

Council delays action on loan fund corporation

Although the four members of the City Council asked to delay testimony on a Bureau of Economic Development proposal to replace the Revolving Loan Committee with a non-profit corporation, Mayor Connie McCready insisted that John Wight, director of the Bureau present it at Wednesday's council meeting. The plan, as well as appointments to the Economic Development Advisory Committee, had been placed on the consent

calendar, which does not require Council discussion. Commissioner Ivancie requested that it be removed from the consent calendar.

As well as replacing the loan committee and removing Portland Development Commission from the loan process, the proposal would change some of the loan regulations. Wight said the loans are for companies willing to sign First Source Agreements, minority companies, or companies that have to be

relocated because of city construction. The new plan would require 50 percent of the new jobs created to be non-professional or non-managerial. It would also lower the requirements of one job per \$10,000 of loan money to one job per \$20,000.

Wight's plan would eliminate interim financing of construction and would limit to "financing where not otherwise available."

In response to Commissioner

Ivancie's questioning on the purpose of the loan fund, Wight said it is to provide financing not otherwise available, to get people to invest in the inner city, to promote jobs and minority business.

Commissioner Schwab questioned creating a new corporation to handle only \$1.6 million and accused Wight of trying to find a way to avoid bringing loans of over \$20,000 before the Council. Wight felt bringing them to the

Council in a public meeting would discourage potential borrowers.

In response to a statement that the Council could be advised quarterly, Ivancie said, "If you're going to fall on your face, we'd better know sooner than that."

Bruce Broussard, a member of the Loan Committee who had been advised of the Council's pending action, said the loan process is "badly conceived and administered" but recommended that the Council

delay action until they could look into the situation further.

Ivancie and Schwab wanted to delay the decision for a month or more, to look at the entire economic development practice, and Commissioner Jordan asked to have time to advise the Council on the concepts, but Mayor McCready put it on the informal council calendar for next Tuesday, and on the formal calendar for possible decision on Wednesday.

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Greyhound driver Reginald Stevenson wears his controversial beard as he prepares for departure. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Bus driver wins 'beard' complaint

Reginald A. Stevenson has been awarded a settlement in his complaint against Greyhound Lines, Inc., and reinstatement with the company as a driver. Stevenson was terminated after he refused to shave for medical reasons.

Stevenson, who began driving for Greyhound in May of 1978, began growing a beard because, like many other Black men, shaving caused a skin condition called *Pseudofolliculitis*. Although he presented medical documentation of his need to refrain from shaving, he was laid off for breaking the company's dress code. "Beards, goatees, mutton chops or other facial hair growth of an extreme or bizarre type are neither acceptable nor permissible and are calculated to impair the neat and tidy personal appearance which is continually requisite and accordingly not be worn." After a month's suspension, he was transferred to Salt Lake City.

He reported to work there with a beard and nothing was said, but in September, he was again suspended. He was put on "out of service" (unemployed) from September 1979 to April 1980.

Stevenson filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and with Local 1055, Amalgamated Transit Union. This union succeeded in getting an agreement with the company so he could go back to work, transferring back to Portland.

The settlement provides back wages, benefits, seniority and the right to work while wearing a beard.

Pseudofolliculitis is caused by the sharp tips of recently shaved hairs penetrating the skin and causing an inflammatory reaction. *Pseudofolliculitis* is most common in persons with curly or kinky hair. After shaving, the curved hair follicles cause the already curly hair to curve back into contact with the

skin surface, pierce and reenter the skin, causing *Pseudofolliculitis*.

The condition is common among Black men. With one 1974 study showing a rate of 45 percent and another indicating 83 percent of Black men who shave have the condition. Although it can be cured by refraining from shaving, it can reappear if shaving is resumed.

Stevenson's is not the first case that has found the "no beard" rule to be discriminatory. In 1979, Greyhound was found guilty of discriminating against a Black ticket agent discharged for breaking the "no beard" rule. The U.S. District Court of Eastern Pennsylvania determined that there was no proven business need for the "no beard" rule and that because there is no known defense against *Pseudofolliculitis* other than not shaving, the rule discriminates against Blacks.

Stevenson is back on the job, driving "on call" out of Portland.

Chicago settles EDA minority suit

The Community Relations Service (CRS) of the Department of Justice announced the negotiated settlement of a civil suit charging the U.S. Department of Commerce and the City of Chicago with racial discrimination.

CRS Director Gilbert G. Pompa said the agreement, which formed the basis of a consent decree, assures participation by minorities and women on the Overall Economic Development Plan Committee, which advises on the planning of Chicago's economic growth.

In 1978, the Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization and Uptown Peoples' Community Service Center filed suit charging that the Department of Commerce and the city failed to include minorities on the committee in accordance with Federal guidelines, resulting in a lack of representation of the unemployed guidelines, resulting in a lack of representation of the unemployed and underemployed.

The agreement requires that six persons be appointed to the committee within 30 days.

Each is to be one of the individual plaintiffs, or a member of one of the plaintiff organizations, but must represent no other organization. Twenty-five percent are to be minorities, equally distributed between Blacks and Latinos, and 40 percent are to be women.

The city agreed not to act on its overall economic development plan until the new members are in office and have had the opportunity to review all economic development plans and proposals.

BUF plans boycott, pickets Lloyd

Because of the issues between the Black United Front and the School board have not been resolved, a boycott of the public schools is planned for September. At issue are several items agreed to by the Board in the fall of 1979 to avert a boycott, but not included in the Board's final plan.

"The issues still not resolved are well within the capacity of the Board," a Black United Front spokesman told the *Observer*. "The Board passed their plan and did not keep their promises - now we want those promises kept. The problem was not all with Dr. Blanchard. His activities were very destructive to

Black children, but he is not the one who passed the policies and reneged on the promises. The school board did that and now it's their problem."

Planning meetings are held each Thursday at 7:30 p.m., at King Neighborhood Facility. Persons and organizations who can contribute (Please turn to page 4 col. 3)

Still no minorities

Loan fund grants more loans

Since minority members of the City's Revolving Loan Fund Committee have asked for revisions on the process to make loans more accessible to minority business, two major loans have been granted to non-minority firms.

Following the 1978 lawsuit filed by several Black organizations, charging the City of Portland had not met federal requirements to include minorities, a Task Force was charged with developing specific measures to address minority concerns with respect to participation in the City's CEDS program.

As a result of Task Force recommendations, two programs were designed to deal specifically with minority issues: the Inner Northwest and the Revolving Loan Fund.

The EDA implementation agreement with the City of October 1978 states that the City will "continue to encourage involvement of minority economically disadvantaged and female participants in the CEDS process and implementation of individual projects, through actions which include:"

A. CEDS investment based on annually updated City adopted employment targets;

B. "First Source" employment agreements, required by the City of firms benefiting from city sponsored economic development investments, using City administrative action procedures to insure minority participation in training and employment programs, exceeding current minority, economically disadvantaged, or female proportions of City wide population or unemployment;

C. Specific activities to encourage the development of minority business enterprise, including: the establishment of an Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund with special preference given to minority business financial assistance. Continued assistance to minority business in the City's procurement of goods and services, the appointment of the president of the U.S. Office of Minority Business Enterprise to the City EDA in Sept. 1978 and the commitment to prepare a minority business enterprise policy forwarded to the City Council no later than the end of June 1979;

By the time the implementation agreement was adopted the Revolving Loan Fund was directed to "give consideration to minority business in a manner consistent with State and local law." In some City documents, one-third of the Loan Fund is stated to be earmarked for minorities.

The Economic Development Policy for the City of Portland adopted by the City Council on March 26, 1980, states as a goal: "To help eliminate the special barriers that face businesses which are women and minority owned" and "encourage a substantial rate of growth in proportion of businesses owned by women and minorities."

Although the suit is still pending, no minority loan has yet been made and the Bureau of Economic Development personnel express the

opinion that minorities are not available.

While putting together financing for a 35 unit senior citizen housing project in Walnut Park, Bruce Broussard signed an agreement with Sea-Port, the agency funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce to assist minority business, agreeing to provide \$500,000 in construction to minority contractors. Bob Turner, director of Sea-Port, was a member of the EDA board and chairman of the Minority Task Force. They went to the Bureau of Economic Development to request a loan of \$1 million dollars for interim financing for the project, but were told that the Revolving Loan could not be used for interim financing or for construction. Because he was not able to obtain this loan, he had to get financing elsewhere at higher cost and could not include as many minority contractors in the construction.

Later, the Loan Committee and PDC approved a loan to the Food Front, a non-profit food cooperative, for purchase of land and construction of a building, at the request of Tom Walsh, the builder.

An examination of the loan criteria in effect at the time of Broussard's request clearly shows that his request could have been honored. "The following business costs are eligible for loans from the Portland Economic Development Loan Fund:

"A. Loan acquisition costs, in-

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Taylor brothers win competition

By Stephanie L. Michael

The 1980 World Wrestling Festival was recently held in Stockholm, Sweden. Stockholm is the capital of that nation. A total of 52 young men represented the U.S. World Schoolboy Team in Freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling events. The world trials are the highest level teenage wrestlers, 13 to 14 years of age can compete in the Intermediate rank, and 15 to 16 years at the Advanced level.

This year U.S. World team included four outstanding Black athletes. Two of the outstanding wrestlers were natives of Waterloo, Iowa. The other two top wrestlers were 15-year old William Taylor, Jr., and his brother, 13-year old Andre Taylor of Portland.

A total of 19 different countries were represented at the eight day world trials. For the first time in international competition, Greco-Roman wrestling was a part of the program. Greco-Roman involves the use of the upper body with lots of throwing. In freestyle wrestling one has to be quick on their feet and the wrestler is permitted to only attack below the waist. In the U.S. freestyle wrestling is only permitted. Greco-Roman has not been exception in the competition arena.

At the end of the eight day session of continuous training and matches the Taylor boys ranked among the world champions. William who wrestled at 121 lbs., placed second in the world in advanced freestyle. Andre ranked fifth in the intermediate Greco-Roman event.

Both youths got started wrestling at young ages under the direction of Roy Pittman at the Peninsula Park Community Center. William got started at about the age of eight and Andre began when he six. As both

boys got more skilled their parents enrolled them in an Olympic program at the USA Oregon Athletic Club in Portland. This wrestling program, which the boys

are still actively apart of, prepares them for college wrestling and Olympic competition.

The boy's parents William and (Please turn to Page 8 Col 5)



DOUBLE THREAT: William and Andre Taylor demonstrate technique that led both young men to world championship matches in Sweden. (Photo: Albert Williams)