



Representative Hardy Myers, Speaker of the House, listens attentively as Attorney Frank Wilson explains legal implications of proposed Racial Harassment Bill. Among those attending the Legislative Brunch, sponsored every other Saturday are: Matthew Akom, Ruth Spencer, Burna Wingert, and Mildred. Senator Frank Roberts, Representative Barbara Roberts and Representative Wally Priestley will be the guests at the March 21st meeting, 9:30 a.m. at Bourbon Street. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Cell Talk

By Asmar Abdul Seifullah
Aka Joe West

"Racism exists in all institutions," or so said a high ranking Black official recently. However, what's disturbing is that since it's common knowledge, why isn't something meaningful being done to eradicate it? Their acknowledgement of racism without active struggle against it, only compounds its assault upon its victims.

It's unfortunate that articles about racism, discrimination and brutality are prevalent in the news service until the silent majority speaks out against its perpetuation. Consequently, I feel it's my duty as a Blackman to concentrate on it as a subject until relief is forthcoming. I'm sure that there are those individuals, state officials and prison administrators that would rather have silence on these disturbing issues but then there are already enough people in the cover-up business.

Consequently once again I have one of those dirty stories to report to you. I've been hesitant to write about it because I honestly believe that there are members of the prison administration who would like to stop the spread of racism, discrimination and brutality. I, therefore, commend Superintendent Cupp, Assistant Superintendent Keeney and Security Chief Whitley for their efforts to rid Oregon State Penitentiary of these elements. However, it's becoming increasingly apparent that racism, brutality and discrimination are rooted deeply into the framework of the prison structure for their efforts to have great impact on daily life behind the walls.

Recently it came to my attention that racism and brutality are being perpetuated by members of the

O.S.P. staff. The culprits of these deeds are correctional officers whose responsibility it is to oversee the daily movement and security of inmates.

A couple of weeks ago, a white correctional officer was accused of circulating Ku Klux Klan membership card to white inmates. Subsequently an investigation was conducted by the Oregon State Police to ascertain whether or not there was sufficient evidence to warrant dismissal of the officer in question. I was personally assured by Superintendent Cupp that if sufficient evidence were gathered, the officer would be dismissed if possible.

The only problem at this point seems to be finding a white inmate that received one of the cards to come forth with testimony. I'm sure you can see the futility in seeking out an empathic white inmate in a white majority institution. I therefore, imagine that the racist canine will return to work to spread more of his odious racist germs. He is protected by a union, civil service regulations and the bigotry of a system reeking with racism.

This past week a group of five (5) white officers were accused of using excessive force in restraining a Black inmate who refused to take a shower. The brother was allegedly handcuffed and physically abused and was called a "Nigger" to boot!

The incident was reported by a Chicano inmate who was an eye witness to the alleged assault. He has offered to take a lie detector test to substantiate his claim. It was then reported to Executive Assistant of Minority Affairs, Ron Martin, who subsequently reported it to Captain Whitley, who conducted a primary

investigation and called the Oregon State Police to further investigate the matter. Once again, we were assured that the officer(s) in question would be dismissed if possible. What's surprising is that in the first case, the officer was suspended with pay while the investigation was conducted, but in the second incident, the officer(s) were left on the job during the investigation. There has been further evidence of intimidation of potential witness by one or more of the officers in questions. Its the opinion of the writer that these reprobates and scoundrels will do anything to protect their bastardly deeds.

As was mentioned previously, I believe that the high officials of O.S.P. are concerned and are doing the best they can under the circumstances. But, unfortunately, the cover-ups are reinforced by fellow officers who are either afraid to speak up or condone the actions of their fellow officers. It's impossible for the Superintendent or any other administrator to be on the spot when these incidents take place -- plus the administrators are in a position where they have to try and satisfy both sides. It should be evident from both of these isolated incidents that there is a need for more Black correctional officers at O.S.P. I therefore appeal to members of the community to push the program here at O.S.P.

There are white mad-dog overseers loose in O.S.P., I fear that the situation will worsen before it gets better. In conclusion remember that George Jackson was killed because he allegedly had a gun in his afro. "Pleasant dreams Y'all because they might come in the morning!"

Hillard discusses Black History

Grassroot News, N.W. - On March 6, at the Mallory Avenue Church, the Black United Front sponsored a community history lesson given by Asa Hillard. Dr. Hillard is presently at Georgia State after holding status of Dean of Education at San Francisco State for eight years. Hillard entitled his presentation "Free Your Mind." The basis premise of the presentation was present aspects of our historical greatness and clear up some of the mis-education that goes along with Africa and Afro-American history. Below are some excerpts from his presentations:

"We must return to the source and to return to the source we must rewrite the miswritten history of Black people. And this is the miswritten history of all people because no one can have a true history if our history is not told correctly. Our history, like other conquered people, had to be destroyed because if you are to be a slave, you can't have a memory. It hurt us because false memories were created for other people. For us to return to the source we must return to original documents from the African origins of civilization. You must remember that the oldest living bones found in Europe, and Japan appear to be the bones of the small people who inhabit the hearthland of Africa.

"Most of the information fed to the American public is false. There

are also studies which show how the minds of Americans are managed frequently by people who try to get you to buy what you don't need, go where you don't want to go, and do things that are not in your best interest but theirs.

"Subliminal suggestion is just one way that it's done. As far as Black people are concerned, people who have told our story, almost all have been white, have been looking for something called a primitive. But there are no primitive Asians, Indians, Whites or Blacks. Primitive is a word conquerors made up for taking land away from other people. The primitive was created by professors and the idea that one group is inferior grew up with these professors. We didn't have racism until we had a concept of race and that started 200 years ago. You always had people who didn't like each other but a very strange thing was started about the time Europeans needed other peoples' land. This thought enabled people to come to America and kick out the Indians and the Indians became natives and the Europeans became Americans; go to Australia and kick the people out, the real Australians become Aborigines and the Europeans became Australians."

All through his presentation, Dr. Hillard presented historical facts of African history with truth as its only interpretation. After the presentation, Dr. Hillard was asked the following questions: What are some

of the problems in education faced by Black people?

Hillard: Our biggest problem is the lack of a free mind or low consciousness.

Grassroot News: When traditional scientist deals with the educational deficiencies of some Black children there is a tendency to place the blame on the parents. Are Black parents, because of the social pressure imposed by white society, responsible for the educational deficiencies of their children?

Hillard: No, parents are responsible for the education of their children but not for the inadequacies in their education. If you have good teaching, Black kids will learn like anyone else.

Grassroot News: What affect is the three year old "Bakke" decision having on the educational opportunities for the Black community?

Hillard: That's one of the worst decisions that have been handed down in a long time. The sad thing is that it made the medical aptitude test legal.

Grassroot News: Will the federal cutback in education have an adverse effect on the education provided to the Black community?

Hillard: Right now, positions that are held, are supported by federal funds. Many people who hold positions hold the lowest level ones. So as school districts are forced to cut back, those positions are the first to go.

Property tax relief available

Two years after implementation of the state's Property Tax Relief Program, many residents still are not taking advantage of the program. Multnomah County's Assessment and Taxation Division will accept claims under the program until April 1, 1981. Home owners who have filed and received property tax relief last fall on their present residences should not file again. Their tax relief will be continued automatically. Homeowners who have changed the use of their property must notify the assessor of the change; those who do not must pay back any state payment plus a 20 per cent penalty.

The Property Tax Relief Program was enacted by the 1979 Oregon Legislature as a separate program (in addition to but not part of HARRP). The qualifications for the PTRP are:

- 1) The applicant must be owner of record. Owner of Record means that the individual(s) has a deed, contract or assignment of contract for the property filed upon, and that the document must be recorded in the County Deed Records.
- 2) The applicant must occupy the property. The property must be the applicant's principal residence, on June 30.
- 3) The application must be filed with the County Assessor in the County where the property is located. The last day for filing an application in a calendar year is April 1.
- 4) The application remains in effect on the property until the property is sold or the owner moves. As long as the applicant owns and occupies the property, only one application must be filed. The applicant does not have to file every year. (However, when the property no longer qualifies due to sale or the applicant moving, the applicant is

required to notify the County Assessor of the disqualification.) Individuals who file and qualify for the Property Tax Relief Program have a lower assessed

value on their home and receive a lower tax bill, Wilcox said. For more information, citizens may call the property tax relief office, 248-3221.



Boneless Hams	Home Cure 8 1/2; Fully Cooked Smoked; Half	lb.	\$2 ⁸⁸
Beef or Meat Franks	Oscar Mayer 1-lb. Pkg.		\$1 ⁶⁸
Sliced Meats	Land O' Frost	2 1/2 to 3 oz. Pkg.	48 ^c
Fillet of Snapper	Fresh	lb.	\$1 ³⁸
Halibut Roast	Frozen	lb.	\$2 ⁷⁸
Kipperd Salmon	Chunklets; Fresh	lb.	\$2 ³⁸
Pork Loin Roast	Fresh Sirlon 3 to 4 lbs.	lb.	\$1 ⁴⁸
Pork Spare Ribs	Fresh Country Style	lb.	\$1 ⁵⁸
Pork Link Sausage	Fresh Parade Brand Regular or Italian	lb.	\$1 ⁶⁸
Comed Beef Brisket	Murphy Boneless	lb.	\$1 ⁹⁸
Chicken Hoagies	or Breast Patty; Tyson; Quick to Fix	12 oz.	\$2 ⁸⁸
Chicken Breast	Fillets; Tyson; Quick To Fix	12 oz.	\$3 ²⁸

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