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Inside

Program Aids Victims	Page 3
Resolutions for Smoker	Page 3
Musical Honors King	Page 4
Miracle Relived	Page 6



DIANE ELMORE
(Please see Page 4 Column 3)

MHRC presents Peyton award

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission will present the fifth annual Russell Peyton Award to Mrs. Marie Smith on January 14th. The presentation will be made at a dinner, to be held at noon at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The MHRC makes the award each year to the person selected as having contributed to human relations in the metropolitan area. Previous recipients are: Thomas Sloan, John Mills, E. Shelton Hill and A. Lee Henderson.

Mayor Neil Goldschmidt will be the keynote speaker for the award luncheon and representatives of the City of Portland and Multnomah County, which jointly sponsor the MHRC, will be present. The public is cordially invited to attend. Cost of the luncheon is \$3.00 and reservations should be made by calling 248-4187.

Mrs. Marie Smith, recipient of the 1977 award, is well known in the State of

Oregon for her advocacy for civil rights and for the elderly. Mrs. Smith is a past-president of the NAACP, Portland Branch, and was instrumental in the formation of the Northwest Area Conference of Branches. A dedicated NAACP member, she has also served as a board member of the NAACP Federal Credit Union.

Mrs. Smith was a member of the Model Cities Task Force that organized the Senior Adult Service Center, considered to be one of the Model Cities Program's most successful projects and a model for senior service centers established throughout Multnomah County. She also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Mrs. Smith is also known for her work with women's service organizations, having been a state organizer and President of the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs. She is also active in church and church related organizations.

Time running out for nuclear waste solution

by Steven Schneider

PNS - The unsolved problem of how to dispose of deadly radioactive waste now threatens the future of nuclear power in the U.S.

The Department of Energy has warned that if action is not taken soon, the lack of storage space for nuclear waste might force the closing of 23 U.S. atomic power plants, starting in 1979.

And the White House Council on Environmental Quality recently recommended that the use of nuclear power not be expanded unless a solution to the waste problem is found soon.

More than 3,000 tons of radioactive waste are now stored in temporary facilities, some of which already have sprung leaks.

"The immediate problem," said one industry official, "is that the utilities are running out of space."

During the next decade, U.S. nuclear plants are expected to generate nearly 20,000 more tons of radioactive waste. And President Carter recently proposed that the government store both this and spent nuclear fuel from foreign countries as well.

Industry spokesmen, while praising the Carter proposal, agreed it was only an interim solution at best.

"It is no more than a short-term answer," said Carl Waske, president of the Atomic Industrial Forum, "a way to avert a possible shortage of fuel storage capacity."

Environmentalists were not at all pleased with the President's plan.

"The public should not be misled into believing this policy will usher in new solutions," warned Richard Pollack, director of Critical Mass, the Ralph Nader

anti-nuclear organization. "The government is in as much of a quandary about what to do with the waste material as it was two decades ago."

Until last year, much of the utilities' radioactive waste was shipped to a reprocessing plant in West Valley, New York, where some of it was reconverted back into nuclear fuel and the rest into high-level nuclear waste, ultimately to be disposed of by the federal government.

But in September 1976, Nuclear Fuel Services, a subsidiary of Ghetty Oil, abandoned the nation's only commercial reprocessing plant on the grounds that it wasn't commercially feasible.

Then last spring, President Carter announced that commercial reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel would be postponed indefinitely because of the increased risk of nuclear weapons proliferation that it poses.

Since then, the utilities have been requesting an expansion in the size of their temporary storage pools, but federal officials concede that expansion of those facilities is not a long-term solution for the storage of radioactive material - some of which must be safeguarded for as long as 250,000 years.

Gordon Corey, vice-chairman of Commonwealth Edison, said several months ago that nuclear power would become uneconomical if utilities had to store their spent fuel permanently.

This means that the federal government must establish either a central storage facility or a permanent disposal site. The problem is that no one seems to know how to store these highly toxic wastes.

"The real question is what do you do with the wastes that are there," said James Griffin of the Department of

Energy. "Everyone's pondering that."

Springing Leaks
Meanwhile, the wastes continue to eat away at the walls of storage tanks, and radioactivity is beginning to be detected in the earth, in streams and in the ocean.

Some 18 different leaks accounting for the escape of 429,000 gallons of nuclear waste into the earth have been reported over the past twenty years at a military disposal facility at Hanford, Washington.

These leaks, along with radioactive waste intentionally dumped in the area, have left the land "so badly contaminated," according to a Ford Foundation report, "that it may never be cleaned up."

At Oak Ridge, Tennessee, nuclear burial trenches have intercepted the water table, and a creek feeding into the Clinch River has been found to exceed the maximum permissible concentration of radioactive material.

The Maxey Flats disposal site near Moorhead, Kentucky, also has been leaking radioactive material, but at levels that do not yet pose a health hazard, according to Kentucky officials.

Last summer, radioactive cesium was discovered in fish purchased in a Berkeley, California, market. Although there is no conclusive proof, some experts suspect the fish may have been caught near the Farallon Islands, 50 miles off the California coast, where thousands of steel drums containing radioactive wastes were dumped 20 years ago - and where cesium and plutonium have recently been detected in the water.

Industry spokesmen, environmentalists and federal officials all agree that waste disposal is the major problem now facing the nuclear industry, but disagree on how critical it is.

The most immediate problem is in

Board considers King-Boise plan

The Portland School Board is to consider the Boise/King redistricting plan at its Monday night meeting. The plan, would transfer incoming Freshman students from portions of the King and Boise elementary attendance areas from Jefferson High School to Lincoln and Wilson High Schools.

The School Board's decision on the proposal, part of the Newman Plan presented to the Board by Board member Jonathan Newman in June, was postponed because of widespread community opposition. The proposal was intended to lower the percentage of minority students at Jefferson, which at that time was above fifty percent, mostly Black.

Following opposition by many individuals and community organizations including the NAACP, the Urban League, the Albina Ministerial Alliance, the Committee for Quality Education for All Children, and Schools for the City, Superintendent Blanchard recommended

that the decision be postponed until January and that community representatives offer a more acceptable solution.

To this end the Community Coalition for School Integration was formed. On December 15th, the Coalition advised the Board of Education that if the district's attendance policies were enforced, there would be no problem of "racial isolation" (over 50 percent minority) at Jefferson. If during the 1976-1977 school year, all of the students who had graduated from Jefferson feeder schools had attended Jefferson, the school would have been 27.78 percent minority.

The district's statistics also show that although Jefferson is the tenth largest high school, it sends far more students to Benson than any other school - which drains Jefferson of many of its white students. Also, sixty Jefferson area students attended Roosevelt, which is contrary to current district policy that allows students to attend high schools

outside their own attendance area only if it does not adversely affect racial balance.

The Coalition advised the school district that there would not be a problem of racial isolation at Jefferson if the district would do the following:

Strictly enforce the present attendance area boundaries and limit the number of genuinely qualified students attending Benson and Monroe, with selection of those students made on a non-discriminatory manner.

Strongly support the Jefferson magnet programs, broaden and improve them, publicize and make them available to all students.

Provide a first rate faculty and curriculum at Jefferson for the general program in order to attract and retain neighborhood and transfer students, Black and white.

The School Board meeting will be held on January 9th, at 7:30 p.m., at the Board Room, 631 N.E. Clackamas.

Oregon workers over 40 find employment discrimination

Coinciding with the tenth anniversary of the passage of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, an updated edition of *Up Against The Middle-Age Barrier*, a 1971 report on the employment problems facing Oregon workers aged 45 to 65 has just been released by Labor Commissioner Bill Stevenson.

"According to the study, 40 percent of the Middle-aged Oregonians who en-

countered more than the usual difficulties in their job search felt their troubles were caused by the mere fact of their chronological and not by any age-related condition.

Forty-five percent of the questioned personnel managers believed that persons in the 45-65 age group whether looking for "just a job" or aiming at the "right job" faced greater handicaps than

younger applicants.

Another important finding indicates that even the person with specialized skills and training often encounter the middle-age barrier when competing with equally equipped but younger workers.

Speaking of the psychological effects of age discrimination upon the older job seeker, the study points to "the paralyzing impact of defeatism upon the

middle-aged." The rejected become dejected and they begin acting out the stereotyped role of an "older person." These actions maintain and fortify the Middle-Age Barrier. "Thus a dismal cycle of self-perpetuating social injustice and waste of valuable human resources is created."

The report recommends that existing (Please turn to Page 6 Column 5)

Public to review City of Portland's proposed Housing Policy

The City of Portland is considering adoption of a Housing Policy - a program for public and private action. Once passed by the Council, the policy is to become a framework to which all other programs related to housing will conform.

Among the programs that the Housing Policy will effect are the Housing and Community Development Grants, the Housing Assistance Plan, and the Urban Development Grant Program. Funds available for new implementation will total \$3,552,000.

Home ownership and population composition have shifted in recent years. In 1976, 52 percent of the homes in Portland were owner-occupied. In 1950, 57 percent were owner-occupied. The cost of housing has made purchase by low-income and

middle-income families difficult. A home that cost \$18,000 in 1955, would have cost \$55,000 in 1977. The average sale price in August of 1977 was \$43,450.

Heating, utility and maintenance costs have increased from 70 percent to 100 percent over the past few years, causing increased housing deterioration.

During the past fifteen years the population of Portland has changed little, but the population of the elderly and young adults has increased. The 30-44 age group has diminished, with many young families moving to the suburbs.

Households with children under 18 years have decreased by five percent, while single person households have increased twelve percent.

Tacked onto the end of the policy, as Policy #6, is Fair Housing. This item was

overlooked, but was added when the oversight was noticed by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

The objectives of the Fair Housing policy are:

To provide equal access to housing for all people regardless of race, age, sex, color, religion, national origin, or mental or physical handicap.

To document violations of State and Federal civil rights laws related to housing in such matters as refusal to sell, lease, or rent; evicting a current or potential tenant, lessee, or buyer from housing; discrimination in the price of the property or in any other terms, privileges or services relating to the sale or use of housing; attempting to discourage sale or rental; or advertising in a way which indicates the landlord or seller prefers

persons of a particular race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or without physical or mental handicaps.

To educate the public regarding their rights to fair housing and the grievance procedures available to them in case of violations.

To encourage racial and economic mix to the extent possible in public-assisted housing.

No budget is assigned to this function.

Hearings on the Housing Policy will be held on January 11th, 7:30 p.m., at the Water Services Building, 510 S.W. Montgomery; January 31st, St. Francis Auditorium, 330 S.E. 11th; February 1st, 510 S.W. Montgomery. Call 248-4519 for Housing Policy workshops scheduled for January 10th, 17th, and 25th.

PROPOSED HOUSING POLICY FOR PORTLAND

POLICY #1 EXISTING HOUSING: MAINTENANCE

The City will encourage and assist the continuing maintenance of existing residential properties, both single- and multi-family. This maintenance will be accomplished through a voluntary housing maintenance code program to include marketing, inspection and financial assistance, aimed primarily at safety, sanitation, structural integrity, and energy conservation.

POLICY #2 EXISTING HOUSING: MAJOR REHABILITATION

Assistance for rehabilitation of housing beyond housing maintenance code requirements will be provided (1) if the assistance is supportive of general community development activity; (2) on a voluntary basis; and (3) if policies #1 and #4 are being fulfilled.

POLICY #3 HOME OWNERSHIP: FAMILIES

The City shall encourage and support home ownership with emphasis on maintaining a housing supply for homeowner families with children to the greatest extent possible, while providing appropriate housing situations for smaller household renters.

POLICY #4 NEW HOUSING

The City shall assist the private sector in maintaining an adequate supply of single- and multi-family housing units. This shall be accomplished by relying primarily on the home building industry and private sector solutions.

POLICY #5 LOWER INCOME ASSISTED HOUSING

The City will support and assist in planning for subsidized housing opportunities, which are primarily for households which cannot compete in the market for housing. In addition, it is City policy that public housing be divided between elderly and non-elderly families proportionate to their representation in the City's total need for low income housing. Public housing projects for families should be small, no more than 30 units, located on scattered sites, and should achieve as broad an income mix as possible among tenants.

POLICY #6 FAIR HOUSING

The City shall assist and encourage programs intended to provide equal access to housing for all people regardless of race, age, sex, color, religion, national origin, or mental or physical handicap.

Information Regarding This Proposal

Information concerning the Proposed Housing Policy, requests for copies of the document, or requests for staff "briefing" sessions, should be directed to: Andrea Schauf, Policy Development Section, 620 Building, Room 610, Portland, Oregon 97204. (503) 248-4293. Written response regarding this proposal should be sent to the above address.

Copies of the Discussion Draft of the Proposed Housing Policy for Portland can be obtained from the Information Desk, Second Floor, City Hall Building, Portland.

California where state law prohibits the licensing of additional nuclear power plants until the federal government adopts a waste disposal plan acceptable to the California legislature.

Federal officials maintain that plant closings can be avoided and reliance upon nuclear power can continue to increase, but environmentalists disagree.

"To say that we're going to solve the waste problem is a hoax," contends Jeffrey Knight, Washington lobbyist for Friends of the Earth. "Pretty soon it will be time to call in the chips on the nuclear industry."

Randy Bernard, of San Francisco's People Against Nuclear Power, predicts at least two reactors will be closed down this year.

Nuclear industry official Scott Peters disagrees.

"While time is getting short for some reactors," he said, "there is no immediate danger of a shutdown." He conceded that some shutdowns might occur in the early 1980s but "only if nothing is done."

Industry believes that policy-making decisions rather than technical breakthroughs are needed to solve the radioactive waste problem.

Meanwhile, the federal government - which is committed to putting a permanent commercial waste repository into operation by 1985 - is having difficulty finding a location for it.

"Nobody has accepted waste facilities thus far," a nuclear opponent noted. "Connecticut is glad to have lots of reactors, but its citizens refuse to have any wastes stored there."

The same has been true elsewhere. Vermont and Louisiana passed legislation earlier this year that would make it extremely difficult to establish nuclear

waste facilities there.

And legislatures in South Dakota and New Mexico have passed resolutions that also would bar or limit the federal government's nuclear waste disposal plans.

Last May, in response to public opposition, Michigan Governor William Milliken told federal energy officials that he wanted his state removed from consideration as a waste disposal site.

In September, Illinois Attorney General William Scott told a House subcommittee that "Illinois will not passively allow itself to become the nation's dumping ground for high-level nuclear waste."

As states are approached as possible locations for waste disposal sites, public opposition rises. And while the constitutionality of some of the anti-nuclear waste

statutes is open to question, the federal government is not looking for a show-down on the issue.

"We're trying to enlist the cooperation of local people," says Energy Department spokesman James Griffin.

The nuclear industry maintains that the best way of winning public support is to get a waste storage program into operation. "The only way we will convince people is by doing a pilot project," said Scott Peters of the Atomic Industrial Forum.

All that is needed is a state that will accept the project, and a way to ensure that radioactive substances do not leak back into the environment for the next 250,000 years.

[Steven Schneider monitors energy policy for the Ford Foundation-funded Third Century America Project.]

NRC considers Trojan request

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board began hearings Wednesday on Portland General Electric's request for permission to store more spent fuel at the Trojan site.

PGE has applied for the amendment to their operating license because there is no place in the United States to store radioactive waste products from privately owned nuclear reactors. PGE wants to double its waste storage capacity before the first spent fuel cells are removed in March of 1978.

The hearings are being held daily at the U.S. Court House and could last for more than two weeks.

Three opponents of the PGE request

are allowed to call expert witnesses and cross-examine PGE witnesses during the hearing - Susan Garrett of the Coalition for Safe Power; Sharon McKeel and David McCoy. Approximately fifty persons requested to give testimony. The State's Oregon Department of Energy and the Energy Facility Siting Council are also represented.

Prior to the hearing, Lloyd Marbet of Forelows on Board, called the five minute limit imposed on speakers from the public "an attempt to severely limit public participation." Peter Bergel told a press conference, "While I understand the need for the NRC to proceed with deliberate speed, it is Oregonians who will have to live with the decision for ten, twenty, or more years."