

Committee studies police abuse investigations

Commissioner Charles Jordan has named a thirteen member Citizen's Task Force on Internal Affairs which will review the citizen complaint process within the Portland Police Bureau.

Citizen's complaints regarding alleged abuse or misconduct of police officers are currently investigated by the Internal Affairs department of the Police Bureau. This fact and dissatisfaction over investigation procedures and results has led to complaints that the

Bureau cannot police itself adequately and suggestions that a citizen police review board be formed.

Commissioner Jordan has responded by enpanelling the committee for a period of six months, to review the process currently used to determine if it is "fair, efficient, thorough, responsive and concerned equally with the rights of the complaining citizens and the accused officer." The committee is also asked to make recommendations to the

Commissioner, if it is determined that changes in the process or a new process is needed.

Commissioner Jordan emphasized that he wants the committee to be objective and independent. "The most important criteria for this committee is objectivity," Jordan emphasized. "The members will have to be independent, see all sides of the issues. Internal Affairs not only has to insure that the public's rights are protected, but it also has to guard the rights and the

reputations of professional police officers when they are wrongly accused. The committee will be independent, whatever their findings are, whether the evaluation is positive, or whether they recommend change I'm sure the process will be positive and beneficial to the Bureau."

Most of the committee meetings will be public, but some must be closed so the committee can review investigations and discuss personnel. The committee will not in-

vestigate charges of police misconduct, but will review investigations done by Internal Affairs in an effort to judge their competency and objectivity.

Committee members are: Robert Elfer, Oregon State Bar Association; Jeff Rogers, American Civil Liberties Union; John Bridges, high school student; Bill Taylor, retired police captain; Johnny Parks, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; Grace Gallegos, IMPACT; Bud

Brazil, National Conference on Christians and Jews; Dr. Clarence Pruitt, NACCP; Darlene Lemly, League of Women Voters; Linda Torrence, Urban League of Portland; Ron Martin, Oregon State Prison staff; attorney Bradford Shiley.

The appointment of the Chairman will be announced Friday at the committee's 10:00 a.m. meeting at City Hall. Additional members might be named later.

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XI Number 13
January 15, 1981
25¢ per copy

USPS 959-680-855

An Appropriate Holiday



Martin Luther King's leadership gave all Americans...white, Yellow, Black, Red and Brown...a new sense of worth and purpose. His leadership helped Americans gain a new understanding and appreciation of our interdependence in the journey toward our national goals. Martin lifted our level of awareness that the paths to fulfillment for all Americans...regardless of race or color...are intersecting paths. Establishing Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday will especially help American youth of today and tomorrow recognize the nobility and worth of his life and work.

Dr. King's prophetic denunciation of war as a denial of universal brotherhood and violation of the sacredness of human personality strengthened our alliance with people of peace and good will around the world. His vision of the day when peace with justice would "roll down like waters" challenged all of us to turn from greed to generosity; callousness to caring; violence to non-violence and from death to life. His commitment to non-violence undoubtedly spared the nation from trauma of the destruction that would have accompanied the social change that might have come through alternative means...a change had to come.

His leadership provided the opportunity for a nation which claimed to "trust in God" to translate our profession into a

procession of judicial, legislative, and executive acts which Martin clarified as moral imperatives.

His leadership brought together a coalescence of communities and disciplines that demonstrated the unity in diversity that portends a greatness unparalleled in nationhood...under God.

His leadership personified the spirit of a people whose historic dedication to liberty caused them to tread the unknown, dare to do the dangerous, pioneer into the perilous...knowing that the reward of liberty is more precious than the price the struggle compels us to pay. Willing to pay the price, Martin Luther King, Jr., sought freedom for all God's children knowing that those who mind the chains that bind (others) are also bound.

His leadership taught us that revolutionary change can occur within the context of non-violence when a people inspired and motivated by a sense of justice and the efficacy of love are so determined.

Yes, the designation of Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday will do deserved honor to him, and will likewise honor the nation and the family of man...and I respectfully urge and support its immediate implementation. Such an act could very well be the force that launches nationally a new and urgent journey toward brotherhood. Believe me, the nation needs such leadership today.

Yet, I am compelled to say that such legislation...isolated and apart from the continuing enactment of measures that contribute to the goals delineated by King's life and "dream"...will ring with hollow sound, and echo the frustration which currently enfolds us.

In 1970...20 months following Martin's tragic death, Black family income reached as high as 61% of white family income. Today, however, I am saddened to report that Black family income has declined to 57-59% of whites, which

is only slightly better than 1957 when SCLC was founded and Martin Luther King, Jr. led the beginning of that historic movement.

Black unemployment today is officially indexed at 2 and 1/2 times the rate of white unemployment. It is more inaccurately stated at 3 to 4 times higher. So to be truly meaningful...as important and urgent as it is...this legislation designating Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday must be enacted as one of many important steps in an accelerated march toward the realization of the dream of this great and martyred American.

A dream which is in essence the American dream: That this land will truly become the land of the free as well as the home of the brave. The bravest of whom...as did Martin...gave their lives for the dream...not realizing the promise themselves but having seen it afar...so willed it for their brothers and sisters, sons and daughters that they lay down their lives...in the hope that we will carry on the struggle toward the day when "every man might sit under his own vine and fig tree and none need be afraid"...nor hungry...nor unemployed...nor ill housed...nor without adequate health...nor educational opportunity...

In the hope that we will carry on the struggle toward that day when in Martin's words "empty stomachs...will be filled, and brotherhood will be more than a few words at the close of a prayer, but rather the first order of business on every legislative agenda..."

In the hope...that we will carry on the struggle toward that day when in the halls of social and economic justice...color will be irrelevant; toward that day when Black will not be asked to get back; when Brown can stick around; Red can get ahead and white will act all-right.

(From testimony of Joseph Lowery, President, SCLC, to the Senate Judiciary Committee)

Cawthorne loses chairmanship

In a surprise move Monday night, School Board member Wally Priestley denied his vote to Herb Cawthorne and after several split votes, Cawthorne withdrew his candidacy for another term as Chairman of the School Board.

Priestley explained that his refusal to vote for Cawthorne was a result of Cawthorne's support of a successful move to postpone selection of a new Superintendent until January of 1982.

The motion, offered by Sarah Newhall, removes the responsibility of appointing the new Superintendent from the current School Board and places it in the hands of the board that will be elected in March.

Robert Blanchard was terminated in July by a vote of four school board members - Cawthorne, Buel, Priestley, and Newhall. With the selection of the new Superintendent taking place this Spring those four members would have had a strong influence, if not a deciding vote, on the selection of the new Superintendent. Priestley expressed his opinion that this board most closely represents the general public - the students and parents of the district - and would select a Superintendent with an educational philosophy and administrative style that would best serve the people.

Postponement of the decision means that Priestley, who does not plan to seek reelection, will not be on the board when the selection is made. It is possible that Sarah Newhall, who faces election in March, also will not be on the board. The expected result of the

election - which traditionally draws few voters - is that Priestley's seat and possibly Newhall's will go to political allies of the Scott - McNamara - Rieke faction.

If that happens neither Cawthorne nor Buel will have an effective voice in selecting a new Superintendent.

Cawthorne's seat is also up for reelection but no one has filed for his position.

With Priestley denying Cawthorne his vote, Buel made an impassioned plea to Bill Scott, Joe Rieke and Frank McNamara to support Cawthorne, stating that Cawthorne had been a good chairman. He reminded them that Cawthorne had been careful to include them in all board deliberations and committee assignments.

Cawthorne withdrew. Buel voted for Priestley; Priestley voted for Buel. The others, including Cawthorne, voted for Rieke.

Scott nominated McNamara for vice chairman; Priestley nominated Buel. Newhall, Priestley and Buel voted for Buel with Cawthorne joining with Scott, Rieke and McNamara to elect McNamara.

In more important business the Board gave Buel the authority (confirmed the authority given by the voters) to research the Portland district's dropout problem, including talking with staff, parents and students and reading student's files. Currently approximately one-third of the state's students do not complete high school.

Following the meeting Priestley said he is fond of Cawthorne and



HERB CAWTHORNE

has no complaint about his performance in his first term as Chairman, but his vote to postpone the Superintendent was not responsive to the needs of the district's students and especially the students of North Portland. "Unless his direction and his votes are clearly in the interest of the working class student and parent - those who supported him and put him in office - then it doesn't matter who is Chairman and I felt no obligation to vote for him."



Representative members of the Governor's Commission on Black Affairs pose after swearing-in ceremony at the State Capitol: Frank Wilson, Pat Creal, Pearl Spears-Gray, Mattheette Williams, Bruce Broussard.

House committee holds meeting

The Committee on Aging and Minority Affairs of the Oregon House of Representatives will hold a public meeting at the King Neighborhood Facility on January 20th at 7:30 p.m.

According to committee chairman Wally Priestley, the purpose of the meeting is to allow members of the community to share their issues and concerns with the committee members and to discuss possible legislation.

Among the issues expected to be discussed are: making Martin Luther King's birthday a state holiday; the Washington D.C., constitutional amendment; the Black and Hispanic Affairs Commissions; making racial harassment a felony; and re-apportionment.

All interested persons are urged to participate.

During the afternoon of the 20th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., the committee will meet with senior citizens at Smith Center Auditorium, Portland State University. Persons with ideas or information; prospective legislation or law changes are urged to attend the meeting.

The committee will also meet with other minority groups during the Portland visit, which is expected to be the committee's only meeting outside Salem during this session.

Artists honor Martin Luther King

A tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will be celebrated through the arts at the Cosmopolitan Hotel, 1030 N.E. Union, Thursday, January 15, from 8 to 11 p.m.

Sponsored by the Minority Artists Consortium, the tribute will feature art exhibits by local artists depicting Dr. King and his historical period, an historical period, an historical program by Charles Tatum and a special performance by Thara Memory and his Creative Jazz Ensemble.

An admission charge of \$6 will be dedicated to the development of a

visual and performing arts center in Northeast Portland.

Artists Bobby Foucher, Chonitia Henderson and Henry Frisen will contribute to the program events. Henry Frisen is one of the artists who painted the mural on the Albina Human Resources Center.

Dr. King's birthday celebration on Thursday, January 15, the actual day of his birthday, is to bring attention to the effort to declare the Nobel Peace Prize winner's birthday a state holiday.

Black Commissioners take office

Nine members of the Governor's Commission on Black Affairs were recently sworn into office by Governor Victor Atiyeh. The Governor signed executive orders creating a Black and a Hispanic Commission on September 30th following several months of hearings and discussions by a Governor's Advisory Committee on Minority Affairs.

The Commission on Black Af-

fairs will monitor existing programs and laws designed to meet the needs of the Black population; will identify and research problems and issues that affect Blacks; will make recommendations to the Governor including prospective legislation; will act as a liaison to the Governor.

Members of the Commission on Black Affairs are: Pearl Spears-Gray, Chairman, Oregon State University affirmative action of-

ficer; Geraldine Christian, pharmacist; Thomas Kennedy, manager of the Union Avenue Project for PDC; Bobby Nunn, Portland Public Schools; Barbara Patrick, City Bureau of Human Resources; Frank Wilson, U.S. Attorney's office; Bruce Broussard, publisher, *Portland Observer*; Pat Creal, Lane County Community College; Mattheette Williams, State Farm Insurance Company.