



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

Mayor dismantles economic development unit

On January 2nd, of this year, the City created a new economic development structure with the City's first Business Ombudsman and an Economic Planning Section replacing the former Bureau of Economic Development. The Business Ombudsman was to advocate for businesses and to serve as the Mayor's direct contact for businesses in the City. In addition, the Ombudsman was to supervise the Economic Planning Section was to serve as the center for data collection and analysis and to do economic development planning, coordinating City bureaus in that

effort, consistent with adopted economic development policy. Other program functions of the former Bureau of Economic Development, including technical assistance and project implementation were moved to PDC, the intended implementor for economic development.

One of the stated purposes of the reorganization was to achieve greater impact on the economic development needs and opportunities in the City. It was decided by the Mayor's office to concentrate resources in a specific area of the City for maximum impact. Sub-

sequently, review and analysis of the various sections of the City identified inner northeast as the area of greatest need and opportunity for economic development.

On March 18th, Mayor Ivancie's and City Council's citizen advisory body, the Economic Development Advisory Committee, was presented a target area concept by the Economic Planning Section and, as stated by Mayor Ivancie in the March 26th *Portland Observer*, "named inner northeast Portland as the first area targeted for economic development." The Mayor further stated that, "This decision means

that the City will concentrate and coordinate its development resources in this area. This is the first time that an area east of the Willamette River has been singled out for special attention in recent memory. I feel it is a very positive decision for all of Portland."

During his press conference at the end of March, the Mayor announced a second reorganization of economic development as a part of his budget presentation. He stated that PDC would be the City's economic development agency, because of its track record in economic development and that this

move was clearly within the City charter, which gives PDC the responsibility and authority to undertake the implementation of economic development.

This second reorganization in four months would eliminate the Business Ombudsman function in the Mayor's office and move that activity to PDC as a Project Coordinator under the newly created Economic Development Director. The Mayor also proposes either to eliminate or to move the economic planning function under the Economic Development Director of PDC as well.

In removing the Economic Planning Section from his proposed budget, it is not clear whether the Mayor intends to eliminate the planning function or to move it into PDC. However, on several occasions the Mayor has stated that PDC is an implementing agency and not a planning office. He has also stated they are "moving into an implementation mode rather than a planning mode."

Since proposing this second reorganization, neither the Mayor nor PDC has addressed his proposal to target economic development in (Please turn to Page 8 Col 3)

PORTLAND OBSERVER

April 16, 1981
Volume XI Number 28
26¢ per copy

USPS 959-680-855



Children from Head Start Center Number 3, stop to play in sand pile in Jefferson High School's front yard following a rally to support the school.

(Photo: Richard Brown)

Community meeting set

Playing the game of politics

It's politics as usual as the members of the House of Representatives meet frequently to attempt to realign their districts while removing three positions from Multnomah County.

The point of contention has become the question of whether an integral community populated in large part by Blacks should be in one legislative district or be divided into three districts.

Leaders of the drive to divide the Black community into three districts are reported to be Representatives Tom Mason and Jane Cease. Mason currently represents a Southwest district and Ms. Cease's district contains a portion of Albina.

Representative Cease denied Tuesday that she is pushing the three district concept, saying, "We need to know whether Blacks want to influence three districts or one." She continued to explain that in her opinion the Black community would have more influence in the legislature if it affected three districts. "They can influence three

districts or have a token."

Asked whether the four House members now elected from districts which are now in part in the Black community are influenced by the Black constituents, she replied, "Influenced, yes; responsive, I can't say." She explained that when the percentage of Blacks in a legislative district is small, their contacts with the legislator are fewer, and therefore their effect is minimal. "I deal with constituents as individuals. If Blacks, as individuals, come to me I try to respond."

Representative Kafoury, whose legislative district also extends into the Black community, disagrees. "I strongly oppose chopping up a natural community into pieces in order to protect the territory of current legislators," she said. "I support one-district that would protect the integrity of the community." Representative Kafoury added that she is very angry at the blatant attempts to gerrymander and believes the districts should be drawn without regard to the residences of current legislators.

Currently favoring the three-

district proposal are Representatives Jim Chrest and Howard Cherry. The Mason plan (see figure 1) would create districts for Chrest and Cherry (9 & 10) in the area north of Prescott and between St. Johns and Cully Boulevard. The third district (8) would run south of Prescott to 80-N, from the Willamette River to approximately 57th Avenue.

Although the dividing line has not yet been drawn, one proposal would have created a narrower district for Chrest, running from St. Johns to Cully, south of that district, running from near the University of Portland to Cully would be a district for Cherry. The problem here is that both live in the western end of the district.

Another problem is the attempt to retain three legislative districts on the west side. In order to retain the needed number of residents in Vera Katz' northwest Portland district (preferably Democrats), a portion of southeast Portland - the Buckman area - has been attached to her area. This, of course, also protects (Please turn to Page 10 Col 3)

Wacker: Asset or liability?

Wacker Siltronic came to Portland with a fanfare, and is still praised as a prime example of cooperation between government and private industry.

Many questions remain to be answered: How were the CETA trainees who would become the future Wacker employees chosen? Did the selection process exclude the real "hard core" unemployed? Was the training provided by Portland Community College, with federal CETA funds, more extensive than the jobs required? Were Wacker trainees over-trained at the expense of other CETA-eligible residents? Did the training screen out those with less adequate education and work experience - the residents CETA was designed to assist?

In return for substantial City aid, Wacker agreed to select its production employees from a pool trained by the City - a "First Source agreement."

Wacker agreed to provide a list of jobs and descriptions, technical assistance, and machines necessary for training. The agreement was to cover "Wacker's on-going manpower needs for purposes of filling vacancies." "Wacker's manpower needs for its first major expansion

on the project site," and "any subsequent expansion if Wacker so desires."

Wacker was to return all decisions on hiring and to provide assessment materials for testing trainees at the end of their training, but were to hire from the City-trained pool. If the City were able to provide personnel, Wacker could hire elsewhere. Selection of the trainees was the responsibility of the City.

Prior to the start of the Wacker project the City's CETA program was re-organized. The sub-contracts to POIC and Portland Community College for outreach and orientation were withdrawn, a new city staff was hired, and outreach selection and orientation became the responsibility of the City.

A supplement to the Wacker contract explains the selection process: "Recruitment will be done on a selection basis, i.e., in accordance with agreed upon goals and objectives between the City of Portland and Wacker. The recruiting is different from regular recruiting in that it is customized to meet the requirements of only those potential Wacker job applicants."

Joe Gonzales, director of Manpower and Training for the City,

told the *Observer* that he does not know how trainees for the Wacker project were selected. He said the City has no records on numbers of applicants, rejections, drop-outs, or the educational status, race and age of applicants who applied but who, for any reason, did not get into the training program.

This in spite of the statement of purpose for the department reorganization in a report to the City Council on February 13, 1979: "The proposed reorganization is designed to assure continuity of services to the economically disadvantaged needing employment assistance in Portland, improve the overall management of the CETA program, and increase the City's accountability for the operation of an effective manpower program."

The training process for most trainees began with a trip to the CETA office in the Board of Trade Building downtown. Some interviewed said they had to make repeated applications and be very insistent about being accepted; others said they were put in the program and told it was "Wacker or nothing."

The training for some began at (Please turn to Page 4 Col 2)

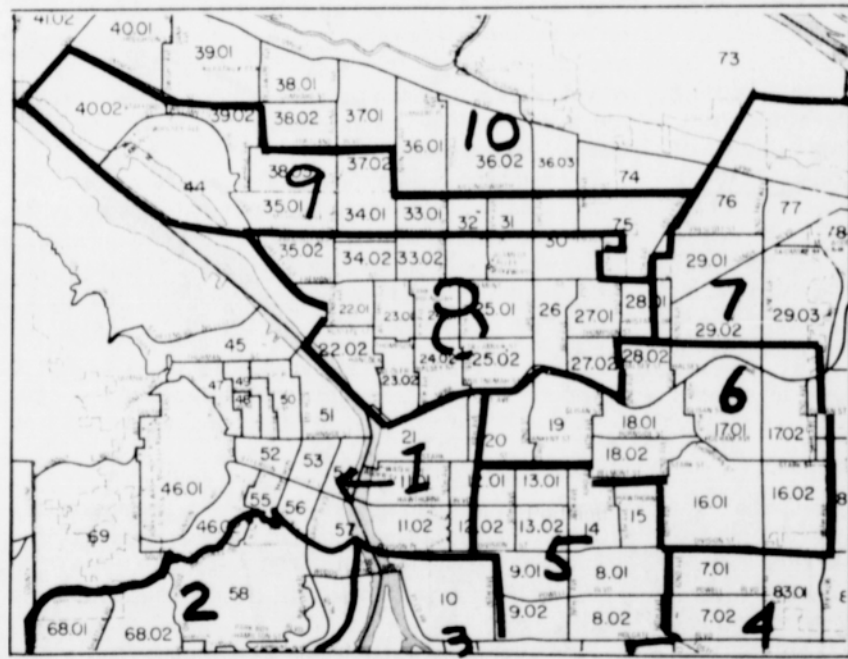


Figure 1: Mason Plan

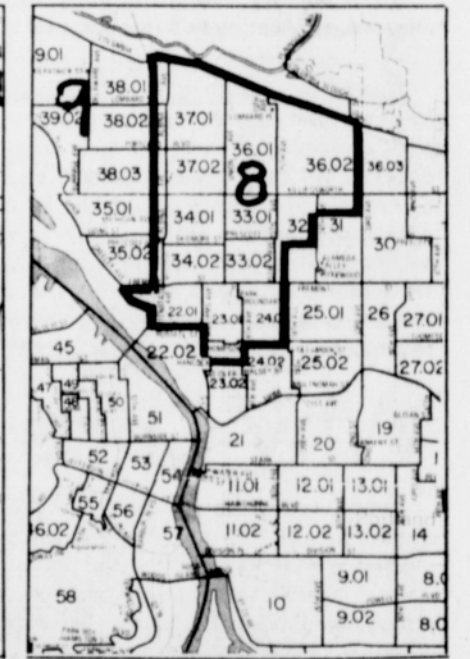


Figure 2: One-district Plan

Frohnmayr offers harassment bill change

Attorney General Frohnmayr offered substitute legislation for the Governor's racial harassment bill before the House Judiciary Committee Tuesday.

Frohnmayr's proposal would elevate the crimes of menacing, criminal mischief and assault from the classification of misdemeanors to felonies when they are committed with racial intent.

The Attorney General explained that using the current law against assault, criminal mischief and

menacing as a base would provide the new legislation with case law and court instruction that would make enforcement easier. His intent was to remove any dangers of unconstitutionality due to vagueness or freedom of speech.

This legislation would introduce "motive" which is not currently a factor in proving guilt. Motive would not be an element of the crime, but would be the essence of the crime.

It avoids the free speech issue by

making verbal threats and symbolic threats such as cross burnings and painting swastikas evidence of the motive. Speech would be the "proof of" instead of the "fact of" the crime.

The crimes - as already defined by law - could be prosecuted as misdemeanors, but if the prosecutor could prove racial or religious motive they could be prosecuted as felonies. "He would look at the fact pattern and derive the state of mind or motive from there."



Jefferson High School students rally behind their school to oppose plans to move Jefferson to the Adams building. The School Board will hear testimony on high school closure recommendations on April 23rd, 7:30 p.m., at Benson High School. (Photo: Richard Brown)