

New "PMSC" agency organizing in Portland

Region X of the Community Services Administration is in the process of setting up a city-wide community action agency that would receive and disperse CSA's "war on poverty" money.

Since the demise of the Portland Metropolitan Steering Committee, money has been allocated directly to the four agencies serving the city: PACT in Southwest, The Albina

Action Center in Northeast, the North Community Action Center and the Urban Indian Program.

The new organization to be called the Portland Community Action Agency, will plan strategies, monitor programs and projects, advocate for the poor, oversee the participation of the poor in planning.

According to suggested by-laws the board will have eighteen mem-

bers: one-third public officials, one-third representatives of the poor; one-third representatives of private organizations and business. The recognized community agencies would participate in the selection process.

The organization would have a staff. Whether it will operate some programs or whether all programs

will be operated by delegate agencies has not been determined.

One of the more controversial elements of the plan is the authorization of delegate agencies. Under proposed by-laws the board would select local community organizations to receive funds and operate programs and could authorize centers in various areas of the city. Those agencies and centers

could be the existing agencies -- PACT, TAAC, NCAC, - and Urban Indian Center -- or they could be other existing or new agencies. Existing agencies would have to insure participation of the poor on advisory board.

Even more threatening to existing community action agencies programs is the requirement that each recognized neighborhood cen-

ter have an executive director named by its board "with the approval of the Portland Community Action Board at its next regular meeting." An April 22nd version eliminates that requirement.

Although many participants in the CSA process feel a city-wide agency would insure coordination of planning and programs, others fear old rivalries will be revived.

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It takes a person who has the blues to sing the blues - the kind that was born in the hot Mississippi Delta out of the suffering, longing and hard labor that beset Southern Blacks during the early part of this century. Only a person who has toiled in the cotton fields from sunrise to sundown for 35

cents a day can sing "Hurry Sundown" with Sam Chatmon's conviction. And only someone like Joe Savage, who has served time at Parchman (the Mississippi State Penitentiary), can sing "Bad Luck is Killin' me..." with such earnest intensity.

(Please see page 6)

Ockley Green renovation agreed

The Portland School Board repeated its commitment to an Ockley Green middle school Monday night, and voted adequate funds for the building.

The school district and the City of Portland have applied for urban park funds to build the Ockley Green gymnasium, but present indications are that because of federal budget cut-backs, the funds will not be obtained. The \$70,000 is to replace the federal funds if they are not made available.

The situation was brought to the attention of the Board by the Ockley Green School Parent Steering Committee. The committee had learned that because of the funding short fall, Dr. Harold Kleiner had proposed that the school either be limited to seventh and eighth grades, or that the renovation should wait until a later date.

Charles Beadle, chairman of the committee, said referring to a seventh and eighth grade school, that "a crippled middle school" has met

complete opposition. The committee is particularly concerned that children of Applegate, which is a K-5 school, would have to attend three schools before going to high school and that is "not only unacceptable but is morally repugnant."

The committee felt that waiting until a future levy would be an insult to the Jefferson community. Planning for the middle school began in 1975 and the proposal was submitted to the Board in June of 1978. Jefferson was the only area accepting a middle school that year, with the Roosevelt, Lincoln and Wilson Clusters rejecting them.

The Beaumont community rejected a middle school, but Beaumont was converted to a middle school in the fall of 1979 and the building will be renovated this summer. The Jefferson plan also predates the Gregory Heights decision, but Gregory Heights was scheduled for renovation during the 1980-81 school year.

The Ockley Green committee also

pointed out the relationship between Jefferson High School and Ockley Green - a relationship which is essential to having students living in the Jefferson area enroll at Jefferson.

Board member Herb Cawthorne proposed, and the Board concurred, that \$700,000 be transferred from funds allocated to Gregory Heights to those allocated to Ockley Green. The Board will meet with the Gregory Heights community to discuss plans for the establishment of a middle school in that area. Although, unrelated to the financial problems at Ockley Green, the cost of plans for Gregory Heights are estimated to be three times the original proposal.

Still to be decided is the temporary location of students while buildings are being renovated. Ockley Green was scheduled to go to Monroe, but Monroe will now temporarily house the new Eliot middle school program. Beaumont (Please turn to P2 Col 4)

PPS subverts Facility purpose

The Portland School Board has adopted a desegregation plan that will require the use of five rooms in Martin Luther King School now leased to the King Neighborhood Facility.

The School Board's resolution says, "If necessary, steps will be taken to negotiate with the city to regain use of some or all of the five classrooms under lease to the King Neighborhood Facility."

The property is leased to the City of Portland for 20 years, terminating in 1995. In 1972, the School District agreed to assume management of the Neighborhood Facility, operating it to provide social services to the neighborhood as required by the City's contract with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The District agreed to provide the classrooms in question, and use of the auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen.

According to James Loving, KNF director, tenants now using the rooms have been notified that existing leases will not be honored, but will be changed to 30 day renewable leases.

"I was told to give the tenants this information, that they could be moved out at any time. This does not provide any security, so some of the agencies have been looking around for other space," Loving said.

The district's plan, according to Loving, is to lease the rooms to themselves. "I was told by Leroy Moore, the principal of King School that they will not know until next

fall when they see how many students return, whether they will need one, two or all of the rooms."

The decision to sub-lease the rooms to themselves avoids a fight with the City over the terms of the contract, but it denies the Facility use of space guaranteed to it, and limits its service to the community.

Planning for KNF began in December of 1970 in response to neighborhood requests. In January of 1971 the King, Vernon and Sabin neighborhood associations agreed to work together, with a fifteen member coordinating committee which met weekly. A neighborhood facility was high on the list of priorities for all three neighborhoods.

A Facility Task Force was named in January of 1972, with Ted Baugh as chairman. Members were: Fred Ehelebe, Regina Flowers, Betty Walker, Ella Mae Gay, Robert and Geneva Harris, Martha Warren, Eddie Moss, Beatrice Gilmore, Rosadelle Summers, Clifton David, Sherry Rhone, Jeanne Franz, Herb Simpson, Marion Scott and James Loving.

The proposal was submitted to HUD for Model Cities funding in June of 1972, designed "as a community center for the area's residents...It's services will complement and/or interface with other community facilities in the immediate area; and services will be scheduled to meet neighborhood needs. As a community center, the neighborhood facility will be a point of reference for model neighborhood residents. It will serve as a focal

point for neighborhood identity and become an integral part of neighborhood life and activities."

The School District's move to reclaim the classrooms breaks the agreement it made with the City and will hinder the Facility's ability to fulfill its role.

James Loving, center director, has repeatedly requested expansion of the center. "We have repeated inquiries from community groups who want space. I have to turn them away with no hope that we will ever have space for them."

Loving has advocated that the City and the School District add an extension to the Facility, to provide additional office space, a small kitchen what would be available during the day and a medium sized meeting room. Access to the kitchen and the cafeteria, used for large community meetings, is limited during the school day.

Loving envisioned the extension as providing facilities for the Urban League Senior Citizen program which is now looking for space. "This facility could provide facilities for their program where they could be separated from the youth and children's programs, but they would be close to the other services available at the Facility."

Users of programs housed at KNF had expected that their interests would be protected by the School District's lease with the City. They assumed that as long as the City - School District lease is in effect it could not be broken and the rooms could not be recovered without City (Please turn to page 9 col 4)

GSA leads state minority hiring

SALEM -- How did the Oregon Department of General Services become the leader in state government affirmative action hiring?

"Recruiting is the key," according to department director Darrell Ralls.

Since March of last year the department has been the state's affirmative action hiring leader. Between then and now, 26 women, excluding those hired for clerical positions, 14 minorities, and three handicapped have been appointed to General Services positions.

About half of those hired into management positions were recruited from outside state government, Ralls said. The rest were hired from within the state, and some were promoted from within the department.

"We are committed to affirmative action, but our primary effort is made on the front end -- in aggressive recruitment," Ralls explained. "A special effort is made to obtain applicants who are not only qualified for the position, but who portray a representative sampling of the labor market."

During the past year three minority members have joined the General Services management staff:

- Calvin Johnson, management analyst, office of the director.

- Lilly Walker, minority business enterprise coordinator, purchasing division.

- Wanda Wright, administrator, services division.

Women who have filled key management and policy positions in the department in addition to Ms.

Walker and Ms. Wright include:

- Jean DeFond, management analyst, property division.

- Joyce Handel, project manager, property division.

- Jalaine Madura, alternate modes coordinator, operations division.

- Debra McDermott, deputy administrator, services division.

- Jackie Roddewig, reprographics manager, printing division.

Ralls said none of the appointments made now, nor those in the future, were, or will be, made only as purposeful affirmative action hires. "No position is predetermined," he said. "Not one of the persons appointed was less than the best qualified for the job...We don't believe in second best." Ralls said (Please turn to page 5 col 3)

Petitioners seek public control of electric utilities

By Kathy Siegner

Dissatisfaction with ever-increasing utility rates had led Multnomah County residents to pursue formation this fall of a People's Utility District (PUD) to take over the area now served by Portland General Electric Co.

In March, the Multnomah County PUD Coalition collected more than 14,000 signatures of registered voters to put the PUD question on the November 4 ballot. The next step is a state Department of Energy hearing May 22 on the feasibility of setting up the consumer-owned utility.

Similar efforts in 13 other western Oregon counties have taken place, with the following already certified for the fall election: Linn; Benton; Clackamas; Yamhill; Polk; Washington; Klamath; Coos;

Jackson; Marion; Clatsop; Lincoln and Hood River. Passage of new PUD measures would replace both PGE and Pacific Power & Light Co. in their respective areas.

PGE has already promised to fight the growing PUD movement with "whatever talents and facilities are available to us," according to Public Information Officer Steve Loy. And PP&L's budget "to protect its properties and business against attack by adverse entities" is \$840,000, according to a report from the Public Utility Commission.

Many public utilities were formed in the 1930's and 1940's when the procedure was not so complicated. It now takes two elections to form a PUD; one to elect a board of directors and authorize a small levy for a required engineering study, and another to permit issuance of suf-

ficient revenue bonds to purchase the existing system.

The private utilities say their property is not for sale, and the law provides for a condemnation procedure in the event no agreement on worth or price can be reached.

The public vs. private utility fight has a long history in the Pacific Northwest. Part of Oregon's growing disenchantment with private power is the glaring disparity in rates between utilities such as PGE and consumer-owned ones such as Clark County PUD across the river in Vancouver.

The private utility rates are often twice as high.

One reason public utility rates are cheaper is because the consumer-owned companies have historically had preference access to hydropower from Bonneville Power Administration dams on the Columbia

River. The 1937 BPA Act states that since those dams were built with taxpayer's money, the power they produce should go first to public bodies and cooperatives.

Analysis

Private utilities were able to purchase hydropower on a guaranteed basis until 1973 when their long-term contracts arranged during the Eisenhower years expired. Since then, BPA has only been able to supply them with power when there is no demand from the public. Hence, PGE and PP&L have had to develop their own generation and it has most often been in the form of

costly nuclear, coal or gas-fired facilities.

The answer to this rate disparity dilemma, according to the BPA and the private utilities, is the Regional Energy Bill now working its way through the Congressional maze. The bill would allow PGE and PP&L to have preference hydropower, but only for their residential and farm customers. (There are numerous other provisions in the bill as well, which accounts for the controversy surrounding it.)

Most PUD supporters are solidly opposed to the regional legislation, because not only does it alter the preference clause the public utilities have enjoyed since 1937, but it is only a bandaid solution to the rate problem.

Thus, the PUD movement is an effort to strike straight at the heart

of the public vs private battle: who will control Oregon's energy supplies in the future? If it is to be the private utilities, then their need for profit, their guaranteed rate of return on investments from the Public Utility Commissioner and their interest in large, centralized generating plants mean higher and higher rates.

If consumer-owned utilities replace them, their non-profit status, local elected boards of directors and access by the public and not stockholders suggest the rates will stay as low as is economically feasible.

As PGE's major service area and source of income, Multnomah County is sure to be the scene of a major battle over the PUD issue. And no matter what the outcome, it will be an exciting time between now and November 4.