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Will Blacks vote?

Only three households living in this three block strip took time to vote!

The rapidly growing Black population of Portland can be the deciding factor in close elections yet many citizens do not use their right to vote -- a right bought by the blood and suffering

of many.

On November 7th decisions with tremendous impact on Black citizens will be made. They include Measure 6, the death penalty, flouridation. A governor, a U.S. Senator and many state and local officials will be elected.

Will Blacks vote?

Prisoners Coalition addresses Rocky Butte conditions

by Valentine Nemcek

"To those of you who doubt that any or all of these events are true, I can only say sleep, innocent child, sleep. To awake is to become mad."

Roosevelt Williams
Soledad Prison, 1971

Last week Rocky Butte Jail received a visit from the Division of Corrections Administrator, Carl Mason. The Prisoners Coalition (P.C.) had their first opportunity to discuss their plight with an official who can do something to correct conditions at the jail. P.C. spokespersons said results are not materializing and it appears they will continue to present their "inhumane conditions" to the public through the media.

Promises were made but some

issues were evaded and it remains to be seen if improvements are forthcoming. Once again, outside yard time was denied detainees. According to Mason, this problem, which has resulted in the detainees getting outside for fresh air only two or three times in ninety days, is due to inefficient scheduling. Other sources indicate it is a lack of manpower.

According to the P.C., tensions within the facility "mellow for a few days after being outside" and this results in benefits to jailers as well as jailed.

Promised by Mason was a shelter to be constructed to allow detainees to go outside in bad weather and an increase in recreational staff and counselors but meantime detainees still are not getting outside. The P.C. stated that one year ago, "going outside was a daily routine." The P.C.

feels that this schedule should be reinstated.

The authorities response to "filthy sanitation conditions" according to live interviews with the P.C. (radio station KBOO) was a "token" of new shower curtains and cleaned bath mats. Other issues as outlined in last week's *Observer* have not been resolved.

P.C. spokespersons, representing a growing number of detainees, are concerned that the overcrowding and repressive atmosphere currently surrounding Oregon penal institutions is the administrations opening salvo in a campaign to collect public support and funding to build new jails and continue the growth of the prison industry. None of the statements by the P.C. have been for a new prison which would

Black groups seek injunction

As six Black organizations prepare to go to federal court today to seek an injunction against the City of Portland, stopping the expenditure of \$12 million in Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) funds, the City countered with a proposal to form a minority task force.

The organizations sued the City on the basis that requirements that representatives of community organizations be involved as members of the CEDS committee in the planning for the grant proposal had not been met. One of the CEDS requirements is that it provide jobs and income for economically disadvantaged and unemployed city residents, including minorities and women.

The City's new proposal, offered on October 31st, is that a Task Force

on Minority Needs be formed as a special subcommittee of the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) to meet with representatives of minority communities and develop specific measures within the CEDS program that would:

- 1) Assure meaningful and continuing involvement in the CEDS program by minorities;
- 2) Identify projects or programs, which meet the CEDS investment criteria, to be considered for inclusion in the CEDS program by City Council;
- 3) Recommend changes in the adopted CEDS policies;
- 4) Communicate issues or concerns, not within the present scope of the CEDS program or City economic development activities, to the appropriate agencies and organiza-

tions; and

5) Articulate the meaning, purposes and management of the Portland CEDS program to minority interests in the community.

If adopted, the CEDS program would proceed according to schedule but no project applications would be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration until December 1st.

Indications are that the minority organizations will reject the proposal as an "after the fact token" and will proceed with their suit. Those filing the suit are: the Northwest Minority Contractors Association, the NAACP, the Albina Women's League, the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the Albina Ministerial Alliance and the United Black Front.

Straub: Basic needs a human right

"I have long believed that every human being has the right to basic human necessities before any other human being has the right to a surplus beyond his or her needs," Governor Bob Straub told an audience gathered at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church Wednesday night.

Straub told the audience that he is proud of his record in Affirmative Action. "We have worked hard to open opportunities for all. I'm proud of what I have done in appointing Blacks to high posts and I'm proud of the way they have performed. Every Black person I have turned to and asked to help has performed with

distinction and credit to the State of Oregon.

"I have sponsored Affirmative Action in this state because like former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, I believe we must close the gap between the promise and the reality in our land."

Straub said that in the past four years his administration has created enough jobs to reduce unemployment in the state from 12.1 per cent to nearly 5 per cent this year and has cut Black unemployment by 40 per cent.

Since 1975, there has been a 49 per cent increase in Blacks employed by the State and a 51 per cent increase

in Black state employees earning \$1,000 per month or more.

"We've gone a long way toward creating the social services we need to provide equal opportunities for the disadvantaged in this state -- the young, the old, and the handicapped. We have worked very hard to create the services they need to achieve their highest levels of independence.

We've been a state of great promise, and we've worked hard to solve the problems of high Black unemployment and low opportunity.

We've done much, but it's not enough. It's not enough so long as (Please turn to Page 4 Column 2)

History of white racism cause of current Zimbabwe war

by N. Fungai Kumbula

During the early 60's, when most of Africa's present day nations were gaining their freedom, a lot of the white racists who could not stand to live under a Black government embarked on a southward trek. As, in succession, these nations took control of their own destiny, the whites fled, first from Ghana, then Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia. Ghana gained her independence in 1957, Nigeria in 1960, Uganda 1962, Kenya 1963, Tanzania early '64, Malawi July 1964 and Zambia October 1964. Fleeing

before independence, these undesirable ended up in Rhodesia, Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, Botswana and Mozambique.

Analysis

The Zambezi River, which forms the boundary between Rhodesia and Zambia, however, seemed too wide for a delicate lady like independence to leap across. Since all the African countries still under foreign

domination were south of this river (Rhodesia, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Angola), the Zambezi came to be officially recognized as the "line of demarcation" between independence and oppression. (Of course, there still was Affairs and Issas on the Horn of Africa and Guinea Bissau and the Spanish Sahara in West Africa.)

This very real division was first challenged again in 1967 when Swaziland gained her independence. In 1968, Lesotho and Botswana followed suit. The pattern then remained pretty much unchanged for

the next seven years. In 1975, however, the Portuguese were suddenly ousted from both Mozambique and Angola, which countries they exploited at will for 500 years. They had also been militarily defeated in Guinea Bissau the year before. 1967 saw Affairs and Issas join the ranks of independent African nations also.

So, after 1975, the fleeing racists found themselves driven into Rhodesia, South Africa and Namibia. Here, they vowed to make a "last stand." And led by "Good old Smithy," who had declared UDI in 1965 in an effort to prevent oppressed Rhodesia from becoming in-

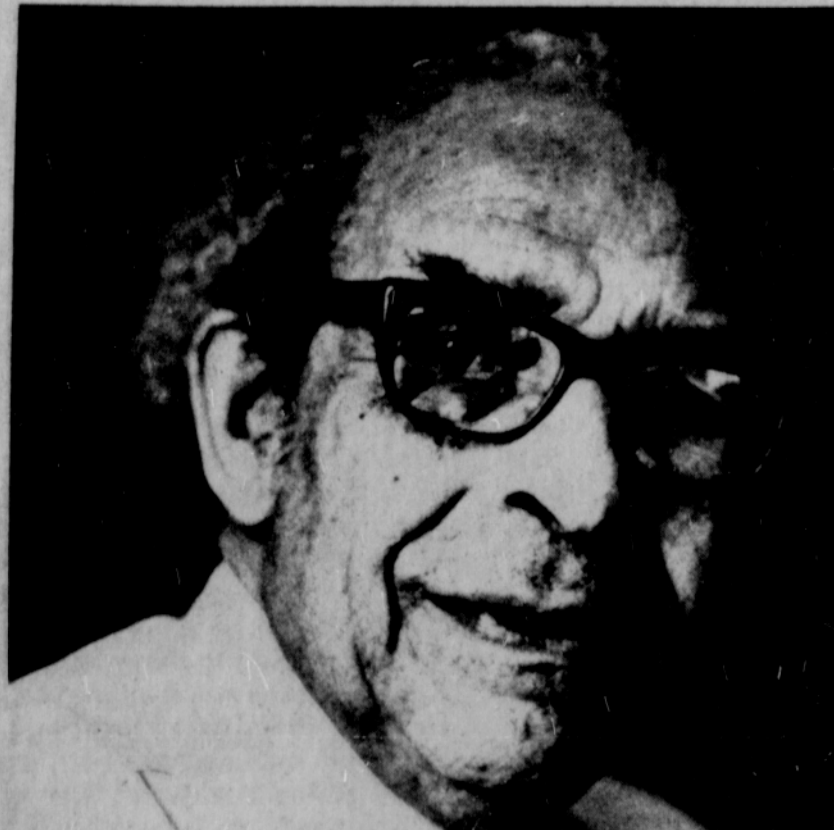
dependent Zimbabwe, they felt reasonably secure. After all, they had a much larger and better trained and equipped army and air force than any of their neighbors. And they regarded Rhodesia's Africans as being afraid of even their own shadow. They would never dream of challenging the white man.

Events over the past few years, particularly the last three, have shown that not only have they dreamed of challenging the white man, but they have also demonstrated they are capable of toppling him from his castle made of sand. In (Please turn to Page 7 Column 1)

Carter Rally

President Carter will join Governor Bob Straub and other local political leaders for a "Get Out the Vote" rally at Mount Hood Community College, 26000 S.E. Stark, in Gresham on Friday morning, November 3rd.

The outdoor rally is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. in the central mall of the college. The public is invited to attend, and free parking will be available.



The late Dr. De Norval Unthank.

Unthank Plaza

The Housing Authority of Portland dedicated Unthank Plaza, its new eighty unit apartment building, Monday. The unit, which is named for former Portland physician Dr. De Norval Unthank, will house low-income elderly and handicapped citizens.

In an agreement with the Eliot Neighborhood Association, HAP pledged to give preference to former Eliot residents who were displaced by urban renewal projects.

Speakers for the occasion were Governor Bob Straub and HAP chairman Fred Rosenbaum. Rosenbaum praised Dr. Unthank's many contributions to the community, saying that although he came to Portland when no Black doctor could work in any hospital, he earned all of the awards and honors the community can bestow.



Unthank family members view portrait in Unthank Plaza: Thelma Brown, daughter; Wendy Brown, granddaughter; Chelsea Unthank, granddaughter (daughter of Thomas);

Marsha Brown, granddaughter; and Lesley Unthank, daughter.