

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Start all over again

They aren't even calling it a comprehensive plan.

Last fall, to head off a Black boycott that would not only have caused some financial hardship and inconvenience but would have brought national attention to the district's already tarnished image, the School Board made some promises. It promised a comprehensive desegregation plan that would place the burden of desegregation equally on Black and white students and families.

The Black United Front demands were simple: use a two-way transfer system to achieve desegregated schools; assign no less than 40 per cent Black to any school receiving Black transfers. Allow all neighborhood children to attend the Early Childhood Centers designed to draw white four and five-year-olds. These demands were in response to the destructive scattering of Black children.

Because all of the schools in the community except Boise had been cut to five grades or less, create two or more middle schools in the community and don't close Jefferson or Adams.

Other demands dealt with achievement, curriculum, teacher training, minority staff, discipline, etc. Most of those issues have not yet been addressed by the Board.

The School Board agreed to the demands and promised a comprehensive plan, to be ready for the fall of 1980, that would "reflect the Board's affirmative duty to maintain individual school populations of not more than 50 per cent minority students."

What does the new plan -- which aims at a fifty percent goal within five years -- the plan they can't even call "comprehensive" do? It does more of the same. It relies almost exclusively on the need to recruit Black students out of their community -- even more than before, according to Chairman McNamara.

The only valid change is the redistricting of part of King into the Sabin and Irvington clusters and part of Boise into Irvington. Nothing is to be done within the clusters -- Sabin/Alameda/Beaumont and Irvington/Fernwood/ect. -- to distribute white students to Sabin and Irvington.

The one middle school -- Boise or Eliot -- will depend on white volunteers.

Most Black children will still have to leave the community to attend middle school and some to attend elementary school. No white student will be transferred to a middle school or an elementary school in the Black community. The same old policy is retained.

We believe Michael Grice was right when he said the schools can be desegregated by changing boundaries. Every child would continue to attend a neighborhood school -- a desegregated neighborhood school. Only Boise and possibly King would require other adjustments. There is no need to bus children back and forth all over the city.

Of Black children must be recruited out because there is no room for them in their own schools.

The Board's plan is deficient and they might as well change it now as wait until the end of February and try to throw something else together over the weekend.

Case threatens affirmative action process

A case now in the courts that has received little attention but that might eventually become as important and as well known as the Bakke and Webber cases is Scarpelli vs Rempson.

This case, now in the Wyandotte County District Court in Kansas, is an attack on affirmative action and the complaint process.

The case involves a libel suit filed by a white medical school professor against four Black former medical students and the affirmative action officer who investigated their complaint. The students charged Dr. Dante Scarpelli, formerly chairman of the pathology and oncology department at the University of Kansas Medical Center, with "willfully and unlawfully" violating the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the school's affirmative action program by discriminating against Black students with the intention of "systematically eliminating them" from medical school.

Scarpelli countered with a libel suit claiming the complaint was malicious and libeled him. The jury deliberated for three days but was unable to reach a decision. Scarpelli has requested a retrial.

The students are: Dr. Charles Lee, presently a heart surgeon at the University of Kansas

Medical School. He was named "top Black medical school graduate in the country." Dr. Ernest Turner, who Scarpelli recommended be dismissed from school, is a pediatrician at the City of Hope Hospital, Pasadena. Dr. Charles Floyd is a psychiatrist in residency at Martin Luther King Hospital in Los Angeles. Dr. Nolan Jones is a specialist in female cancer research at Tufts University New England Medical Center Hospital.

Dr. Herbert Reid, Howard University, said, "If affirmative action officials are to be intimidated by the fear of being penalized for honest protest and complaint, then we are looking at a backdoor means of eliminating every inch of progress in higher education affirmative action."

The NAACP National Office is representing the doctors. This case is a good example of the need for continuing work in the civil rights field and the necessity of contributing to the NAACP during its Freedom Fund campaign -- now in progress. The Freedom Fund Campaign is annual effort on the part of all branches to raise money for legal and educational needs on the national level. Send your contributions to 2752 N. Williams Avenue, Portland 97212 or to your local branch in Salem, Corvallis, Eugene or Vancouver.

Letters to the Editor

Support action on police brutality

OPEN LETTER

Mr. Ron Herndon
Rev. John Jackson
Black United Front
P.O. Box 3976
Portland, Oregon 97208

Dear Ron & Rev. Jackson:

Please accept this letter as an expression of our support for the efforts.

Please accept this letter as an expression of our support for the efforts.

forts of the Black United Front concerning police brutality in the community. I believe the approach you are taking of educating citizens about how to conduct themselves when stopped by the police, the process to follow when stopped inappropriately, and the reporting system you have designed are proper strategies. The issue of police brutality is real and has a serious impact on the community in general and the Black Community in particular.

We strongly encourage you to work with Commissioner Jordan in his efforts to eradicate this scourge on the community.

My county office will assist in whatever way seems appropriate.

Sincerely,

Glady McCoy
Multnomah County Commissioner

Bill McCoy
State Senator, District 8

PORTLAND OBSERVER

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ALFRED L. HENDERSON
Editor/Publisher



Western Sahara: The forgotten war

by N. Fungai Kumbula

A heated controversy in the U.S. State Department that had raged for over two years was quietly resolved this past month. The debate centered on a bitter war being waged in Africa's vast Sahara Desert, some ten thousand miles away. The war in question is the POLISARIO liberation movement's campaign to oust Morocco from Western Sahara.

Western Sahara is a strip of desert about the size of California on the west coast of Africa. It was, until 1977, a Spanish colony. For quite some time, the POLISARIO had been waging a very successful guerrilla war against Spanish occupation. By 1977 the Spanish had had enough so they decided to quit and they were going to grant independence to the POLISARIO but, a number of people intervened.

Morocco is currently the world's leading producer of phosphates from which fertilizer is made. Prospectors studying the Western Sahara have, however, found that Western Sahara has reserves that would dwarf Morocco's. This study must have upset King Hassan of Morocco to suddenly find himself playing second fiddle to an obscure country like Western Sahara. For this reason and whatever other colonial designs he had, he suddenly laid claim to Western Sahara. Accordingly, the applied pressure on the Spanish not to grant independence to the POLISARIO but instead to pass sovereignty of the territory over to Morocco and Mauritania.

It is said, Henry Kissinger also applied quite a lot of pressure on Spain to give Western Sahara over to Morocco and Mauritania rather than grant the territory independence. At the time Morocco was negotiating for more money for the lease of US bases in Spain, Kissinger assured the Spaniards that they would get all the money they were asking for: all they had to do was cede Western Sahara to Morocco and Mauritania. So in 1977 Spain complied and passed the Western Saharas sovereignty over to Morocco and Mauritania.

The POLISARIO movement for its part simply retrained its guns at both Mauritania and Morocco. From the start, Mauritania was a rather hesitant partner, she seemed to go along with the deal for fear of possible reprisals from Morocco if she did not. After the POLISARIO attacked targets in both Mauritania and Morocco several times and scoring spectacular successes, Mauritania agreed to participate in bilateral negotiations with the POLISARIO. Earlier this year, these negotiations resulted in Mauritania giving up her portion of Western Sahara. Hassan was furious and immediately moved to claim that portion and vowed to fight until the POLISARIO was wiped out.

The war has raged on since with the POLISARIO seeming to get the best of it most of the time. That is what the State Department debate was all about. Technically, the US does not recognize Morocco's claim to Western Sahara. The US is also Morocco's main arms supplier and for quite some time now, Hassan has been negotiating for more arms to fight the POLISARIO. For the past

two years or so, reason had prevailed in the State Department with the Dept. refusing to sell offensive weapons to Morocco. What weapons were sold always carried the rider that they were not to be used outside Morocco's borders. Last month, as seems to be the trend everyday now, reason was tossed out the window and the Carter administration agreed to seal Morocco \$100 million worth of arms. Not only that, the stipulation about the weapons being used exclusively for defense purposes was struck down. Thus even though the US still professes opposition to Morocco's annexation of Western Sahara, selling of these weapons and striking out the "defense only" clause will undoubtedly be taken by Hassan as tacit approval for his policies.

The "hawks" in the State Department and the Carter administration had argued, successfully now one could add, that Hassan is one of the US's staunchest supporters and "should not be abandoned like the shah." These same "hawks" also argued that maybe given these arms and a freer hand in Western Sahara, Hassan could be persuaded to support Anwar Sadat's Mid-East peace

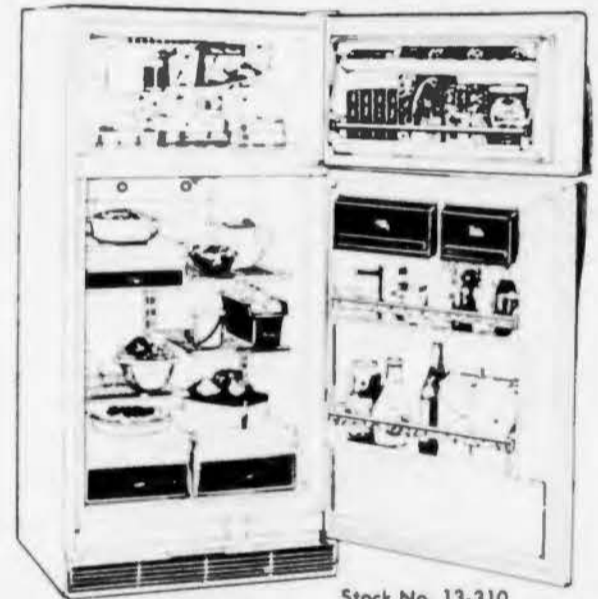
initiative. So far, except for the Sudan's Jaafar Niemery, no other Arab or African leader has come up in support of Sadat.

So, for its Mid-East peace initiative and to "keep a friendly monarch in power," the "hawks" in the US government have decided to sacrifice the people of Western Sahara. Apparently, principles count for much less nowadays than even I had imagined. Meantime, William Tolbert, current chairman of the OAU (Organization of African Unity) has initiated an OAU sponsored effort to get the combatants to the negotiating table. He has already called on both the POLISARIO and Morocco as well as Algeria, the POLISARIO's main backer and arms supplier, to meet and try to iron out their differences.

The State Department was arguing that maybe with these new arms, Hassan would feel he was in a better position to opt for a peaceful solution to the Saharan problem! One cannot be blamed for failing to follow this kind of (ill) logic. Hopefully the combatants will heed the OAU call and peacefully resolve their differences. There has been much too much killing already.

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