



For the children of Atlanta  
and for all children who are  
hungry, suffer and live in  
fear.

Mrs. Frances Schoen-Newspaper Room  
University of Oregon Library  
Eugene, Oregon 97403



Black United Front march against racism attracted 1500 marchers who shared event with demonstrators across the nation.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

# PORTLAND OBSERVER

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## Reapportionment discussed

One of the hottest issues in the past ten years has been the apportionment of legislative districts in the Black community. In 1971, then Secretary of State Clay Myers divided the area with the highest population of Blacks into four House districts and four Senate districts. His reasoning: that it would be better to have a little influence in four districts than a lot of influence in one.

The community disagreed - although there were some who favored the plan and opposed a "gerrymandered" district to encompass the Black community. A lawsuit was filed, but failed.

Recently several proposals have emerged. The Oregon Assembly For Black Affairs, meeting in January, appointed a Task Force which has developed a proposal. This plan would divide the area between the 80-N freeway and the Columbia River and between the Willamette River and 42nd Avenue, into four House Districts. One district would include St. Johns to Portsmouth: A second would cover Portsmouth to Union, North of Fremont. A third would be North of Fremont, from the Union to 42nd Avenue. The fourth would go from the Willamette to 42nd, South of Fremont.

Henry said the plan would place an equal number of residents in each of the four districts. They are estimated to be approximately 15 per-

cent Black, although the district north of Fremont and east of Union would have a higher percentage and St. Johns would be lower.

The legislature, which is responsible for re-districting, is leaving the reapportionment of Multnomah County up to the Senators and Representatives elected from Multnomah County.

Representative Rick Bauman, who has no vested interest in the design of North and Northeast districts because he is elected in Southeast Portland, adheres to the one district theory - that Blacks would be better represented if a substantial portion of the population were in one district with enough votes to control the election of that legislator.

He is proposing a district that would be bounded on the South by Fremont, on the North by the Columbia River, on the East by 33rd Avenue, and on the West by the I-5 freeway. Between Killingsworth and Fremont the western boundary would be moved to the Willamette. Inclusion of the area between I-5 and the Willamette is necessary because that area cannot be included in the St. Johns district without giving it too many residents. Bauman's plan provides a district that includes most of the area populated by Blacks, and is nearly 40 percent Black.

The area south of Fremont, which is heavily Black, would be

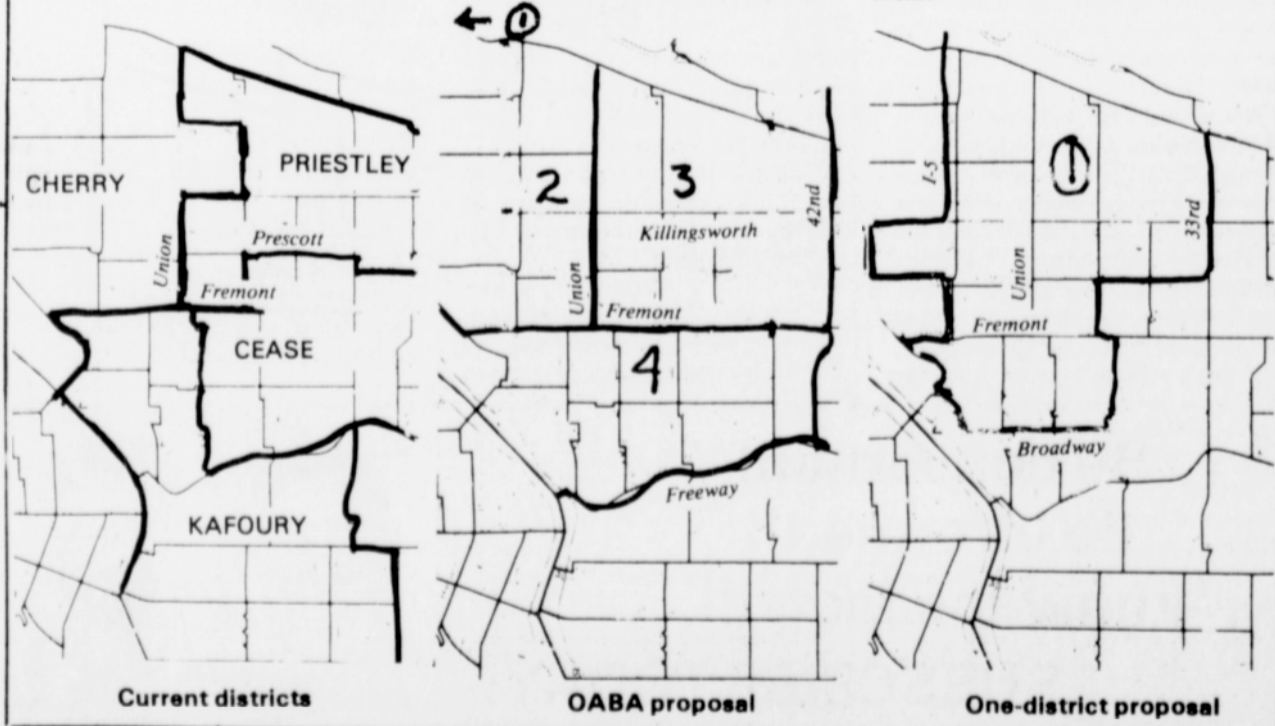
combined with an inner southeast area similar to the current district.

A third proposal, endorsed by the *Observer*, would draw the western boundary at I-5, including the area below Fremont to the Willamette. The Southern boundary would be Broadway and the Northern Columbia. The Eastern boundary would be approximately 18th, south of Fremont.

These boundaries would be adjusted somewhat to insure the proper number of residents in the area. It would be approximately 45 percent Black.

The political reality is that current legislators will not want to eliminate themselves from the districts where they are now known, or place themselves in the same district with strong incumbents. The *Observer's* plan places Representatives Chrest and Cherry in one district, Priestley and Kafoury in another. Since the district in which Priestley and Kafoury both currently live is the district with the preponderance of Black voters, each would have to decide whether to run against a strong Black candidate.

Bruce Broussard, in endorsing the plan, said the residence of current legislators should not be deciding factors in determining the new districts - but the ability of Black voters to elect the person they believe will most truly represent them.



## Police forum scheduled

The *Observer* will sponsor a community forum to address problems between the Police Bureau and the community and to discuss proposals for improvement. For several years there have been charges of police harassment and brutality and counter charges of over-reaction.

The purpose of the forum is to try to find specific actions the Police Bureau and the police officers could take to police their behavior and to better understand the neighborhood and citizens. Also, to find ways the community can relate positively to the police.

Participants in the forum will be union president Stan Peters; Deputy Police Chief Gary Haynes; Norm Monroe, Urban League of Portland; and Reverend John Jackson.

The forum will be held at Bourbon Street Restaurant, Saturday, April 18th, at 9:30 a.m. The public is urged to participate.

## Jefferson / Adams merger asked

School Superintendent James Fenwick has recommended that Jefferson High School be consolidated with Adams, in the Adams building, and that Washington/Monroe and Cleveland be closed. Tubman Middle School would move into the vacated Jefferson building.

The impact of the proposal is to close the three inner-city east side schools and use the students to prop up west side schools with declining enrollment. Washington/Monroe would be closed and its students from Boise, Eliot, Buckman and sent to Lincoln. Cleveland would be closed and its students from Abernathy, Brooklyn, Llewellyn, Sillwood and Duniway assigned to Wilson.

Woodlawn west of the I-5 freeway would go to 6-8th grade at Portsmouth; Vernon 6-8th grades would go to Beaumont and then to Grant.

King, Eliot and Humboldt 6-8th grades would go to Tubman, relocated at Jefferson. No high school assignment was made.

According to Fenwick this plan would send all students of each elementary school to one middle

school, and all middle school students to one high school.

Questions immediately asked by representatives of the Black community are:

- What happened to the Comprehensive Desegregation plan?

- Why are east side students including a high proportion of Blacks sent to the west side in a "one way bussing" formula.

- What happened to the pledge to retain both Jefferson and Adams High Schools?

- Why will the only high school in the predominately Black area be closed?

- Where will Tubman students be assigned for high school - to the west side? Has their assignment to Adams been considered and how would that affect Adams' population?

- Why wasn't assignment of Beaumont to Adams, and assignment of Washington/Monroe to Grant considered?

- Why should Black students from Woodlawn and Vernon, newly assigned to Columbia/Whiteaker, now be moved to Portsmouth and Beaumont?

Why wasn't closure of Lincoln and transfer of its students to Roosevelt and Washington/Monroe considered?

It appears that most of the children who are to be shuffled around again are the same children who have been shuffled around for the last ten years.

Demonstrations against the proposal have already begun. A series of hearings, beginning April 15th, will be held with the first decision to be made by the School Board on May 11th.

A rally will be held at Jefferson High School, Monday, April 13th at noon to support retaining Jefferson in its present location. All parents, students and citizens are asked to participate.

Public hearings on school closures will be held April 15 and 16 at 7:30 and May 6 and 7, May 14 at 7:30 p.m., at the Education Service Center; and on April 22, 23, 29 and May 12 at 7:30 at Benson High School.

## Jones pushes stock investment

by Kathryn Hall Bogle

There are dollar signs in the eyes of Nick Jones. When he settles his lean and lanky 6' frame into a chair at his brokerage office. You can see the dollar signs glitter. Nick thinks dollars, talks dollars and stocks and more dollars.

Nick Jones - stock broker. The only Black stock broker in town.

A good many people have never really talked with a stock broker, nor thought about stocks for themselves. Nick wants to change all that.

"What I want to do," says Nick, "is to get minorities interested. Some brokers ask an investment of \$5,000 or even \$10,000 before they will talk seriously about stock investment. But I have a different formula.

"I believe in small-dollar stocks. I'm talking about stocks under \$5.00 a share. They should grow if the people who are operating are also share holders, have invested their own money, and if the company is aggressive.

"I am willing to talk serious business with anyone who has \$500 to invest, or as much over that as they want. There can be a number of ways to invest and have your money working for you.

"Banks pay good interest and your money is safe there," Nick acknowledges right up front. Then he quickly points out the warp and woof of his belief: "A stock market (Please turn to Page 6 Col 1)



Nick Jones checks latest stock quotations.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)