

All the things they are...

By B. Ufis
The racist construction of the United States makes it inappropriate as well as almost impossible for many persons who belong to the dominant population to accurately interpret the Black experience. White people listen to Black people and hear what they believe was/is inferred but never seem to know what is actually stated. They perceive nuances in Black behavior but do not comprehend the acts. They sometimes acknowledge some of the numerous travails of the Black existence but shy away from traumatic descriptions of their own complicity in sustaining these horrors. The results are disgraceful caricaturing and frequent intentional defacing of the evidence of the Black reality.

From a Black perspective three members of the Portland School Board (Reike, McNamara, Scott) appear always as instrumental in continuing the blockades in this system that prevent the policy changes and practices that will allow Black children to receive educational justice and equity. The efforts of these persons are upon preserving dissipated symbols of racial and class elitism. Their most attention attracting performances have been the rhetorical defenses they offered for false

of useless integration schemes. News accounts (approvals and criticisms) show them as involved in political theatrics where an abundance of propaganda consisting of false claims, unwarranted praise, procrastination, evasion, avoidance and deception earmark their individual dramatics (remember the Wm. Scott TV spectacular). Out of these came twisted social interpretations, jumbled theory and misdirection. In addition there are espousals of appalling multidimensional social misconceptions. The collective attitudes may indicate that education here for black students could be marked forever with negative considerations.

The aforementioned persons easily give the impression that they are no longer attempting to conceal that within their ranks there abounds an abundance of shared inhumanity towards the Black population. This may have encouraged the surfacing of anti-Black expressions from Toms and Tommettas, opportunists in custody seeking special attention, White political spirits encased in Black complexions, hostile officials of a teachers union and vindictive spokesmen for a principals organization. So far these collective defenders

of white racism have not been effective in curbing real black perseverance and resistance.

White educators of any quality do not motivate Black children. Their roles have been and continue to be to control and constrain them. Black parents, relatives, peers and friends are the sources of Black child motivation. White educators have been aware for a long time that this white racist system is assured perpetuity only if the mass production of intellectually crippled Black children can be maintained in every generation (more on this in a subsequent series on the staffing of Eliot school).

The Black community gives serious consideration to the roles of Reike, McNamara and Scott and any others who voice similar social concepts. This is necessary because up to this moment their stratagems have:

1. Charged, recharged and supercharged the school system's collective defenses of white racism.
2. Created more unsolvable racial dilemmas including provocations for a full scale boycott of Portland schools;
3. Produced possibilities for more serious social dislocations;

4. Attempted to give the impression that the board is correct in its insistence that integration/desegregation is more important than what Blacks determine to be quality non-racist education.

5. Encouraged the white media to attempt to render Black opposition to their policies mute; (note the recent news and editorial and reportorial quackery of the Oregonian and the Oregon Journal)

6. Revealed a total unwillingness to render a moral judgement to remove perverse educational arrangements for Black children;

7. Failed to plan authentic educational structures for Black children even though in many instances these were not opposed by the white population;

8. Continued to exploit phony theories of racial percentages which in effect deny the humanity of Black people;

9. Supported the erroneous notions that the education of Black children is invalid without the presence of white children - implying that it is illegal to be Black!

10. Exhibited profound ignorance of a fundamental societal value contrast: **Whites are what they have; Blacks are what we are.**

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James Loving hands out information on the upcoming Benj. Franklin and Lloyd Center boycott while other Black United Front supporters picket

the Union Avenue Branch of Benj. Franklin. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Minorities left out of loan fund

Bruce Broussard presented a series of proposals to the City's Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) to make the economic development loans more accessible to minorities and to corporations that will provide jobs.

Following acceptance and allocation of a 12 million federal economic development grant by the City, the Northwest Minority Contractors, Black United Front, NAACP, Albina Ministerial Alliance and the Oregon Association of Colored Women's Clubs filed suit in federal court charging that federal requirements for minority input had not been met. Although the suit is still pending, the City established two projects to include possible minority participation -- the Revolving Loan Fund and the Industrial Site Program. These programs are considered to be the "settlement" for the suit.

The Industrial Site Project is designed to locate potential industrial sites in the Albina area and to assist businesses to relocate or expand in the area. The loan fund of \$1.6 million is to provide for business expansion. According to the August 1979 revised policy, "one-third of the total loan funds available under the Fiscal Year 1978-1979 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (LEDS) will be prioritized for assistance to minority business enterprise, as consistent with other loan fund requirements."

To date, although there have been more than 400 inquiries about the loan fund, only six have reached the loan committee. Five loans, all to whites, have been approved. One Black owned company's application reached the loan committee but it was rejected as not meeting all requirements.

According to Broussard the

process is too complicated, with too many organizations and too many staff persons involved.

The interested business first contacts the City Bureau of Economic Development. After the application is received, the business is referred to a bank - for 50 percent of the loan will come through a bank. When the bank verifies its intent, the package goes to the revolving loan committee which checks the financial feasibility. If accepted, the application goes to the Portland Development Commission for verification of credit. After approval by PDC, the loan is approved by the City Council. The person receiving the loan has had to work with staff for the Bureau and PDC, as well as the loan committee and the banks.

The Revolving Loan Committee, of which Broussard is a member, is made up of two bankers, two PDC commissioners and two minorities - Broussard and Humberto Reyna. Broussard charges that the Revolving Loan committee does not receive information on the applications so does not know what happens to those that are not referred to it for approval; does not get loan packages in time to make adequate financial judgements; cannot give approval of loans; does not receive information on whether qualifications put on loans are ever carried out. He further charges that the loan committee has not been provided information on: the amount reserved for minorities; the cut-off point in reserving the money for minorities; the system to insure that the money is, in fact, held for minorities; evidence of recruitment efforts; the optimum time of repayment to a "revolving loan fund."

"I would still like to know how much money is in the revolving loan fund and how much has been spent

for surveys, feasibility studies and staff. I have still been unable to find out how much has been spent and how much is left."

Under his plan, the loan committee, as a sub-committee of EDAC, would set the criteria for loans and would monitor the process. The actual decision making would be given to the banks. The business person would be sent to his own or a referred bank, where he would apply for the loan - 50 percent from the bank and 50 percent from the City's funds. If approved by the bank, the loan would go to EDAC for formal approval. This would eliminate PDC and the Bureau of Economic Development staff from the process.

Those minority businesses that need assistance in developing their loan package would go to Impact, a non-profit organization funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce to assist Minority Business Enterprise. Impact would also be responsible for minority outreach.

The revolving loan committee -- reconstituted to include business persons and minorities, would have the responsibility of insuring that the eligible applicants are properly received by the banks.

Aside from providing money for business expansion, one effect of the loan program should be to help the borrower establish a relationship with a banker. "The key to business is the banker. If the business person doesn't have a banker, this program would establish him with one. If he does and that banker will not provide him a loan, this program should help him through the barriers."

Currently, the revolving loan fund can only be used for existing businesses, to provide for buildings, equipment, renovation, but not working capital. Broussard recommends (Please turn to page 2 col. 4)

ECECs accept minority children

The School Board changed a long standing policy Monday night that had barred minority children who do not live in the Albina area from attending Early Childhood Education Centers.

The ECECs, which provide educational programs for four and five year olds, were established to draw white children into majority Black schools. The ECECs were open to white children, who were recruited, and to neighborhood children as space allowed. The object was to have enough white children in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes to bring the school into racial balance on paper,

even though class rooms at the upper grade levels were all Black. Many neighborhood parents complained that their children could not be enrolled in the schools because the space was occupied by the bussed-in white children.

Last fall, the School Board agreed to admit all neighborhood children to the ECECs.

Since the primary purpose of the ECECs was to draw white children to favorably effect the Black/white ratio, minority children from other parts of the city were not admitted.

The new policy is a response to a complaint filed by south west Portland resident Attorney Jasper Am-

bers with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction charging that the unavailability of a pre-school program to his child solely because of race is discriminatory.

In the opinion of school district legal counsel Mark McClanahan, the total prohibition against minority children transferring into ECECs would be illegal. "The disparity of the treatment is objectively clear."

ECECs will be open to pre-kindergarten children living outside the attendance area of that school who are not eligible for a program in their own attendance area or for Head Start.



Skaters in Saturday's "Essence of Soul" skate-a-thon train their way into Laurelhurst Park ending the event that started in Peninsula Park. The

skate-a-thon was a benefit for KBOO. (Photo: Richard Brown)