



*We see the world
through Black eyes*

Governor shows courage

Governor Bob Straub is to be complimented for two recent appointments.

Straub's appointment of Ron Widener to the Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators which was opposed by members of the State Senate. Members of boards are to be named by the Governor with the Senate's approval, but in this case the Senate rejected the nomination. Apparently the nursing home industry objected to Widener, who is co-chairman of the Grey Panthers and has been an outspoken champion of improved nursing home conditions.

For too long the industries that are supposed to be regulated have controlled the boards that are supposed to control them -- both nationally and locally. This comes about through lobbying for or against political appointments or by shuffling personnel between the industries and the boards.

The Governor has displayed great courage in defying both the nursing home industry and Senator Jason Boe and his followers.

Another important recent appointment was that of Florice Walker to the Tri-Met Board. Mrs. Walker is the first Black to be appointed to the seven member board. Tri-Met has the responsibility of planning and maintaining public mass transportation for the tri-county area and as such is responsible for large budget and staff.

Mrs. Walker is in a position to make decisions that will have a tremendous impact on the economic and social life of the community. This is beyond the scope of appointments usually relegated to Blacks -- the social services, education, medical areas. Governor Straub apparently realizes that Blacks can function in the technical, economic and industrial areas also. This appointment should open new doors.

Indians under fire

War against the property rights of Indians is on. A short time ago a federal judge ordered the Corp of Engineers to abandon plans for a dam that would flood treaty fishing grounds until the treaty could be changed by Congress.

In another action -- not directly related -- a Congressman from the State of Washington introduced legislation to do away with the special status of Indians -- make them just plain "Americans". This means negate the treaties and eliminate the Indians economic rights.

All the Indians got when their land was taken and their way of life destroyed was some economic rights -- a little money for some, hunting and fishing rights for others, and reservations for a few. Now even those crumbs are too much as government and industry look on their land and their limited control of fishing resources with greed.

Another Point of View Open government

from Publisher's Auxilliary

The federal Sunshine law took effect in March. Generally, the law specifies that, with few exceptions, government agencies must open their meetings to the public.

There is evidence to suggest, however, that many of the nearly fifty agencies covered by the law are either skirting its regulations or ignoring them outright.

Earlier this year a Common Cause study found that 39 percent of the meetings held by the government agencies covered by the law were closed to the public; only 37 percent of the meetings were fully open.

A more recent study conducted by Library of Congress researchers at the request of Senator Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.), shows that of more than 1,000 meetings held by 32 agencies since the law took effect, 527 were closed, either entirely or partially, to the public. Additionally, for only 193 of the secret meetings did the agencies meet a requirement that specific reasons be publicly cited if a closed session is held. Twenty regulatory agencies ignored the requirement.

Many of the agencies which fear public inspection argue that their meetings are closed because their members must discuss sensitive national security or economic matters. One such agency is the Federal Reserve Board, which held a secret meeting in April to discuss how its office furnishings should be designed.

Government agencies charged with conducting the public's business are abusing the Sunshine law. Senator Chiles has summoned officials of some agencies to testify or the matter.

For the public's sake -- and for the sake of open government -- Senator Chiles should demand and receive assurances that further abuses of the law will not occur. At the same time, he should continue his efforts at policing agencies to make sure they live up to the letter of the law.



Political change demands cooperation

by Herb Cawthorne

Like the indoctrinated slave with the Sambo Complex, some in the Black community find it easier to carelessly blame and ridicule their own people, rather than looking for ways to assist in the struggle to improve our condition. The strength of Black people is overlooked.

For some the image of a strong, unified Black community is nonexistent. "What is white is likely more right," they might whisper to themselves, if they were alone, thinking no one else could hear. For members of their own race to win respect and confidence, they would have to accomplish miracles. While this attitude serves to keep us apart, the real achievements of Black people in this community go unnoticed.

More Black people need to be involved in the betterment of our community. Yet there are many who, like Sambo, have a docile and irresponsible dependence on white images. These images provide no less than a mild sense of self-hatred. When turned inward, they eat away at the progress Blacks need to make in this community.

Instead of combining efforts, we often find ourselves needlessly throwing blows. Rather than harnessing ourselves into committees and organizations demanding improvement, some seem more compelled to take out frustrations on those Blacks who have managed to secure positions of influence around town. This serves to insure that the burdens for our destiny, as with a child, remain in the hands of others.

Admittedly, growing up in the aftermath of cruel American slavery ought to be enough to render every Black person accountable for service to the Afro-American community. It takes a lot of self-denial to escape such an obligation. Those who manage to do so should be reminded as forcefully as possible.

Beyond that, however, we must remember that a Black face in state government does not represent change in

state government; a Black face on television does not mean that our criticism of the media has been satisfied. We should hold each accountable for a competent representation of Black people on the job, but, if we want substantive political change, more of us will have to band together to attack the deeply rooted prejudices and discrimination in this city.

In other words, we need to help each other. The leadership is coming forward. The Portland Black community is stronger today than ever before, and we need to strengthen its influence.

The developments over just the last year or so have been promising:

Charles Jordan, City Commissioner for Public Safety, has been increasingly eager to advocate for causes helpful to the Black community. He has been outspoken on neighborhood desegregation. He took a stand for community action programs during the PMSC crisis; he asked for a delay in implementing the Newman Plan in the public schools; and the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission has his total support. Mr. Jordan is helpful to young people trying to organize for change. With our support, his base can be strengthened, and his political fortunes enhanced.

Nick Barnett, Executive Director, Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, has charged that organization with a new spirit of activity. MHRM recently asked the city council to denounce the Krugger-Rand, South Africa's symbol of Black exploitation. In addition, it has been deeply involved in research into housing discrimination. MHRM was the catalyst for the Community Coalition for School Integration. The Human Relations Commission very often represents the interests of the Portland Black community. It needs support.

Charlotte Williams, Chairperson, Black Justice Committee, has worked hard and long to revive that organization. Slowly, it will take the form of a group of people capable of forcing local institutions to answer our most difficult questions. From what I can see, she plans for the

organization to be independent and challenging. It takes time, and it takes people. There is plenty of room to help.

The Community Coalition for School Integration, chaired by Harry Ward, is one of the most significant developments of late. The Black community refused to place its need for change in the hands of others. In a broad based effort, the Portland Public School's desegregation program is being reviewed. Over \$40,000 dollars has been raised, committees organized, and by June a report will be forwarded to the Board of Education which will assist them in the integration process. We can be proud of the work done on our behalf by the Coalition.

Brenda Green, Associate Superintendent, Salem Public Schools, may be entertaining plans to seek a position on the Portland Board of Education. If she does, our support should be waiting in the wings. No community gains political influence without work. And working for Brenda Green ought to be a pleasure.

Carol Williams Bryant, Director, Neighborhood Options in Child Care and a member of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, has chosen to run for the Oregon House of Representatives. She takes on an incumbent, Dr. Howard Cherry, and it will be a tough race. People from our community can assist her in many ways -- canvassing, writing letters, doing office work, publicity, and fund raising. Ms. Bryant plans a reception for Friday, December 17th. Watch for details on the place.

I cite these few examples to illustrate that if we will look for the best in ourselves, we will find more than we expect. Black people have come far, and the future requires our continued struggle. We don't need Super Negroes, and miracles will not be forthcoming. The last vestiges of the Sambo Complex -- which forces us to see the bad in ourselves at the expense of recognizing the good -- ought to be replaced by a commitment to improve those areas in which we are weak, and to advance those in which we are already strong.

Civil Rights Law: Toward effective enforcement

by Rep. Barbara Jordan

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits people and organizations which receive federal money from using the money to discriminate. The Act prohibits discrimination on account of race, color or national origin. The Act also contains provisions for its enforcement. After viewing the record, I am forced to conclude that Title VI enforcement has been characterized by affirmative neglect.

Fact from the record: In the past five years of Title VI enforcement, all Title VI agencies throughout the federal government have commenced nine administrative fund termination proceedings against recipients exclusive of those against local school districts.

Fact from the record: In thirteen years of enforcement five cases have been referred to the Attorney General for litigation.

Fact from the record: Federal agencies spent \$37 million for civil rights enforcement and investigations in fiscal 1973. Twenty-seven million dollars were spent in fiscal 1977. That is a reduction of nearly thirty percent.

Fact from the record: Between 1971-1976, the Civil Rights Commission continually found that the government's civil rights enforcement effort was "Beset with problems that were directly attributable to, and exacerbated by, the absence of leadership from policy making officials."

To remedy these deficiencies, I have introduced legislation which mandates that there be enforcement. The bill would apply to all federal agencies which provide financial assistance the same stringent civil right enforcement procedures the Congress enacted for the Office of Revenue Sharing and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The Bill has three main parts:

First, coverage. The Bill expands the basis of prohibited activities to include sex, aged and handicap discrimination. Second, coordination. The Bill assigns to the executive office of the President the power to coordinate the activities of Title VI agencies. This part of the Bill implements policy recommended by the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

Third, procedure. The Bill applies many of the mandatory procedures of the Jordan Amendments to all Title VI agencies. Those procedures would require that when one of four things happens, notification must issue from the federal government to the recipient of federal funds. Notification would tell the recipient it is not in compliance with Title VI.

Those four things are: 1) A finding of discrimination by a state or federal court; 2) A finding of discriminating by a state or federal agency after a hearing; 3) A determination by a federal agency after an investigation that there is reasonable cause to believe one of its own grantees has discriminated; and 4) A referral through the executive office of the President of a reasonable cause deter-

mination from one federal agency to another.

If one of the four triggers occurs, notification must issue. There is no discretion. After notification, the recipient would have 30 days to sign a compliance agreement. Failure to sign a compliance agreement within 30 days would mean that further payment of federal money for the program or activity found to have been discriminatory would be suspended temporarily. There is no discretion.

Unless compliance is achieved within 60 days after suspension, further payment of federal money would be terminated. There is no discretion. However, the Bill does provide that termination can be delayed pending the outcome of an administrative hearing or judicial appeal.

The Bill also mandates federal agencies to suspend payments to a recipient within 45 days after the Attorney General files a civil action alleging discrimination. There is no discretion. However, the court could grant relief and order that the money not be suspended pending the outcome of the litigation. There is a similar provision in the law now and we know it works.

This Bill sets up a procedure for simple, firm and effective enforcement of Title VI. It may be a radical proposal to some. It is only radical because our past

enforcement efforts have not been simple, firm and effective. They could have been. The current law does not prevent it. In fact, most of the mandatory procedures in the Bill could be instituted today without changing the law. So this is not a radical Bill.

The goal of current law and the goal of this Bill is compliance. We do not seek to cut off payment of federal funds. We prefer that the funds be used as intended. Suspension and termination are last steps. But, we have to be willing to use the last steps before the first steps become meaningless.

There are criminal penalties in the statutes for embezzling federal funds. We have thousands of auditors, backed up by the FBI if need be, to catch embezzlers but if someone uses federal money to embezzle someone's civil rights, there are no criminal penalties; no civil penalties and we continue to pay the money.

We should not be allowed to compromise commitment to the people's civil rights. Ignoring the rights of some undermines the rights of all. If the administration of the law fails to protect the rights of all, it is Congress' duty to rewrite the law. It is not the Executive's duty to decide through neglect whose rights shall be protected and whose rights shall be ignored.



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