

EDITORIAL/ OPINION

Set asides face court challenge

The age of Black capitalism is being challenged by Fullilove vs Kreps, now before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case is one of a series that challenges legislative mandates to "set aside" portions of federally funded contracts for minority owned business.

Amendments to the 1976 Local Public Works Act by Representative Parren Mitchell and then Senator Edward Brooke created set-asides. That year, federal procurement had totaled \$68 billion with minority procurement less than 0.4 per cent.

The net effect of the 10 per cent set aside gave minority business \$560 million (nearly 14 per cent of the total appropriation).

Fullilove, a New York heating firm, contends that the set aside provision violates the equal protection aspect of the Fifth Amendment and the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1964.

Senator Brooke argued in the Senate: "It is an appropriate concept, because minority businesses' work forces are principally drawn from residents of communities with severe and chronic unemployment. With more business, these firms can hire even more minority citizens. Only with a healthy, vital minority business sector can we hope to make dramatic strides in our fight against massive and chronic

unemployment which plagues minority communities throughout the country."

The lower courts agreed with Mitchell and Brooke that a negative effect of the set asides cannot be said to be concentrated on a "relatively small, ascertainable group of non-minority persons" because the set asides account for only 0.025 per cent of funds spent on construction annually.

Before the Supreme Court the government argued that the minorities who benefit were victims of past discrimination and set asides are a proper remedy.

The decision -- expected by June of 1980 -- will be a landmark. It will not only review the set aside issue, but if successful will set a precedent for review of the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investors Act which assist small businesses.

The potential for growth of viable minority business is clearly threatened by this suit.

Be counted

The 1980 Census begins April 1st. The distribution of legislative power as well as federal and state funds is determined by this count.

Don't be short changed -- be counted!



Southern Africa: balance of power shifts

by N. Fungai Kumbula

Everybody loves a winner. When you are rolling downhill, everybody gives you a push but, when you are going uphill, they all look the other way. In the past week alone, more positive things have been said and written about Comrade Robert Mugabe than in all the seven years that Zimbabwe's war of liberation raged. Where once he was an "avowed Marxist," "terrorist leader," "extremist" etc. etc., now he is being hailed as a "pragmatist," a "responsible leader," a "reasonable man" and so forth and so on.

Understandably, his landslide victory in Zimbabwe's first ever real elections is the most exciting news to come out of that part of the world in a long, long time. Caught completely off balance, maybe Western journalist can be forgiven for, belatedly, trying to jump on the bandwagon. Very few of them, however, have zeroed in on the most important part of Mugabe's coming to power in Zimbabwe.

When he takes office at the end of this month as Zimbabwe's first Black Prime Minister, it will mark an historic event in more ways than one. It will mark the first time since the whites first set foot in Zimbabwe that they will be taking orders from the Africans. The Africans will be running the show for the first time. A most amusing but very significant event took place this past week also. Ian Smith, self-proclaimed "white supremacist forever," requested and was granted a meeting with Prime Minister designate Robert Mugabe, the same Mugabe that Smith had declared "Rhodesia's

Public Enemy Number One."

The purpose of the meeting was to ask for a cabinet position. Can you beat that? Smith actually asking Mugabe to include him in his cabinet! Of course, Mugabe said "NO!" My, my, the times they are changing! In the first parliament Mugabe indicated he may include one white cabinet member. One out of 20 would work out to 5% representation for the whites who comprise 4% of the population. That's down from about 95% representation in the outgoing government.

Changes just as profound and just as immediate will be felt beyond Zimbabwe's borders. For one, Zambia will now have a friendly border to the south for the first time since independence in 1964. Southern neighbor Botswana finally has access to Free Africa. No longer will she be sandwiched between South Africa to the south and Rhodesia to the north. Mozambique no longer has to worry about her western border. Since independence in 1975, Mozambique had never known real peace. Angola, though somewhat removed, benefits also from the Black takeover in Zimbabwe. There will now be more cooperation among Southern African states, much to the delight of one Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

When Zimbabwe joins the OAU (Organization of African Unity) the ranks of the so-called radicals or, more correctly, the progressives, will swell by one. She will be joining the OAU's progressive club now made up of Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Congo (Brazzaville),

Guinea, Ethiopia, Algeria, Libya, Somalia (?) and Uganda. Zimbabwe also inherits the mantle of the left front line state in the upcoming battle for liberation of both Namibia and South Africa. An equally onerous burden now falls on the shoulders of Sam Nujoma, leader of SWAPO to wrestle control of his country Namibia from South Africa's clutches. The OAU's Africa Liberation Committee's kitty should be a little bit fatter now that the proceeds only have to be split two ways instead of three. The momentum is there. South Africa also must be thinking of ways of extricating herself from Namibia before the Africans kick her out of La Zimbabwe. The question of Afrikanerdom is asking itself now: How long can we hold on to South Africa? Notice: it's no longer "can we hold on?" but rather "how long?"

The humiliation of Abel Muzorewa in Zimbabwe served notice to them that the propping up of puppets will no longer quiet the demands of the Africans. They demand the real thing, not mere cosmetic changes. This rude awakening throws a humongous monkey wrench into their whole Bantustan policy. Hopefully, Zimbabwe's elections have served notice to South Africa's western backers that the "winds of change" are blowing again and they'd better not be caught on the wrong side this time. This new African wind could turn in a Black gale that could blow them all the way out into the Indian Ocean.

Racism Revisted: Portland, 1980

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basis that once again individuals and/or institutions are spending considerable amounts of time creating turmoil in the Afrikan-American community. However, it is now and always has been necessary that upon realizing racist subversion on the part of individuals and/institutions, the Black community must maintain its unity at all cost. Afrikan-American unity must be maintained, even aside from the B.U.F. position due to the following reasons and in Portland's case cloaked in the concept of integration:

1. When integration is vigorously pursued, one negates the Black community's right to self-determination - to do as we please in our own best interest, a matter of survival in its simplest form.
2. For Black people and the way in which integration is presently practiced, such practice teaches us how to adjust/accommodate/assimilate as opposed to learning how to liberate.
3. The Black community can never be assured of fair and just treatment over extended/consistent periods of time, when decisions about us rests with a collective and majority body of whites. Time and time again, our history and the present Black experience dictates to all of us such a fact. The fact being inherent racism among Europeans and white Americans, a very serious mental illness (perhaps the No. 1 mental health problem in the U.S.) treatable only over extended periods of time.
4. When Black folk accurately ar-

ticulate their desire for what we believe is quality living that is different from white folk, we can be certain that the best white minds available will attempt to distort our reality.

5. We should never allow, as it is practiced now, anyone to ram integration down our throats although it could be done in a city like Portland because obviously both Black and white folk have bought the concept hook, line, and sinker for all the wrong reasons. But we must know or should know how insidious integration really is.

6. Even if integration was the epitome of morality, it has always been practiced from the depths of immorality, because social, economic, and political systems are not based on equality due to peculiarities of racism in the U.S.

7. Afrikan-Americans must never put themselves in a position whereby the rich and powerful (usually done by their lackeys be-

they Black or white), view or reduce us to a pack of dogs who are supplied with weekly/monthly/annual supplies of milk bone who look forward to a pat on the head. The author is unknown, but the quote is food for thought: "A poor freedom is better than a rich slavery."

The Portland Public Schools and a slip of the tongue by a school Board member is only used as an institutional backdrop, but it is essential that the Afrikan-American community stay together because racism is indeed alive and well, lurks just around the corner at all times, and maintains itself in all Portland institutional settings in various forms. The need for Afrikan-Americans to stand tall and proud (like the people we really are) is necessary to illustrate that no force can effectively "split" our community. For Afrikan-Americans, the struggle has never been an integrationist or segregationist one, but rather a humanistic non-racist one.



Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan,
Commissioner of Public Safety

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF SO-CALLED VICTIMLESS CRIMES? You and I are! But, unless we are, or have been victimized, we usually fail to recognize it.

So call "victimless" crimes (prostitution, gambling, drug abuse) affect all of us whether we know it or not. Although referred to as "victimless crimes," in my opinion, there is always a victim. I find it difficult not to agree that any action which diminishes any man or woman, reduces us all. If any person is lost to us because he or she is involved in prostitution, addicted to alcohol or drug use, shouldn't I be concerned because that person is lost to mankind? If you don't feel that the loss of one person affects you, then consider the millions of people throughout the world who

are not only non-productive but dependent on us for their very existence while they serve as "peddlers of pleasure," beg or steal for their next drink or dose.

Take for instance, one crime that is highly visible, prostitution. It creates visual pollution and residential-business inconvenience. As prostitutes monopolize certain street locations to make customer contracts, they further invade residential neighborhoods where you and I live. Many embrace the position that prostitution is victimless in that "Consenting" parties are involved.

ARE THERE VICTIMS?

Certainly there are! Most engaged in this do not have a choice! They are forced to work against their will and the result has led to death, thefts, robberies and assaults. Many "johns" in the market for pleasure have often received more than what

they bargained for. The complaints echo again and again. "I've been rolled!" in an attempt to buy a few moments of pleasure.

We are really talking about basic human rights. In this country we are champions of freedom for the individual to do as that person wishes. Lawmakers are trying to be sensitive to what the majority of citizens want and if that means imposing legislation to protect all citizens, then it should be done. Legislation alone will not totally eliminate this crime; however, it will serve to minimize the opportunities of those victimized by it.

Over a hundred years ago, philosopher John Stuart Mill wrote that...the only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others."

but voted to delete. Sarah Newhall also opposed selection standards.

Superintendent Blanchard said selection standards were met with some enthusiasm among his contacts in the Black community.

Cawthorne replied that anyone who disagreed totally with Buel "is far off base and doesn't understand what the issue is."

"Is this board color conscious or color blind," he asked. "Just assign Blacks. Why don't you just assign them?"

Although the board decided not to use selection criteria, it will discuss again Thursday night the issues of whether the school should be a "magnet" and where it will be located.

Board rejects select middle school

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

posed selection criteria and favored assignment of students.

Steve Buel said admission requirements would tell children who are not quite as bright, as strong or as talented, "You had better go somewhere else, out of your community." Instead of putting in a middle school in the community to provide for Black children, "the intent has been to do something for whites -- a nice school whites would like. But not to get down to brass tacks to help children having trouble in school -- because of the color of their skin have had certain things foisted on them by the city and the school district."

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A PERSONAL MOMENT FOR THOSE WHO CARE

Into each life some rain must fall. Some will be unprepared and get soaked to the skin. Others will have anticipated the rain and their umbrella will keep them dry. For some a long dry spell will have made the rain a very welcome sight. A heart filled with love will make every storm a welcome sight. Love makes one project beyond one's self, to enable them to see life from a better vantage point.

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