

Priestley takes to School Board

Jordan gives police, school program go-ahead

Police Commissioner Charles Jordan and School Superintendent Jim Fenwick told a small gathering of school officials that the juvenile officer/schools program will go forward immediately.

Jordan explained that the present age demands that the police be more responsive to the needs of the community than previously, that it begin

to deal with prevention of juvenile crime rather than response to crime.

Regarding the public controversy over the program, the opposition by a large segment of the Black community, he said there have been some "birth pangs" but "we have been able to cope and deal with them the best we can." As a result, the program will be flexible to respond to the needs of various

communities.

The new program will place uniformed police officers in the middle schools to teach, act as consultants and form relationship with young people in an effort to deter them from crime. The broader purpose of the program, according to Jordan, is to expose the officers to "good children" and through them to change the negative attitudes and

behavior of police on the streets. The Black United Front has said that the police bureau should deal negative and racist attitudes of its officers directly, not through children. As a result of the opposition, Jordan said, the program will be flexible enough to respond to the needs of various communities.

Dr. Fenwick said he welcomes the

program and is strongly committed to its success. Public reaction to a new program is predictable and he recognizes the validity of different points of view. He explained that he is sensitive to communities where there are questions or opposition (not all of them minority communities) and that he respects and appreciates their concerns.

Principals have been advised to

excuse children whose parents do not want them to participate. Jordan explained that although some children will not participate, the majority of parents will not bother to excuse their children.

School Board member Wally Priestley has asked that the program be referred to the School Board for discussion at its October 13th meeting.

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The seventieth birthday of Mrs. Martha Anderson was honored Saturday with a birthday party sponsored by US National Bank. Mrs. Anderson, who has extensive experience in journalism, has

written a new book "Black Pioneers of the Northwest 1800 - 1918" which will be released by Pioneer Publishing Company in late October.

(Photo: Stephen M. Denny)

Oregon legislator visits Nigeria

By Matthew Akom

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Around early September, 1980 a group of 20 lawmakers from various states of the U.S. travelled to Nigeria, West Africa, at the request of the government. The main purpose of this two-week visit was for the U.S. lawmakers to serve as "consultants" to the Nigerian counterparts. It must be pointed out that Nigeria, which is a federation of 19 states, fashioned its constitution after the American model.

Let me digress a little and acquaint our readers with a brief background of the importance of this African country to every Oregonian and the U.S. as a whole.

Nigeria is a Texas-sized country in West Africa with a population of about 100 million. It accounts for about one out of every 12 gallons of oil used in the U.S. Next to Saudi Arabia, it is the largest exporter of crude oil to this country and offers the "sweet oil," preferred by most refiners, due to the low sulfur content. It is estimated that by year-end, the balance of trade between the U.S. and Nigeria will be about 12 billion dollars in their favor! Remember the 1973 Arab Oil Boycott, when tempers and civility

of most motorists were severely tested, the U.S. imported over 50% of its crude oil from Nigeria.

Among the lawmakers that were in Nigeria was an Oregonian, Mr. Jim Chrest, a North-Portland resident and a member of the Oregon House of Representatives. Mr. Chrest graciously offered to share his Nigerian experiences with our readers in an interview at his dock work-place, Port of Portland.

Observer: What was the purpose of your visit to Nigeria?

Chrest: At the invitation of the National Assembly of Nigeria, we went there to serve as "Consultants" to the Federal and State Assemblies. We spent 6 days in Lagos (the capitol), 3 days in Enugu, (West) and 3 days in Kaduna (North) mainly providing exchanges with our peers about our roles, functions and main political processes. The Nigerian Constitution takes its roots from the U.S., but it is adapted to the unique Nigerian traditions and history of sectionalism and tribalism. Unlike the U.S., there is only a federal constitution in Nigeria (none within the states). Each popularly elects a Governor and a State Assembly with mainly an executive function.

Their State Assemblies are unicameral and the National Assembly is bicameral. We even introduced the legislators to the role of lobbyists in the political system of the U.S. (comments, there goes the neighborhood!)

Observer: What are the major differences between the U.S. and Nigerian Constitutions?

Chrest: Firstly, to combat tribalism, the President is selected by overall popular votes as well as 25% of 1/3 of states, plurality votes. This ensures a broad-based support for the leader.

Secondly, five parties are specified in the Constitution, which is causing some problems for the Legislatures, namely, whether to vote on issues based on conscience or party affiliation.

Lastly, salaries of Judges, Legislatures, etc., are specified within the constitution there are some others but I think these are unique features that are embodied in the largely and specific and detailed document.

Observer: Are there any recent constitutional crises?

Chrest: Yes. While we were there, there was a national debate to offer (Please turn to Page 14 Col 1)

BUF asks United Nations help

The Black United Front has filed a complaint with the United Nations, charging that racism and discrimination experienced by Black people in Portland are a violation of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenants on Human Rights, and the Helsinki Agreements.

The specific charges against the City of Portland and the State of Oregon are:

- Crimes committed by Portland police against Black people, where 60% of the people killed by Portland police during the 1970's were Black in comparison to only a city-wide Black population of 6%.

- Portland has more than 700 police officers, and only 13 are Black.

- The City has a current plan to put police in the schools to teach Black children the police are good and fair when dealing with our people.

- Oregon leads all States in America in its rate of incarceration of Black people, and the State of Oregon's Black population is only 3%. In addition, the Oregon state prison was recently cited as being an inhumane system.

- Educational genocide exists within the City's public school system. Black children are poorly educated or miseducated due to their scoring lower than other students on achievement tests year after year, they are suspended or expelled from school at disproportionate rates as compared to the majority student population, the school system has very few Black role models as teachers, administrators, support staff, and Black parents have no voice in educational goals they have for their children.

- The creation of a colonized state for Black people by uprooting families due to urban renewal or expansion, resulting in the most dilapidated housing conditions in the City.

- A denial or refusal for bringing about economic parity with the majority community. A very high rate of unemployment exists among the Black population 30 - 40% for adults, and 50 - 60% for teenagers.

- There are 525 jobs in industries located in our community which are owned by whites. Only 25 of the jobs are held by Blacks.

- Disallowing of Black community and cultural self-determination. Local Black artists

have been consistently denied an opportunity to exercise their creativity. Out of 120 school buildings only one honors a Black person, the City does not have one street named after a Black person, and as a result of such disregard the honoring of Black people who have contributed so much is limited.

The appeal to the United Nations is not new. Previous appeals were led by W.E.B. DuBois, Paul Robeson and Malcolm X.

The appeal is a follow up to a letter sent to President Jimmy Carter, asking him not to appear in the presidential debate scheduled for Portland. The debate has since been cancelled, but the BUF has not received a reply from the President. While in Portland, Vice President Mondale expressed his belief that the charges are not believable to him because of his knowledge of former Mayor Neil Goldschmidt.

Copies of the complaint were sent to: Kurt Waldheim, Secretary-General of the United Nations; Salim A. Salim, Representative of Tanzania to the UN; Donald McHenry, US Ambassador to the UN; Representative Cardiss Collins, Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus; and Amnesty International.

'They must be held accountable'

School Board member Wally Priestley told the press Monday that the sponsors of the unsuccessful effort to recall four board members should be held responsible for the disruption they have caused in the school district.

The "Citizens Committee for a Responsible School Board" had announced that they had achieved only approximately 75 per cent of the signatures necessary to put the recall on the ballot, so on the deadline day for filing, admitted defeat. The committee was formed immediately following the board vote to terminate Superintendent Robert Blanchard and was directed at the four members who voted for termination.

Priestley holds the recall move responsible for the Board's inability to address some of the serious issues facing the district. "Had it not been for the recall, the Board would have put a much needed tax base on the November ballot. We will have a serious shortage of funds next year - but it would have been foolish to put a tax measure on the ballot if a recall movement meant we could not get public support to pass it."

The recall effort prompted the filing of a \$283,000 lawsuit by Blanchard, seeking damages for breach of contract. Prior to his termination, there were indications that Blanchard would be willing to negotiate a settlement. Since the recall effort was announced, Blanchard has refused to negotiate with the Board's legal counsel and persons close to Blanchard indicated that no settlement would be possible until the outcome of the recall was determined.

Priestley pointed out that many of those seeking to blame the present problem with Blanchard's contract on the current board were actually responsible. When in May of 1979 it became evident that the Board would change because Steve Buel and Bill Scott, both believed to have questions about Blanchard's tenure, had been elected to the Board, the "old board" extended Blanchard's contract. In spite of increasing district discontent, including a threatened school boycott, the "old board" including Jonathan Newman, Evie Crowell, Beverly York, Frank McNamara and Joe Rieke, voted as one of their last

orders of business, to extend Blanchard's contract from July of 1981 to July of 1983.

"They were afraid that a new board, which included people more closely identified with the people, would remove the Superintendent they had chosen and supported. They made sure his future was secure with a long term contract before they went out of office."

The same contingent that extended Blanchard's contract sought to control membership on the Board through changing the election date and now through selecting and finding candidates, Priestley explained.

Priestley was elected at the May primary election in 1976, a fact that met great fear and anger on the part of Board members and the administration. At their next board meeting, the board voted to ask the Legislature to change the election to April on the "off year." With the aid of Representative Howard Cherry, a former school board member, the board persuaded the Legislature to change the election dates of the Portland School District, the Educational Service (Please turn to Page 10 Col 3)

Mental health clinic organizes

By Nyewusi Askari

The North/Northeast Community Mental Health Center is being organized. The services of the Center are to be provided both by core Center staff and by selected subcontract mental services providers (such as Delaunay Mental Health Clinic, the Center for Community Mental Health, the House of Exodus, and the Multnomah County Health Division Northeast Multi-Service Center).

The Mental Health Center will serve North and Northeast Portland bounded by the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, 82nd Avenue, and the Banfield Freeway. It's 1980-81 budget includes approximately

\$700,000 of federal funds and \$1,100,000 of state and county funds.

The center will include the following service elements:

1. Inpatient services
2. Outpatient services
3. Partial hospitalization services
4. Emergency services (24-hour access)
5. Consultation and education services
6. Services for children
7. Services for elderly
8. Screening services
9. Follow-up services (case management services)
10. Transitional services
11. Alcohol abuse services
12. Drug abuse services

The Center intends to provide community-based planning and administration of mental health services within the catchment area, assuring appropriate continuity of

care for persons with mental health service needs and appropriate linkages between the existing service agencies. As the Center board is organized and staff are retained, a core Center site will be selected within the catchment area.

A nominating committee is currently seeking the names of persons living in North and Northeast neighborhoods who are qualified and willing to serve on the Center's Board of Directors.

Board candidates should have an interest in mental health services, should be representative of the area to be served, and should be willing to devote a substantial amount of volunteer time to governance of the Center. Persons interested in (Please turn to Page 2 Col 6)