

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Some fought for the Confederacy

Commissioner Charles Jordan was quoted in a news report, "Police need to get close to young people before they commit crimes". This indicates a warped concept of how the law should function. It is a contradiction of the premise, "innocent until proven guilty", which is routinely propagandized as the American way. Black people, however, are always treated by the police and the criminal justice system as "guilty, innocent or not". Jordan's statement, no matter how it was intended, mitigates against youth in their probable encounters with the police. This fact is sufficient to cause Black organizations, parents and individuals to collectively oppose any Black child from being subjected to police manipulated programs of indoctrination carried out in public schools. Evidence gathered over a hundred years, and assessments of the present, support reaching the conclusion that Black students will be vulnerable even moreso to racist excesses.

The Commissioner circulated a letter in support of this program. To many, the contents were viewed as erroneous, insidious deceptions for clearing the way for police to carry out activities that could be inimical to the social development of Black students and unsettling to the adult population. This letter raises the specter that this placing of police in schools to teach anything to Black children could be the first stage of a broader conspiracy of educators, police and politicians to have built-in societal credibility to neutralize criticisms of any indignities they impose upon Black people. Also Black children can be exposed to snide inferences and wrongful insinuations, and their presence misused to feed police egos and notions of self-righteousness. At the same time, impregnable walls are structured to insulate public authority in every sector from any Black challenges that occur as the response to chronic abuses.

Black people are the perennial victims of police cruelty and this is as true today as at any other period. The central point is that Blacks are not criticizing Jordan because he happens to be Black. Black people are outraged because he has exhibited an eagerness to exalt the image of police and proposes to use Black children as guinea pigs in the process. Jordan is not merely presiding over this police teaching program. He helped to initiate it and pledges his unwavering support. Many Blacks are convinced now that he has no concern for their feelings, safety and security.

Black and white scholars, researchers, investigators and organizations all over this land have spent limitless time observing, and

evaluating police relations with and treatment of Black people. Blacks know what police have been and we know what they are. Our concern is, what is being done and what will be done to provide assurance that police do not become more of what they are?

Just because an elected official professes to understand a police point of view does not suggest that police are going to stop brutalizing Black people. Police as teachers are not in the classroom to teach Black children to join the Black struggle for liberation. Any Black child exposed to this one way white controlled mechanism of power, authority, surveillance, evaluation and repression will likely find themselves consumed in constant emotional turmoil. At best they can end up irreparably confused and psychologically scarred.

This Charles Jordan/Clint Thomas/James Brailleux design for Black children abuse deserves total rejection by the Black population. There is nothing in this proposal to help Black children challenge or even cope with white racism. The Black people who raise questions and voice objections speak for a much larger segment of Black people than the program's proponents are willing to acknowledge.

Commissioner Jordan should carefully consider this: When Black people confront the abominable practices here that are carried out by police to make life miserable for the Black population, they are not flexing muscles. They are asserting forthrightly their convictions that those Black people who demonstrate by example pride in their identity, will in turn, inspire pride and stimulate the spirit of struggle in Black youth. These are necessary to enable Black people to persevere in this harsh environment which white racism created for the Black population.

This police program as it stands will likely obliterate what little respect for police may linger in a left-over fashion someplace in the Black community it is known that Black children's concepts of self and their positive attitudinal development are directly related to the effectiveness of those politically Black struggles that are waged to defend the integrity of Black personhood, culture and history.

Blacks committed to fighting racist oppression will not be turned around because Jordan has not formulated correct concepts to deal with the relationships and attitudes of police vs Blacks. The Black population is fortunate that his influence to advance the special interests of police in the Black community is at a minimum.



Hard Times

By Fungai Kumbula

In what is becoming a disturbingly familiar occurrence, Africa this year faces another very serious famine. In 1974 it was the Sahel region that caught the world's attention with the worst drought in the region's history causing massive losses of both crops in livestock. In succeeding years, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Zambia faced similar though not quite so severe crop failures.

This year, nearly half of the entire continent faces severe crop failures and critical food shortages. Little mention has been made of the food shortages plaguing the Horn of Africa; the countries Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti. Idi Amin. Now the Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, an agency of the UN has just released statistics showing that no fewer than 25 of Africa's 50 nations will need substantial outside aid if famine is to be averted.

The list of needy countries reads as follows: Angola, Cameroun, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The reasons for the impending famine in each of the above countries are many and varied. Most of them, however, are a direct con-

sequences of conflicts of one sort or another. Zimbabwe has, for example, has been for many years a net food exporter but faces critical food shortages this year due mainly to the recently concluded War of Independence. In the last stages of the war, most of the countryside was abandoned as the conflict intensified. More than a million people were forced off their land and many fled to the urban areas to seek nonexistent jobs.

Zambia and Mozambique, as the launching pads from which the Zimbabwe War was waged, suffered as a result of the interruption in their annual crop planting. Compounding their problems was the curtailment of economic activity and the extra burden of feeding the million odd Zimbabwean refugees who fled the war. Tanzania spent an estimated \$500 million in its campaign against Idi Amin. The war also interfered with the planting of crops in both Tanzania and Uganda. The result is that both countries are now faced with critical food shortages.

Ethiopia's endless war with Eritrea and other provinces seeking to secede from Ethiopia, as well as the persistent border skirmishes with neighboring Somalia have caused the displacement of more than a million people. The displaced people ended up either in Djibouti, Sudan or Ethiopia and Somalia. The rest of the countries seem to have been afflicted by a drought that

seems to have cut across the continent from east to west and from north to south.

The FAO convened a meeting of potential food donors in Rome September 19. Its report indicated that the afflicted countries will need something like 2.4 million tons of cereals to meet their shortfalls. This is substantially higher than the 1.3 million that the continent needed in the last fiscal year. So far definite pledges amount to only 500,000 tons, or less than 20% of the needed total.

The only positive news from this gloomy scenario is that the shortages in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Lesotho are expected to be only short term. With Zimbabwe's War over and the country once again expected to become a major food exporter and little "Economic giant" within the next twelve months, prospects for the near future look very bright. The same scenario or perspective, of course, also points out that in those areas where military conflicts have not yet been resolved, the future looks anything but promising.

In the "non-combat" zones, everything depends on when this drought will be over. So far no one gazing into a crystal ball can say. These bitter lessons, hopefully, will have taught the economic planners a thing or two. Africa can ill afford huge expenditures on food purchases or another undernourished generation.

Social impact of capital flight

Part III
By Dr. Manning Marble

What is the net result of capital flight from the industrial North and East? The impact is social, cultural, economic, political and racial.

- Lower corporate taxes. In 1958 corporations paid 25 percent of the total federal revenue. By 1973, the amount was less than 15 percent. As the average citizens federal and state tax burden grows, the corporations are increasingly getting a free ride.

- High unemployment. As American capital finances economic expansion overseas, the amount of capital needed to expand businesses at home contracts. The old rule "it takes money to make money" still applies. Without sufficient capital investment in manufacturing, thousands of jobs are lost every year. The people who suffer most are those employed in the older industries - especially steel and automobiles. The growing percentage of Black and Hispanic workers on the line in both industries means simply that nonwhite laborers will suffer an abnormally high unemployment rate.

- Population relocation. Whenever possible, workers follow the flight of jobs. This means that states with right-to-work laws and other statutes that discourage unions will attract capital, and will simultaneously help suppress wages. It is not surprising therefore that the South's total population increased by 15 percent since 1970, and that the West grew by 16 percent. Almost 45 percent of the total U.S. population growth since 1970 has been in only 3 states - California, Texas and Florida. Meanwhile, the population of Buffalo has declined by 100,000; Washington, D.C. by 150,000; New York City by over 750,000.

- Fiscal crisis of local and state governments. When the capital of a community disappears, the tax base contracts. City planners, mayors and state legislators are faced with tough alternatives: either raise new taxes, or slash public services. Both choices are fraught with difficulties. Cutting public services, such as libraries, schools, sanitation services, fire and police departments, means a severe reduction in the quality of cultural and social life for every citizen. The middle class is able to pay for private schools, subsidizes its own theatre/Cultural arts, etc.; the poor cannot. Crime flourishes with the absence of adequate police protection; school decline; an atmosphere of fear and desperation pervades the social order. On the other hand, raising new taxes only accelerates the process. The middle class flees to the suburbs; the poor are left to fend

for themselves as best they can. It is a degenerative pattern of human life that can be described at best as cruel. Small wonder that thousands of poor, brown and Black women are forced into prostitution in our major cities solely to maintain food in their children's mouths. Is it surprising that a permanent underclass of people within the major industrial centers has emerged in our generation, a class with absolutely no prospect of permanent employment, with few vocational skills, and without much hope for the future?

- The destruction of small business. The establishment of any monopoly serves as an inevitable barrier to the development of small enterprise. The multinationals can absorb a small competitor by buying up stock in the company and by hiring key staff at higher salaries. Troublesome firms can be run out of business entirely by cutting off their access to raw materials, underpricing one's products in a deliberate attempt to force the small entrepreneur out of the field, or by legal and political intimidation. Small businesses cannot afford high-priced legal counsel, and generally lack critical marketing and administrative skills. As a result, over three fourths of all small businesses fail within two years of operation.

In middle-sized, Northern industrial cities, the hardest hit entrepreneurs inevitably are within the Black community, according to the 1977 survey of minority owned businesses, conducted by the Department of Commerce, Dayton, Ohio. Black businessmen were victims of monopoly in two ways. First the small entrepreneurs were unable to compete for any significant share of the market - whether in construction, manufacturing, retail or wholesale trade, real estate and/or public transport. More importantly, the departure of major manufacturing firms (National Cash

Register, Dayton Tire and Rubber, etc.) increased the number of Black unemployed blue collar workers, thereby decreasing the total purchasing power of Black working class consumers. Black firms dependent on Black consumer patronage (barbershops, dry cleaners, beauty parlors, neighborhood grocery stores, etc.) suffered a loss of income.

Out of the 735 Black-owned businesses in Dayton, only 18 percent employ at least one paid employee. 394 firms were selected services (beauty parlors, barber shops, etc.); 144 were retail stores; the remainder were small construction companies, insurance firms and taxi cab companies. The average annual gross receipts for all selected services were only \$16,770. The average annual gross receipts for retail stores without employees was \$10,830. The average annual gross receipts for small manufacturing firms without employees was \$10,330. The total number of workers employed by Black-owned businesses in Dayton during 1977 was 403.

- Political crisis. As the major Northeast cities are destroyed economically and with the sharp decline in population, the pattern of national politics will inevitably shift to the right. This occurs in three ways. First, the older "Frost-belt" cities become increasingly poor and Black. The demographic shift creates a temporary base for the election of Black and Hispanic Congressional representatives, state legislators and mayors. The illusion of Black achievement, state legislators and mayors. The illusion of Black achievement via the vehicle of electoral politics diffuses some from the independent and activist political struggles within the Black community. "Work within the System" replaces "Black Power" and "By Any Means Necessary;" Malcolm and Martin are replaced by (Please turn to page 9 col. 3)

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

In answer to the arguments being set forth by the private utilities to defeat the PUD's at the cost of more than a million dollars, I wish to point out these facts: The PUD's are being set up in strict accordance with Oregon law as revised by the 1979 legislature; the PUD's are not "another layer of government" but are a means whereby the people will own and control the distribution of power, electing directors at the coming election, authorizing a specific amount of money for the purpose of making a feasibility study which will determine the exact amount needed to begin operation; a second election will then be held to appropriate the money. In other words, the PUD's will be run very much as the public schools are quite the opposite of the "pig in the

poke" arguments of the private utilities.

The private utilities pose as being opposed to "government", but when they are in financial difficulties they run to the "government" crying for "bail-outs", which often take the form of direct subsidies and huge tax write-offs. All this plus profits is paid for by the rate payers. The truth, which the private utilities cannot deny, is that where the PUD's are in operation both in Oregon and Washington, rates have been and are substantially lower than those in areas served by the private utilities. We need to support PUD's under local control instead of a giant corporation which is based far away and over those affairs and expenditures we have absolutely nothing to say.

Martha Ezell

Letter to the Editor:

Since Mr. Broussard assumed reigns of *Publisher/Editor* of the *Portland Observer*, the quality of the paper has increased. There seems to be a careful handling of the news with focus given to what's important to both white and Black communities, whose news isn't given coverage by local white media and the other Black newspaper located in the Portland area.

The editorial content, as well as the presentation of local, community news speak well of what we, the community can expect in the future. Keep up the good work!

Jerome Gibson

Portland Observer

The *Portland Observer* (USPS 959-680) is published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, Inc., 2201 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217, Post Office Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

Subscriptions: \$7.50 per year in Tri-County area; \$8.00 per year outside Tri-County area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the *Portland Observer*, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

The *Portland Observer* is a defender against racist assaults, persecutions, insults, harassments, discriminations and related evils; a vigilant champion for justice, equality and liberation; an alert guard against social atrocities; a thorough analyst and severe critic of discriminatory practices; a sentinel to warn of all existing and impending detrimental racist trends and practices.

The real problems of the Black population will be viewed and presented from the perspective of their causality: unrestrained and chronically entrenched white racism. National and international arrangements that prolong and increase the oppression of Third World peoples shall be considered in relation to the continued abuse, exploitation, political manipulation and contrivances implicit in the relationships that have characterized America's historical treatment of its Black population.

283-2486

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