyment.

Another Point of View Equity and 'Reverse Discrimination'

from New National Black Monitor

As so-called "reverse discrimination" cases mount before state and federal courts, expect the white press to directly and indirectly stack the cards against Black Americans.

A case in point comes from a New York Times special which notes blandly as follows concerning the program for restitution to the Untouchables (or Harijans) in India: "like reverse discrimination in the United States, the programs are often controversial in India."

Here the Times' notice accepts the racist allegation of "reverse discrimination" as having value on its face and does not even set the term apart with quotation marks.

Further, all Americans need to know that "compensation for past inequities against the Harijans" is written into the federal constitution in India.

That we in America have no such provision is a national travesty.

All Black Americans should be familiar with — and hold onto — the following quote from classical legal literature concerning the need for, and the place of, equity and restitution which sophisticated racists are calling "reverse discrimination".

Aristotle wrote of the place of equity in public life: "Equity, though a higher thing than one form of justice, is itself just and is not geometrically different from justice. Thus, so far as both are good, they coincide, though equity is to be preferred. What puzzles people is that equity is not the justice of the law courts but a method of restoring the balance of justice when it has been tilted by the law." (Ethics, Book V, Chapter 10).

BPA 'hocks' federal dams

(Continued from page 1 column 6)

"Interest rates soar," Durocher said, "the cost of power to the user becomes higher and it is more difficult to construct plants."

"Under the route where Bonneville would be purchasing the power from

these plants, the federal investment, valued now at \$40 billion, would act as quite a backup for financing new plants if some means were found to get the financial capability of the Columbia River Power System in back of them."

Durocher said the Federal system

would essentially act as collateral and there would be a "requirement, then, on the Federal system to repay the rates... and all the current investment and earnings capability of the existing Federal system goes back as security on the bonds."

BPA officials cited the "inflationary cycle" that has raised costs of building nuclear power plants the size of Oregon's 1100 megawatt Trojan power plant to "over a billion dollars a copy."

Dan Schauten said, "When the Trojan plant was on the drawing board in the late 1960's the original price tag was \$225 million. It finally came in, when we began operating in 1975, just under \$500 million. And the same size plant if it were on the drawing boards now would run \$1.3 to \$1.4 billion."

Northwest power goes south

(Continued from page 1 column 6)

include the Salt River Project, a large public utility in Phoenix, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and the Lower Colorado River Bureau of Reclamation, a federal agency whose role is similar to that of the Bonneville Power Administration in the Pacific Northwest.

Construction of the line is expected to begin a year to eighteen months and costs are estimated by BPA officials at half a

billion dollars. Target date for energization of the line was set by BPA in 1984.

In a related development BPA also announced that the agency's Draft Environmental Impact Statements on the Aluma aluminum plant and Phase Two of the BPA Hydro-Thermal Power Program was approved by the Department of Interior. BPA said public meetings on the program would begin in a month.



ALFRED L. HENDERSON
Editor/Publisher

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Welcome the 'sinners' home

by Herb Cawthorne

After President Carter had secured the democratic nomination to run for the highest office in the land, he went to New York City to share a press conference with several influential New York politicians. Many with whom he appeared had not enthusiastically supported his candidacy. His tone was one of humble acceptance, and he welcomed their support — even though it was reluctant and late.

He talked about Jesus at this particular press conference. He said, in substance, that Jesus had accepted those who came to his throne after hesitation and doubt. They came, that was what was important — even though they came late.

In the Black community's struggle to gain respect and recognition from the Portland Public Schools, there are some who have taken a reluctant stance. There are influential people who have continued to work behind the scenes, attempting to manipulate the forces of change in such a way as to further their own ends, regardless of the aims and desires of the people in this community.

Among those Black people who have the education and influences to help insure our community will be heard, there are some who have abdicated their responsibility. In view of this abdication, the tendency might be to retaliate; to strike against these individuals with the mighty force of ostracism. It seems almost natural to say, "If they will not come forward to support our cause of educational opportunity for Black children, then we should not come forward to welcome them into our struggle — even though their sentiments may have changed."

The tendency to isolate, and ostracize those who have failed to stand up for greater responsiveness to the concerns of Blacks in Portland's public education

is not our only choice. It may seem most natural, but it may not be most advantageous.

Gladys McCoy, the only Black member of the Portland Board of Education, is a case in point. It has been common knowledge that Ms. McCoy has cultivated carefully an image of silence and acquiescence when it comes to advocacy for Black people. She has seldom been known to apply the strong voice of her influence on behalf of the struggle of the Black community. And in the recent controversy over the School Board's plan to limit Black enrollment at Jefferson, Ms. McCoy's leadership was conspicuously absent.

On June 17th, after the Board of Education showed supreme disrespect for people by forcing citizens to wait four hours before being allowed to testify, Ms. McCoy defended the so-called Newman Plan. She emphasized that it was educationally sound, and that Black people in this community would have to continue to carry the greatest burden for desegregation. To the surprise of some, she even thrust herself into the middle of the debate, saying "at our next meeting, perhaps I should take the leadership on this subject."

In the interim, her mood changed. From a position of loud advocacy for the aspect of Mr. Newman's plan calling for Jefferson boundary changes, Ms. McCoy slid quietly into a position of invisible silence. On July 25th, she not only failed to take any leadership, she chose to say nothing at all.

It was probably figured as a "no win situation," as the saying goes in politics. If she spoke, given the momentum of opposition against the plan, she would have damaged her image irreparably. If she did not speak, given her eagerness at the previous meeting, the apparent inconsistency would have created even

more serious doubts as to her commitment and competence.

Her silence was damaging. I could have accepted her silence on the issue itself easier than I could accept her silence regarding the manner in which Dr. Robert Blanchard spoke to the citizens present. Almost everyone noticed his degrading tones, his impatience, his scorn, his disrespect, and his refusal to recognize the legitimate concerns of those who had labored many hours to make constructive comments to the Board. Nevertheless, Wally Priestley was the lone member of the Board who had the courage to question the superintendent's "scorn" of the citizens attending the July 25th meeting. Ms. McCoy remained silent.

But now the period of silence seems to be taking a new form. I understand that Ms. McCoy is actively seeking opportunities to share ideas and opinions with those involved in the school controversy.

Like President Carter after he had gained a hard earned nomination to run for the presidency, it seems most beneficial to welcome all comers to the search for an improved means to implement desegregation policy in the Portland Public Schools. Whether they come late, or whether they were present when the foundation for this particular struggle was being built, they should be accepted warmly and with a cooperative spirit.

Ms. McCoy, whose political experience is remarkably diverse and whose roots in this community go very deep, can contribute much to the new coalition of groups and individuals involved in studying Portland's desegregation issues. Her understanding, I am sure, is sufficient to add direction and strength to any city-wide coalition on race and education.

Whether late or early, anyone who wishes to join in this journey to improve racial harmony in schools should be welcomed and appreciated.

Letters to the Editor

Guards dally while inmate dies?

To the Editor:

A man hung himself: Dennis Collins. The guards came in, cut him down. He was purple, he had stopped breathing. He had been dead several minutes. The last man had walked, the tier orderly had swept. Ten minutes later

several men on the tier began yelling: "Man down! Man down! Man down!" The guard, a new guard, yelled back: "Hold it down!" Several minutes passed. Again men yelled: "Man down! Man down! Man down!" The guard, a new guard, yelled back: "Where's he at?"

The new guard was told the man was in his cell. The guard finally figured out something was wrong. It's strange that it took him so long to figure it out. He's usually fast. Every night he pours our coffee; he's so fast that he slops it all over our bars — night after night after night.

Donald Danford #32323

Arab aid not going to Africa

To the Editor:

That the Black African states have become restive since entering the Arab sphere of influences because of unfulfilled pledges is not secret. They are saying that of the \$10 billion pledged by the oil-producing states to help the developing countries, the bulk has gone to other Moslem states, not to them.

As one bitter African at the U.N. put it, the Arab's petrodollar "is aiming at having colonies in Black Africa". Another charged bluntly that the Arabs were tying their willingness to help the Black

Africans with a solid lineup against Israel.

The Black African said that "petrodollar diplomacy" practiced by the Arabs bought the African support for the Anti-Zionist resolution. The Africans, he said, could not care less about Zionism, which has been alien to their own history (and to the racism they have fought for centuries) or care to continue to make the Arab fight against Israel their own. Israel, to many of them, carried warm memories of the kind of aid they can not buy with dollars — petro — or otherwise. The Organization of Petroleum Export-

ing Countries (OPEC) figures, as revealed by the World Bank, show that Iran (Moslem but not Arab) contributed to the developing countries three times as much as Saudi Arabia, Libya, Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates combined. More than 90 percent of the money from the OPEC states, the Black Africans claim, has gone to Egypt, Syria, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh — and to the Arab League members in Africa, or to the African states which have large Moslem populations.

S. Norman Gourse

Rocky Butte inmate needs help

To the Editor:

I would like to say having a fair trial here in Multnomah County isn't what it is. It was July 26, 1977 that I was found guilty of first degree Burglary in the Circuit Court of Oregon for Multnomah County, however it was an unusual trial in as much as being found guilty. I'm nineteen years of age and have never before been involved in an adult criminal court, but I would like to bring to your attention a prime example of a sure enough rail roading, which means my constitutional and equal rights not being adhered to.

My name is John W. Ellett and this letter is in regards to my unjust incarceration. I was accused of a first degree Burglary which took place in 1975 and was found guilty of that charge by a racist Kangaroo Court and a Klu-Klux-Klan style Judge, Alan F. Davis. The attorney that I had was court appointed and he himself felt I was guilty, even though I had stated several times to him of my innocence. After hearing him state this I announced to Judge Davis that I desired for this sell-out attorney not to represent me because I felt he was not working toward the best of my interests. I related to Judge Davis that I thought

this attorney was not adequate towards my defense, to which he replied "Shut up and sit down." I attempted to state my concern about the Judicial proceedings. Judge Davis at that time stated to me in a very uncivilized manner that if I did not "Shut up" he was going to hold me in contempt of court which the records show.

I would like to bring this case to the public attention of the injustice that prevails in the Multnomah County Court House. It is the ideal of all law-enforcement officials to make every Black man, woman and child an ex-con in one way or another.

I have been incarcerated for three months or more and have learned that justice does not prevail for the Black man in America. I am seeking legal advice from my people or anyone who is interested concerning my case and situation. I am now under what is known as a pre-sentence investigation. If there is anyone who is concerned about the plight of the Black nation or Third party members than hear my pleas for help I would appreciate it very much if you would acknowledge or take actions. Thank you for taking time in reading my pleas for immediate help. The charge

that I am charged with (first degree Burglary) carries a twenty year maximum sentence. Put yourself in my place for five minutes. What would you do? Who would you write?

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
John W. Ellett
C/O Rocky Butte Jail
9755 N.E. Hancock Dr.
Portland, Oregon, 97220

Likes column

To the Editor:

Thanks for so many good articles especially From Behind the Wall. I, too, am trying to help.

Thank you for caring.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Collins

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Portland Observer

2201 N. Killingsworth Portland, Oregon 97217

