

Racism wins in Oregon; House rejects D.C. vote

An impassioned plea by House Majority Leader Gratton Kerans apparently fell on deaf ears as the Oregon House of Representatives refused to vote to ratify a U.S. Constitutional Amendment that would give the citizens of Washington, D.C. the right to elect U.S. Senators and Representatives and voted, instead, to send the issue to the people for an "advisory vote".

Kerans told the House:

My colleague from Ashland (Rep. Kip Lombard) said there is no compelling reason for haste. In his last year, The Reverend Martin Luther King said, "On the road to freedom, make haste. Make haste."

If you will look at the history of the federal Constitution, if you will look at the history of the Supreme Court of the United States, you will find this issue at the heart of the debate that has taken place throughout 200 years of the history of the United States.

The 15th Amendment, in which we said the ballot shall not be denied because of race, color or previous condition of servitude adopted in 1890.

The 17th Amendment in which we allowed for the direct election of U.S. Senators.

The 19th Amendment in which over one half of the population of this nation were given the ballot at a

single stroke, the women. I might add parenthetically, how well would that have done as a referendum to the men of this state in 1918?

The 23rd Amendment to allow D.C. residents to vote for president and vice president. The poll tax.

Then if you look at the Supreme Court look at what we have taken away: the free-holder test, the literacy test, Baker vs Carr, the right to an equal representation vote.

Less than 6 per cent of the entire federal work force lives in the District of Columbia. The residents of the District of Columbia pay more federal taxes than do eleven states. The federal District of Columbia has a greater population

than that of seven states. The District of Columbia receives less per capita federal aid than do seventeen states. Only 30 per cent of the entire work force of the federal District is on the federal payroll.

There is one other figure which my heart tells me I must bring to this debate and this is something in which the District of Columbia also exceeds us. The District of Columbia counted for more war dead in the Vietnam war than that of ten states. There were more killed per capita in the District of Columbia in the Vietnam conflict than there were in 46 states.

But that is just a statistic. I have a list of some of the Gold Star parents

of the District of Columbia. These are American men and women who gave their sons and daughters for freedom -- and this Amendment is for them. It is for Mr. Alexander Campbell; it is for Mrs. Verdine Jones; it is for Mrs. Susie Johnson; it is for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Smith; it is for Mrs. Christine Brown; it is for Mr. and Mrs. George Gardner. You recognize what I have done. These are the names from this partial list that match the names of this Legislature.

How do you say that a person who gives her child up for freedom and for independence and who bears the same names as we shall not have representation? Tell me today! They

are all there in this -- all the names, the names of American history. James McCormack, John Kleninson, John Gordon, Winifred Page, Magnolia Plunkett, LeRoy Washington. They ask for one thing from this body. They ask for simple justice. They ask for representation in the only way we can give it.

In the survey of the rights of British America written in 1774, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The God who gave us life gives us liberty at the same time." And each day we stand and call on that same God and pledge to the flag a pledge of allegiance, "One nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and (Please turn to Page 2 Column 5)

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Pickets hit Sears

A picket sponsored by the May Day Committee, a coalition of concerned organizations, will join others across the nation in protesting the Sears civil rights suit. The picket will be held in front of the 524 N.E. Grand Avenue store from noon until 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 5th.

Sears sued the federal government in January in an effort to destroy its affirmative action/equal opportunity requirements.

In a class action suit brought for all other retail companies affected by civil rights requirements, Sears alleges that those requirements have created an "imbalanced workforce" and conflicting regulations.

Sears, the world's largest retailer, employs more than 400,000 people.

In 1973 the EEOC charged Sears with discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin with respect to recruitment, selection, hiring, job assignment, transfer, promotion, training, layoff and recall, compensation, benefits and other terms and conditions of employment.

In April 1977 the EEOC found Sears had discriminated against Blacks, women and Spanish-surnamed.

In January of 1978, Sears' model affirmative action plan was approved. This week the government notified Sears that it will conduct an on-site review of the plan. Sears declared it will no longer do business

with the federal government because of "harassment," an action that will relieve it of meeting contract compliance requirements.

A court decision favorable to Sears would eliminate affirmative action; eliminate protection of the employment rights of minorities, women, older workers and youth; eliminate veterans employment programs; and prevent any person or agency from seeking damages based on the above regulations.

The picket will be held as a celebration of May Day. May Day is an international workers' holiday with a history of strikes, marches and demonstrations. Cinco de Mayo (May 5th) is a Mexican national holiday celebrating a defeat of French imperialist troops in the 1860's.

Attention

Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC) is celebrating its tenth year of providing services to the unemployed and underemployed.

Dr. Leon Sullivan, national OIC director, will be the speaker at a banquet to be held at the Red Lion Inn at Jantzen Beach, April 26th at 7:00 p.m. (For information call 287-1271, ext. 210).

Volunteering a way of life for McElroy

Howard J. McElroy, a tailored, successful businessman of 40, leaned back in his chair, propped a foot on his desk and put a match to his pipe.

Speaking slowly and thoughtfully, he reflected on the years he's spent helping others as a volunteer in Portland, Minneapolis, Detroit and elsewhere.

"There's a wide gulf in this country between the haves and the have-nots," said the Southwest Portland resident.

"Volunteers at all levels are necessary to improve living conditions of the less fortunate," he added. "Those who understand both sides can play a major role in closing the gap."

McElroy grew up with six brothers and six sisters in the steeltown of Youngstown, Ohio, which was affected constantly by layoffs, strikes and activity in the automobile industry.

"I also lived in Cleveland and Detroit," he added. "In those kinds of communities, the disparity is accentuated. I think that same disparity is here."

As vice president of personnel for Lipmans in Portland, McElroy has

attempted to close the gap he sees by working with the United Way, Urban League, YMCA, the NAACP and Little League.

He was elected recently to serve on the board of directors and executive board of the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette, which raises funds for 87 human service agencies.

He's also a board member of the Columbia-Willamette YMCA, a United Way agency, and is lay chairman of its Project Move, which provides counseling, recreation and leadership for "street teens" and other young people who need help.

With the Portland Urban League, McElroy has been involved in a program that offers career counseling and job placement for high school students.

"A common thing among these agencies is that they deal with people development," McElroy explained. "They try to improve a person's status, performance and level of living."

"Each of them deals with getting young people ready for participation in the competitive environment we live in."

McElroy has been interested in "people development" since graduating from college with a ba-

chelor's degree in education. He taught school for 1½ years.

"In many cases, the principles of education enabled me to be successful in business," he said. "One of the keys of human development is the ability to transfer experiences and knowledge between fields."

"The essence of education and management is having the ability to work with and train people," McElroy continued. "The quicker you can get someone to learn and execute responsibilities, the better leader you are."

McElroy, who also has a master's degree in educational administration, sees a lot of parallel principles between personnel work and volunteer work.

The principles include motivation, identifying goals, execution of goals and obtaining feedback, said McElroy, who worked seven years in personnel for the Dayton-Hudson Corporation, Lipman's parent company in Minneapolis, before moving to Portland.

"Be it a company or any other institution, people make them go," McElroy said. "Helping people improve their individual development affects the overall performances of



HOWARD McELROY

an organization."

McElroy also worked to increase the participation of minorities in business. (Please turn to Page 2 Column 5)

Black organizations ask court to hold City federal funds

Six Black organizations have refiled a suit against the City of Portland, this time including the federal government. The suit, filed against the Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Agency and the City, charges that the City failed to comply with regulations requiring minority participation.

The suit charges that the City has received over \$12 million "for the purpose of remedying unemployment in defendant's (City's) private, revenue producing economy" and that "said funds have been expended for certain of those economic development projects without soliciting participation or input from plaintiff (the Black groups) as to an appropriate investment strategy."

The City was required to comply with regulations "establishing requirements for affirmative action programs for minorities as well as minority representation and employment on public planning organizations." EDA requires the input of "all interested community groups."

The suit charges that the City's failure will cause the organizations "to be precluded from participation

in and denied the benefit of Defendant's investment strategy under the CEDS program and will not be afforded the opportunity to present a minority perspective on proposals in allocation of these Economic Development Agency funds toward the goal of remedying unemployment in the City of Portland."

The suit was filed by the Northwest Minority Contractors Association, the NAACP, the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs, the Albina Women's League, the Albina Ministerial Alliance and the Black United Front.

According to Eugene Jackson, executive director of NMCA, the group will seek an immediate injunction and temporary restraining order to stop the City from spending the money until a final determination on the suit can be made.

Following the initial filing of the suit a minority task force was appointed and held public meetings to try to identify projects in the Black community that could be funded. According to Eric Hovee of the City's office of Planning and Development, no viable projects

were identified.

Hovee told the Northeast Coalition board that all projects for the current year have been selected and that a list of potential projects for the coming year have been identified. Selection criteria included the production of long term jobs and the fact that the engineering and costing of projects has to be completed already so they can be ready to begin on October 1, 1979.

The only projects for the coming year that directly affect Albina are an Inner Northeast Economic Study and inclusion in a revolving loan fund and industrial site development. The advisory committee proposed that one-third of the loan fund be reserved for minority business but that the money could be re-allocated by the City Council. The industrial site development will be no target areas to develop for expansion of existing business or industry, prepare the sites and sell them at nominal cost to business and industry. The Inner Northeast, Northeast-airport, Central Eastside and Lower Albina will be targeted.

The Inner Northeast Economic Study, done by an Inner Northeast

Council to be appointed by May 15th, will study the extent to which rezoning of the Union Avenue area is necessary and to identify commercial and industrial sites. The City staff hopes that after the study is completed there will be funds to carry out its recommendations, but it is expected that after 1979-80 funds will be sharply reduced.

Th current projects are: Northwest Front Avenue, Swan Island, Rivergate Sewage Pump Station, Central Eastside Industrial Development, East Side Produce Row, revolving loan fund, industrial site preparation, technical assistance.

Next year's proposals include: administration and planning, revolving loan fund, Lents Development Assistance, industrial site development, Union Pacific/Southern Pacific Eastside Power Switch, Northwest Industrial Street Improvement, Produce Row, N.E. 3rd and Davis, and Civic Stadium Rehabilitation.

The suit is an effort to allow minorities and minority organizations a voice in determining how the federal economic development money will be spent and how it will impact their communities.

School Board abandons three-area organization plan

The Portland School Board voted to eliminate one of its three area offices and consolidated into two areas. Along with this reorganization, some services previously performed by the area staff will be done on a district wide basis out of the central office.

Those services that will now be done district wide include special education, curriculum development, and career education. Functions remaining in the area offices will include: supervision of buildings, budget development, supplies, instructional support, staffing, staff input, redress, administrative transfers, planning for reorganization, and citizen participation.

Organization into three areas was accomplished as a part of Dr. Robert

Blanchard's "Schools for the Seventies" plan. Area offices have operated nearly autonomously in many ways. For example, each area selects textbooks and determines curriculum and teaching methods.

Dr. Blanchard explained his recommendation by stating that times have changed and the public wants a standardized curriculum. He said that ten years ago the people wanted the curriculum and the way it was presented determined by the individual neighborhood schools. They wanted a loosening of the traditional practices and wanted to try alternative programs. The staff wanted more input in decisions.

Now, he explained, the public has expressed a greater concern for accountability and standards. They are

more interested in having the same basic curriculum in all schools. Placing more reliance on the students has resulted in lower test scores nationally.

Blanchard defended the decentralization decision made in 1970, saying that it served well to identify successful programs and that now some of those programs can be adopted district wide.

Dr. Blanchard added that there is a substantial public request for reduction of administrative costs. Board member Jonathan Newman added his opinion that the three area decentralization had been wise, providing for diversity and for more citizen participation. He preferred to retain the three areas but could accept going to two areas.

Forrest Reike said teachers he had

spoken to had preferred more uniformity across the district. Having different curriculum in the schools makes it difficult for children who change schools. He also expressed the opinion that the administrative structure hasn't lent itself to planning and that a more simplified process for public participation should be devised.

Wally Priestley recommended that all three area offices be abandoned and that their functions be carried out through the central administration. The Board will consider that option at a later date.

Elimination of one area office will save an estimated \$519,573, which includes twelve administrative positions that will be phased out through retirements and promotions.



BASKET-WEAVING WITH CHINOOK INDIAN TECHNIQUES was demonstrated by Scout Troop 70 at 1979 Scoutcampades at Washington Square April 21st-22nd; Alonzo Jamison and Joe Wonderlick use willow and clematis vines to form baskets according to Indian methods. Baskets will be used in McIver park project in which a full-sized replica of a Chinook plank house will be constructed using the same kinds of tools and techniques known 150 years ago. Troop 70 is sponsored by Alameda PTA.