

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

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Community residents meet with Governor Bob Straub and Mayor Neil Goldschmidt to discuss plans for proposed state-funded housing for the elderly. The site is at N.E. Roselawn off Union Avenue. (Photo: Al Williams)

## AVREC sponsors 'Public Forum on Ballot Issues'

The Albina Voter Registration and Education Committee will sponsor a "Public Forum on Ballot Issues" as a voter education service for the November 7, 1978 General Election. The forum will be held at the King Neighborhood Facility cafeteria, 4815 N.E. 7th Avenue, Tuesday, October 10th, from 8:00-10:00 p.m.

The purpose of the forum is to provide information to the residents of Northeast Portland on the pros and cons of the 1978 ballot

measures; and to allow AVREC to develop a position in respect to the ballot measures as they relate to the needs and interests of Northeast Portland.

The Forum will be conducted in a panel format which presents both sides of selected measures, and is followed by discussion and comment from the audience. At the conclusion of the forum, AVREC members will be polled on their positions on each of the various ballot measures.

The Albina Voter Registration and Education Committee offers this Forum aid to Northeast residents in defining the importance and impact of various ballot measures the community and the quality of life within it. All residents of Northeast Portland, and other interested citizens, are urged to attend and participate.

Please call Art Barfield, AVREC Education Committee, at 248-4260, for additional information.

## Blacks feel discrimination, blame education system

NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS — SEPTEMBER 27, 1978 — More than a decade has passed since Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "I have a dream," yet his vision goes largely unfulfilled. Racism and racial discrimination still abound in America, according to a survey just released by the publishers of "Who's Who Among Black Americans."

In the first poll ever conducted among the nation's leading Blacks, a significant majority (69%) of those surveyed think that a good number of whites harbor racist feelings. Almost nine out of ten respondents feel that many whites say they don't discriminate, but in subtle ways they do.

Of the more than 13,000 Blacks listed in "Who's Who," some 2,000 participated in the survey. The respondents represent all fields of endeavor from arts and entertainment to athletics, from business to education and government. More than half earn upwards of \$35,000 a year. Each has been selected for list-

ing in "Who's Who" because of significant achievement in his or her field.

While 59% of the survey group say they personally have experienced less discrimination as they have become more successful, the overall picture they paint is one of ongoing discriminatory practices in all aspects of American life.

For example, an overwhelming majority (90%) indicate that Blacks do not have the same opportunity as whites to advance in major corporations and white-owned businesses. Some 85% say it is difficult for Blacks to start their own businesses because of discrimination in raising capital.

Three-quarters of the Blacks feel that discrimination in hiring and promotion is a major cause of the depressed economy in the Black community. Still more (83%) blame the educational system for failing to prepare Blacks to compete.

School integration is a top priority for 56% of those polled and most

(91%) believe that segregated education is inherently unequal. Two-thirds of the Blacks favor mandatory busing programs to achieve racial balance.

More than ten percent have children who have participated in busing programs and of this group, the majority feel that contact with white children has been a positive experience, 67% emotionally and 70% educationally.

Where problems exist with learning and discipline in the educational system, nine out of ten respondents cite the family as the basis for trouble. Almost 70% attribute problems to school administrators who are not attuned to a community's needs or feelings. Some 68% say teachers do not take enough disciplinary action and nearly two-thirds place the blame with poorly trained teachers.

As for issues facing the country at large, almost all (91%) are concerned about unemployment and more than half are worried about inflation. Fifty

## A 29 day reign Beaumont principal transferred

The Beaumont community is once again torn with turmoil and confusion as it learned that the new Beaumont Elementary School principal, Charles Kakvasil, will be transferred to Alameda Elementary School on October 13th. Alameda principal, Paul Smith, will move to Beaumont.

A first year principal, Nakvasil was assigned to Beaumont this September. On September 11th, after a long controversy and much community opposition, the School Board voted to make Beaumont a middle school for 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Beaumont students in the lower grades will attend Alameda.

Nakvasil explained that the transfer of principals was to allow the new principals and staffs to begin planning for the change which will be because he has, over many years, he did not know when he was assigned to Beaumont that his stay would be so short, but "when principals are assigned, they never know for how long."

Saying he is pleased to be assigned to Alameda and agrees that the transfer was a good move, Nakvasil said he has enjoyed his work at Beaumont and has been successful because he has over many years developed a relationship with the community and staff.

Nakvasil does not know why he, as an inexperienced principal, was assigned to Beaumont -- a school fraught with conflict. "I suppose it was because of my roots -- because they had faith that I would be a good administrator. I am a disciplinarian."

He considers Smith, whose previous assignments include Multnomah and Ainsworth, a top principal who will be an asset to Beaumont.

Donald McElroy, Deputy Superintendent, explained that when the School Board made the decision to change Beaumont to a middle school, Ray Steed and Carlos Taylor of Area III brought to the Administration the proposal to shift the two principals. As a middle school, Beaumont would need an experienced principal and Nakvasil is a "rank

beginner". He explained that Nakvasil was one of two beginning principals this year and he was placed at Beaumont because Beaumont, with 520 students last year, is a "small school".

Asked why Nakvasil had been assigned to a school that was to become a middle school, necessitating a change during the school year, McElroy denied knowing that Beaumont would become a middle school. The Administration "absolutely did not" realize Beaumont would become a middle school, he said.

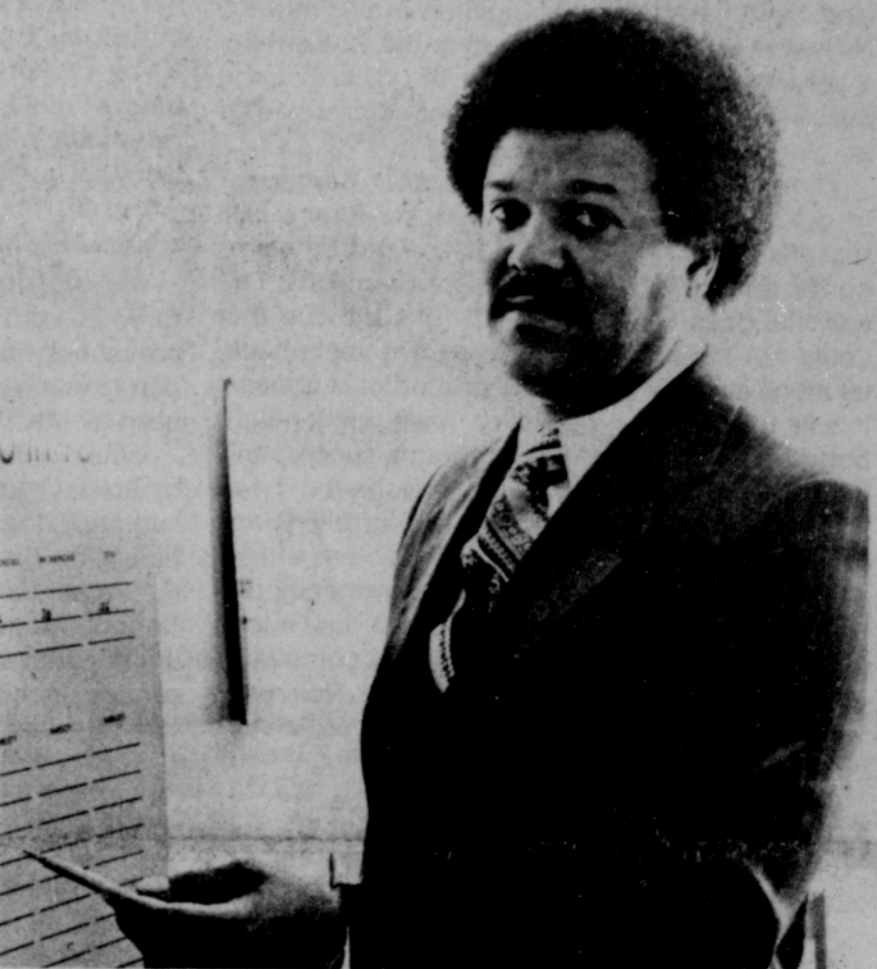
McElroy said that Nakvasil is getting a good assignment at Alameda. Alameda is considered a "plumb assignment" by other principals. It will be better for students also, he explained, because the primary children transferring next year will

be familiar with him and many of the Alameda and Beaumont parents will have children in both schools.

Parents and staff are angry and confused. "They knew before they assigned Nakvasil here that they would force a middle school on Beaumont, so why didn't they send a principal they knew could stay. This only hurts the children," one parent said. Others fear this portends an immediate movement of children in order that renovation of the building might begin.

McElroy explained the district's haste as the result of pressure from parents. "The parents are pushing for a middle school. Those at Alameda and Sabin have pushed hardest, but there is also pressure from Beaumont parents.

Parents see this as another in a long series of harassments.



Ell Cain, manager of J.C. Penneys Walnut Park store, explains employee incentive program.

## J C Penney looks to expansion

Ell Cain, the new manager at J.C. Penney's Walnut Park store, is concerned about community response to the store.

"The company has faith in this community. That fact is demonstrated by the fact that it renewed the building lease several years ago and is preparing to renew it again." Rumors have circulated at times that the store will be closed but Cain assures that this is not the case.

"The people in the community do not support this store and other local merchants. This they must do if they expect business to remain in the neighborhood. The plans to rebuild Union Avenue and bring in more business can be successful only if the people who live here use them."

Since he has been at Walnut Park, Cain has broadened the selection of merchandise. "We carry children's clothing, a full line of baby goods, work clothes, fancy jeans, under-

wear and housewares. We do not carry a broad selection of women's clothing because we do not have the trade to support it." Cain explained that the most often purchased clothing and household items can be bought at the store.

Cain expects the opening of a catalogue section next year will increase business at Walnut Park, which was once the busiest J.C. Penney store in Portland.

Cain has been employed by J.C. Penney since he was a high school student in 1960. After a short effort at establishing a career in professional baseball, he returned to Penneys, advancing until he became manager of the store in Richmond, California, where he began.

At Walnut Park he is hiring community residents, attempting to stock requested items, and desiring to provide a service.

## Cook calls for halt to Bonneville Power Administration takeover

State Senator Vern Cook, Democratic Party candidate for the U.S. Senate seat held by Senator Mark Hatfield, has called for a halt to efforts to push Congress into a quick passage of Senate Bill 3418 — the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning Conservation and Renewable Resources Act.

The act, which would amend the Bonneville Power Act, would force BPA to sell electricity to private utility companies (i.e. Pacific Power and Light, Portland General Electric) at the same low rate at which it furnishes electricity to public utility districts (PUD). It would eliminate the "preference clause," which gives PUD home and farm users preference over private utility companies and industry. It also would enable BPA to finance power plants for further utility companies.

Cook recommends an end to efforts to push the bill through Congress this year and asked that full public hearings be held throughout the Northwest. At a minimum there should be an extensive study by Congress of the regional

needs for energy, potential irrigation and the impact of new power systems on the Columbia River fishery.

"The Bonneville Project Act of 1937 harnessed the great Columbia River for the benefit of the rural and domestic consumers of the Pacific Northwest," Cook said.

"For nearly forty years the historic anti-monopolistic principles of this Act have assured us the possibility of electric power distributed at cost if we were willing to assume the responsibility of forming them, electing commissioners, and maintaining customer-owned electric utilities, whether they be municipal utilities, rural electric co-ops, or county-wide People's Utility Districts.

"In 1968 we started a dramatic departure from this historic hydro-electric system. This was the Hydro-Thermal Power Project of the Bonneville Power Administration, the Federal marketing agency for the electric power generated at Federal projects in this region. The goal of this program was to change the generating base of the electric power

from a hydro-electric base to a 50-50 mix of hydro power and thermal plants — coal and nuclear.

"After ten years of this program, what have we discovered about it? First, we have discovered that these thermal plants are not by any measurement cost effective.

"According to the Assistant Secretary of the new Federal Department of Energy, the boss of the BPA Administrator, 'the Centralia,' Washington coal-fired plant went from \$163 million in 1967 to \$285 million upon completion in 1971. The Trojan Nuclear Plant in Rainier, Oregon jumped from an estimated \$233 million to \$554 million when completed in 1975. The three nuclear projects being built by the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS) escalated from their initial estimates in the early '70's of \$455 million to \$1.1 billion; and \$756 million to \$1.4 billion respectively."

"Second, we discovered that the utilities did not know how to build thermal plants. The major source of these dramatic cost increases,

referred to by Secretary McIsaac, are cost overruns unforeseen by the utilities building the plants.

"Thirdly, this Hydro-Thermal Power Program caught the state and local governments of the Pacific Northwest flat-footed in that no statutes or administrative procedures existed for insuring that the plants would be safe, cost-effective and within the economic means of the consumers of this region who ultimately pay the bills.

"And what about those bills? For the consumers of private companies who have enjoyed relatively low costs because of the availability of cheap Bonneville power, the switch from the Federal power and their own hydro-electric facilities to power from the Trojan nuclear plant doubled the consumers' electric rates.

"But the private companies found themselves unable to amass the financial resources to continue the thermal program. For instance, one plant, the Trojan Nuclear Plant, upon completion doubled the net worth of Portland General Electric

Company.

"Therefore, the Bonneville Power Administration talked the publicly-owned utilities of the region into joining the private companies on this disastrous road toward a fifty percent hydro-thermal mix.

"Now the Bonneville Power Administration has announced to the public that the wholesale rates of power sold to the customer-owned utilities (PUDs) will double in December of 1979 as the costs of the thirty percent of Trojan in the public sector and the three nuclear plants being built by the public agencies in the state of Washington are finally reflected in Bonneville rates.

"Lastly, we have discovered that one of the main principles upon which the Hydro-Thermal Plan was based — the inelasticity of demand for electric power — is false. The forecasts produced jointly by all the utilities and BPA proved much higher than was forecast when the true economic signals of the cost of nuclear power finally were given to the consumers."

Cook explained that neither the

U.S. Corps of Engineers, which had built the federal dams, or the private utilities had expertise in "building nuclear plants." The cost overruns, equalled only by the cost overruns of defense contracts, dramatically proved the inability of any agencies to keep these projects under control. Also, the extremely disappointing performance of the Trojan Plant shows lack of planning and lack of understanding of the problem. In spite of that ignorance, development continued on the expensive plant without consideration of the consumer." They were able to build without a proper fiscal base because they are guaranteed a profit.

PBA has announced that it will double the wholesale price of its power in December, 1979. According to the agency, the bonded indebtedness on the Columbia River power system must be paid by 1994, leaving \$4.5 billion to be paid on the principal.

"This staggering debt, even with the low 2.2% interest rate is a heavy burden. Yet, BPA now is requesting (Please turn to Page 10 Column 1)