

AFSC continues Cambodia relief effort

The Portland Area Program office of the American Friends Service Committee is continuing its fund-raising efforts in Oregon and Washington as part of a nationwide campaign for the relief of the Cambodian people.

Portland office staff said that the group has received over \$12,000 in the last two weeks following the placement of appeals in the Oregonian and the Vancouver Columbian.

"We have also had many phone calls and inquiries about Cambodia" said Terry SoRelle of AFSC, "we are very glad for any opportunity to explain and interpret recent events in Indochina."

Nationally \$100,000 has been collected and the first shipment of food—about 400 tons of rice; sent by American Friends Service Committee, has arrived in the Cambodian port of Kampong Som, part of a 2000 ton OXFAM-coordinated

shipment of food, seeds and tools for that desperate country.

"Supplies are getting through," said David Elder, coordinator of the AFSC's Southeast Asia program.

"People shouldn't be confused by the Cambodian rejection of the U.S. proposed, 'land-bridge' route from Thailand. Supplies are arriving in Kampong Som, Cambodia's only deep water port, almost daily. Elder said that the 400 tons, which arrived

by barge will feed 30,000 persons for one month in Cambodia.

The organizations National Board of Directors has authorized an airlift of \$100,000 worth of medicines, vitamins, and other urgently needed supplies to the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

Elder said that international agencies operating in Phnom Penh report excellent cooperation by Cambodian authorities.

"Ministry officials in the Cam-

bodian government are going out of the way to help, and are giving bi-weekly reports to the agency representatives on precisely where the donations are going. Agency people are allowed to go to any distribution spot to observe."

An AFSC delegation of five persons, visiting Cambodia in September found a country devastated by war and famine.

Edward F. Snyder, who chaired the delegation, told the Senate

Judiciary Committee in Washington on October 31 that, "Efforts must be made to develop a viable political solution even as the food crisis continues."

"If the United States could develop a more neutral stance on conflicts in the region between China/Pol Pot and USSR/Viet Nam, it might be able to play a more active role in food distribution and in the search for an acceptable solution in Kampuchea.

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Gerry Newhall

Newhall: Peyton Award recipient

By Stephanie L. Michael

This year's recipient of the Russell A. Peyton Human Relations Award has been selected by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission. Gerry Newhall, a Multnomah County community coordinator for the West/North Quadrant will be receiving the award at the annual Peyton Award luncheon in Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock, at noon Dec. 13. The award will be given in correspondence with the celebration of Human Relations Week in the Metro area.

Each year the Peyton Award is bestowed to a person recognized as giving outstanding contributions to human rights and interracial relations in Portland. Newhall has been active as a community volunteer for some 40 years. She has worked as a long time advocate with school desegregation and community relations in Portland for 25 years.

During the 1960's she was a member of a Portland steering committee for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. The SNCC group sent used Portland schoolbooks to "freedom schools" in Mississippi. She was also active in 1964 with the "Schwab Report", a citizen's movement that resulted in a report on school desegregation in the Portland school district.

Newhall in 1972 was a founder of Schools for the City, a citizens' watchdog and support group for the school district, and served in the Community Coalition for School Integration. The 60-year-old advocate has worked as chairwoman for the Oregon Program Council, the advisory council of the Burnside Consortium and the Community Relations Committee of the Northwest Regional American Friends Service Committee.

Gerry G. Newhall, the mother of five children says she believes in the philosophy of non-violence and works as a community volunteer to help facilitate understanding. She feels as long as a constant open line of communications is maintained, things between disputing parties can be worked out.

"I believe in what Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of—we must learn to live together as brothers or perish as fools. I think basic legislation is essential in this society, but we as individuals must take very seriously some of the functions we can do to improve existing laws and attitudes. It is our job to do the small things that will improve the quality of relationships, regardless where we are."

"Bringing people together and enabling folks to work out a better quality

of life for themselves is what it's all about. Desegregation and integration have been long term interests of mine. Early childhood education plays such a significant part in the lives and attitudes of all children. The way I look at things is if you don't do something, then who is going to do the job."

Through the years of struggle for human relations and civil rights, Newhall says there have been bitter times of discouragement. But, she says through it, it has brought something to her life that is priceless.

"I would like to wave a magic wand and fix the world the way I see things. But progress will only be achieved through working interests. People will have to learn to work with folks of like interests and that common cause will bond new friendships and fellowships. It may be a small thing if Blacks in the community and I can get together; what makes a difference in the quality of life is solving those problems or at least coming to a compromise."

"So of course, I get discouraged at times, but I believe in a long term commitment. You can't do something for two or three years. I think during the first ten years you begin to learn the facts and the ropes around and through (Please turn to page 9 column 3)

De Preist named Music Director

Conductor James DePreist will assume the post of Music Director of the Oregon Symphony Orchestra beginning with the 1980-81 season, it was announced today in a meeting at the Portland Hilton Hotel.

DePreist signed a three-year contract with the Oregon Symphony Association, according to president Phillip R. Bogue. His selection followed an intensive ten-month search by the Oregon Symphony conductor search committee, chaired by Portland State University president Joseph R. Blumel. Other committee members were William E. Craig, J. Pierre Kolisch, Dr. Timothy Mahoney, Peter F. Opton, Mae Priestley, Ariel Rubenstein and Mary A. Tooze.

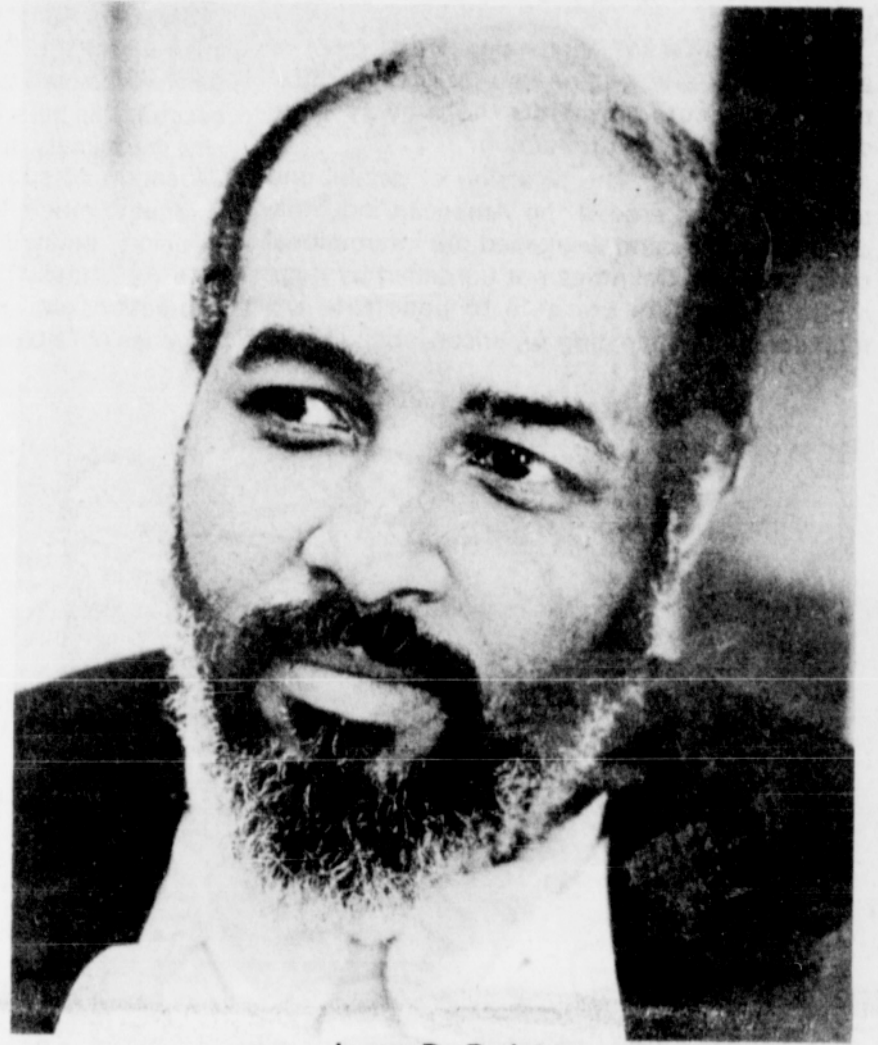
"We reviewed the qualifications of well over 125 applicants, nominees and other possible candidates," Blumel reported. "The conductor search committee was concerned with each candidate's musicianship, repertoire, experience, national and international reputation, commitment to orchestra building and respect in the community. It is the judgement of the committee that Mr. DePreist is the best person to carry on the outstanding work of our current Music Director Lawrence Smith. Our recommendation is unqualified, unanimous and enthusiastic."

Smith announced last January that the 1979-80 season, which ends June 30, 1980, would be his final year as Music Director of the Orchestra. He has not yet announced future plans. Norman Leyden will continue as Associate Conductor.

DePreist will also continue in his position as Music Director of L'orchestre symphonique de Quebec at least through the 1980-81 season, a post which he assumed in 1975 following a three-year tenure as Associate Conductor to Antal Dorati at the National Symphony in Washington, D.C.

The Quebec orchestra, which was virtually unheard of in musical circles before 1975, has since attracted top soloists, increased subscription sales, completed a successful tour to Washington, D.C., and amassed other opportunities including an invitation to go to Spain, to Washington once again, possibly to Carnegie Hall and a tour of Canada.

A frequent guest conductor of important orchestras throughout the



James De Preist

world, DePreist has just completed a three week, fifteen concert engagement with the Israel Philharmonic at the invitation of Zubin Mehta. His other guest conducting engagements for the 1979-80 season include Helsinki, Finland; Goteborg, Sweden; Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada; Seattle, Utah and Oregon, where he will conduct subscription concerts with pianist John Browning at Portland Civic Auditorium, March 16, 17 and 18, and in Salem on March 19, 1980.

DePreist's entry into the conducting field did not follow the usual pattern. Having grown up in a middle class Philadelphia family, he earned a B.S. degree in economics, a B.A. degree in film and planned to go to law school. Along the way, he was sidetracked into the Philadelphia Conservatory where he studied composition with noted composer Vincent Persichetti.

In 1962 he was scheduled to make a State Department-sponsored tour to a number of Eastern countries where he was to conduct a wide variety of local ensembles. Before his departure, his aunt, the famous singer Marian Anderson, arranged for him to meet Leonard Bernstein who persuaded him that the Eastern tour might help him choose his career.

And, as Bernstein had predicted, DePreist found that he was a natural conductor. "It was as if I'd been doing it all my life," he said. "The music just took hold of me and I knew exactly what I wanted from the players."

It was during this tour that DePreist contracted polio, but he recovered sufficiently to make a second tour in 1963. The following year he gained national attention when he won first prize in the prestigious Dimitri Mitropoulos International Conducting Competition. (Please turn to page 10 column 3)

Affirmative Action: The vehicle for social change

Herbert Aptheker, Marxist scholar who had written extensively on W.E.B. DuBois, told students at Reed College that affirmative action is a necessary ingredient of social change. Only by including those groups now excluded from the labor force -- minorities and women -- can the united working class necessary to make fundamental economic changes develop.

Aptheker explained that opponents of affirmative action use five main arguments, but each of these arguments can be demonstrated to be false:

Opposition: Racism is something that existed in the past. The need for affirmative action has been eliminated.

Aptheker called this argument "almost insulting. This notion is steeped in racism. It is an institutionalized feature of the U.S. social order and every significant component of life reflects this fact." For example:

- The unemployment rate of Blacks is three times the rate of whites; Chicanos and Puerto Ricans

also have significantly higher rates of unemployment.

- The average annual income of Blacks is 40 per cent lower than whites.

- The average length of life is seven to eight years shorter for Blacks

- Blacks make up 2 per cent of doctors in the nation; 2 per cent of dentists; 2 per cent of attorneys; 2 percent of state police; 2 per cent of all college graduates.

"The repressive character of racism is intensifying." Recent Supreme Court decisions have the effect of moving the nation backward toward Plessy vs Ferguson.

- The Southern Regional Council, in a study of 16 southern cities -- found patterns of city employment virtually unchanged since 1964.

- The American Bar Association Commission on Housing in 1978 determined that since World War II "Urban growth is accompanied by severe racial and economic polarization." Regulations and laws have prevented equal access, courts and legislatures have done too little.

"Without basic changes a great number of Americans will be denied housing choice, cities will decline, racial and economic groups will become segregated."

- The Urban League in 1978 found the Black to white income ratio fell from 62 per cent in 1975-76 to 59 per cent in 1977-78. The gap between Black and white unemployment percentages is highest ever. The percentage of Black families with incomes over 24,000 has declined. Currently 27 per cent of Black college graduates are unemployed, while 22 per cent of white high school dropouts are unemployed.

Calling the 41.1 per cent Black unemployment rate of youth a "figure of catastrophe," Aptheker pointed out that the facts prove that institutionalized racism is very much a part of American life today.

Opposition: Affirmative action penalizes merit.

"Racism is an instrument for penalizing merit. Why didn't Paul Robeson sing in the Metropolitan Opera? Why did we wait until 1947 before a Black could play second

base for the Dodgers? Racism is an institutional device to deny merit, so to argue that affirmative action penalizes merit is disgusting.

Affirmative action seeks to knock down barriers created by racism. "Opponents speak as though in this society, with its racism, sexism, and general corruption, merit really characterizes the selection of its leading figures."

Opposition: Affirmative Action picks groups where selection should be based on individuals.

"Racism asserts that an entire people is innately inferior to other people. It is the special oppression of a people as a whole. Blacks were not enslaved as individuals, Blacks as a people were enslaved."

The whole system is aimed at victimized people as a whole. One demand of the victims is to be considered as individuals and to be dealt with accordingly.

Motivation is irrelevant to social investigative inquiry except in the inquiry into the motives of courts and legislatures to understand what

Opposition: A necessary element in proof of racism and discrimination is the presence of intention -- motivation.

They meant when they made and interpreted laws.

Motivation is irrelevant; the result of the act is what is important. Racism is not an idea; it is a practice. The problem is to transform reality -- to change what can be measured in health, longevity, employment, housing, etc. "Correcting the problem of discrimination does not mean Equal Opportunity Employment; it means equality of life."

Opposition: Affirmative action involves a quota system.

Some oppose quotas because the old quota system was designed to keep people out; the new affirmative action quota system would be to bring people in. "Affirmative action is not 'reverse discrimination'; it is a way to reverse discrimination."

What does affirmative action mean to the white man? The crucial problems facing the nation -- inflation, housing, unemployment, education--afflict all and can't be

solved without solving the problem of racism.

The opponents of affirmative action -- the corporate structure -- are welded to an economy of scarcity. Everyone competes for a slice of the pie. Proponents of affirmative action reject that and are not satisfied with a limit on the number of schools, jobs, hospitals, homes. The fight for affirmative action seeks justice and in its quest brings forth the need for a shift in national priorities and purposes.

To build a new social order -- one where all can share in the benefits -- there must be a shift in the political orientation. The one-class, two-party system must be replaced by a mass people's party. It is impossible to forge a unified people's party with 50 million oppressed minority people excluded.

Aptheker said the struggle against racism and sexism are integrally related. The fight for affirmative action will unite men, women and minorities. A united working class will result--and that could transform the quality of life.