

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Organize for election now

Now that the reapportionment plan has been safely signed by Governor Atiyeh, providing a new inner northeast House district - "District 18" - the community has the responsibility of choosing a representative who will serve the interests and concerns of the residents of the district and be able to positively impact the other 59 members of the House.

It is also the responsibility of the residents of this district to join with the people of St. Johns to select a Senator who will serve the needs of both areas - which have divergent histories and political arenas - but share many of the same problems and goals.

It is our philosophy that the people should select the representative - not that the representative should select the people. The people should select their representative based on that person's political philosophy, adherence to a platform of issues developed by the people, commitment to the people of the district, and ability to serve.

Throughout the two years of service (four for a Senator) this person should be available regularly to his constituents - through regular "office hours" in the district, participating in

community activities, receiving and giving information.

It is to assist the selection process that the *Observer* invites all interested organizations to join with us in presenting a series of workshops to explore and explain elective politics. How do political parties operate and how can the public become involved? How do you run a successful political campaign? What laws are involved?

Can the community develop a platform and expect all candidates to state their stand on this program? Can the citizens judge a candidate by his/her performance during a series of community conferences? Can the candidates be more than a familiar name on the ballot? Can the citizens know their representative?

We believe that in a series of community workshops, with citizens working together to develop what they really want from their representatives, the real representatives will stand out. The real leadership and commitment will be demonstrated in many ways.

This community can put "politics as usual" behind us and enter into a new era of representative government.

Block grants destroy programs

Remember all the programs -- essential programs -- that the people of this country have fought for many to obtain: child care, education for disabled kids, alcohol and drug programs, migrant health, vocational rehabilitation, child nutrition, etc.

Most of these programs were not just dropped into the laps of the American people -- they only came after years of meeting, planning, organizing, lobbying and suffering. Some of them came out of the War on Poverty and the Model Cities programs. Many of the child programs came from Head Start. They were designed by the people who need their services. One thing distinctive about many of them is that they require citizens participation; in many, citizens have the right to make policy and set priorities.

They are designed to meet the most basic needs: health, education, housing, mental health.

What to do? The first is to contact your Senators and Representatives and demand that they oppose and work against the block grant plan. The second is to build local

coalitions among organizations concerned with the plight of the poor to insure that if the block grant system is adopted the State of Oregon spends its money in a proper manner. If the federal government is no longer to be the protector of the poor, the State will have to assume that role.

Not fair

The withholding of welfare checks to 36,000 people who depend on them for a bare existence was hardly worthy of our Governor. The July welfare checks were not mailed Tuesday because the Legislature has not yet adopted the 1981-1983 budget which begins July 1st.

Whether the action was taken for the reason the Governor gave, that it would be spending money not allocated or whether it was a political move to force the Legislature to act - it was uncalled for. As usual, the most needy are made to pay for the failures of our political system.



Bruce Broussard
Editor/Publisher

Portland Observer

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The *Portland Observer* was founded in October of 1970 by Alfred Lee Henderson.

The *Portland Observer* is a champion of justice, equality and liberation; an alert guard against social evils; a thorough analyst and critic of discriminatory practices and policies; a sentinel to warn of impending and existing racist trends and practices; and a defender against persecution and oppression.

The real problems of the minority population will be viewed and presented from the perspective of their causality: unrestrained and chronically entrenched racism. National and international arrangements that prolong and increase the oppression of Third World peoples shall be considered in the context of their exploitation and manipulation by the colonial nations, including the United States, and their relationship to this nation's historical treatment of its Black population.

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A lonely sound

By Fungai Kumbula

Farewell is a lonely sound, an ancient African philosopher once said, but not nearly so lonely as goodbye. At least according to the Africans, farewell simply means: "Stay well (until we meet again)". Goodbye, on the other hand, has a ring of finality about it. For that reason and for our purposes, we shall stick to "farewell."

The day of departure has now been set for Thursday, July 2nd at 5:00 a.m. I am going to sneak out of the City at this unholy hour because I will be driving to Los Angeles and would like to beat the "Independence" weekend rush. My church-going brother tell me that there is no rest for the weary. When I arrive in Los Angeles I will have all of four hours to rest before hosting a welcoming party. Any of my readers who may happen to be in the neighborhood, feel free to come join us at 203-B W. Queen St., Inglewood.

Monday morning bright and early should see me at the Charles Drew Postgraduate Medical School's Department of International Health and Development. This is where I will spend the next three months in the cancer research lab learning the fine points of medical research. The theoretical training now complete, I need to learn the practical applications so when I get back to Zimbabwe I will not fall flat on my face. I may have to work up to sixteen hours a day and six days a week so I can learn as much as possible in the three short months I have left in this country. No time at all to get into trouble, what a shame!

Around September 19-20, I will finally catch that all-important flight out of this country and back home; back to Africa! Back to Zimbabwe! Back to civilization! In the meantime, since I have had such a faithful following, I will continue to write for the *Portland Observer* as well as *The BUF Advocate* and the *Pan African Forum*. To most of my readers, therefore, it will be as if I am still very much around.

Economics need change

Dr. Manning Marable

With the onset of summer, millions of Black and Brown youth have joined the steadily increasing unemployment lines across America. Black adult unemployment remains high, much higher than the 15 percent rate asserted by the Reagan Administration. Neither liberal or conservative politicians, Democrats or Republicans, have admitted the root cause of the job crisis of the major Eastern and Midwestern cities - the rise of plant closing and the flight of capital from economically depressed areas.

Strategies for limiting the mobility of capital have been affected with some success in Western European nations, particularly West Germany and Sweden. In the United States, such a strategy would have to involve the incremental and gradual transfer of political prerogative from the interests of monopoly capital to those who create capital at the point of production - the majority of American working people. A series of "non-reform reforms" designed to create a more productive economic climate for all consumers, small businesses and low-to-middle income workers, Black and white, might include these legislative initiatives:

1) Tariff codes should discourage the expansion of U.S.-based corporations, particularly in the older, heavy industrial sector (steel, auto, etc.) abroad.

2) Multinational corporations should be required by federal legislation to pay capital gains taxes immediately, and at a higher rate than for U.S.-only based firms.

Currently, taxes due on earnings from overseas production can be deferred until they return to the United States. Taxes paid to foreign governments are deducted from net federal income taxes; smaller, U.S.-only based firms must consider local and state taxes as a normal business expense. If federal tax laws were changed, allowing smaller domestic businesses to deduct a portion of local and state taxes from their federal taxes, and the tax loopholes for multinationals were closed, major incentives would be created for the expansion of domestic employment.

3) The creation of a new Recon-

struction Finance Corporation, financed by the federal government, which would lend capital to ailing city and state governments, corporations and cooperatives in geographical areas with high unemployment.

The concept of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has been revived by urban planner Felix Rohatyn, the director of New York City's Municipal Assistance Corporation. Rohatyn's proposal would combine a massive infusion of capital into economically depressed areas with strict wage controls and austere management. The RFC would be capitalized at \$5 billion and be allowed to issue up to \$25 billion in federally guaranteed bonds to attract foreign and domestic investors. RFC would then provide no more than 50 percent of the capital to finance any public or private project. Rohatyn also advocates special tax credits for older firms and expansion of municipal governments' tax bases to include the more affluent suburbs.

The RFC designed by Rohatyn would not substantially reduce Black and Latino unemployment, nor would it be able to have the fiscal leverage required to generate a capital base within declining urban areas. The RFC proposed here would have to be capitalized at a minimum of \$15 billion. Foreign investors would be restricted; bonds purchased by U.S. citizens would be redeemable at a rate sufficiently profitable to attract a major sector of those currently investing in money market funds. Light manufacturing and high technology industries would be ineligible to receive RFC support, unless these corporations were located in high unemployment areas. Small, locally-owned businesses would

receive long-term, low-interest loans and venture capital. RFC would encourage the development of consumer and producer cooperatives in the areas of housing, food purchasing, health care, agriculture and other human service-related activities. Employees of plants or corporations that were closing or relocating could purchase existing plants with RFC assistance through long-term loans.

4) Corporation relocations should be regulated by local, state and federal agencies.

State and local governmental initiatives must be ratified to halt the destruction of jobs. At a minimum, this would involve: a two year advance notification of the intention to close any plant or firm that employs more than 50 persons in a particular area; community benefits of 25 percent of the gross annual wages of affected employees should be paid to a public fund or regional state RFC which in turn would allocate grant money to depressed communities toward tax loss relief; and a legal requirement that all firms continue to pay employee benefits amounting to two months pay for each year worked. Greater public control of the economy is no longer, as John Maynard Keynes asserted a half century ago, a necessary part of the modern capitalist economic order. That "order" itself is responsible in large measure for the "disorder" within the lives of millions of working Americans. In short, since large corporations are unable or unwilling to pursue strategies which eliminate racism, sexism, and economic stagnation within older urban centers, the American public must involve itself in the democratic challenge of placing its own fiscal house in order.

making real African movies (that's why my little camera goes everywhere with me!) and joining the swelling ranks of genuine African writers. We definitely need more Afro-centric literature. Then of course there is Namibia and South Africa - none of us can afford to relax as long as those two unhappy lands are still occupied by racists.

Environmental protection is another of my interests. Africa's air, water and land have not yet reached the level of contamination and pollution of the industrialized and "civilized" western countries. Most of our forests and wildlife are still very much within salvagance: all Africans, therefore, must work to see what we do not irreversibly destroy - these non-renewable resources. Who can forget what an exhilarating experience it is simply to sit and breathe the cool, clean, crisp, clear African air as the sun goes down! Any of you Africans (or fellow travellers) try doing that on the Morrison Bridge! And the thrill of watching African game - with camera in hand, not a rifle.

I will probably be coming back to Portland from time to time now that I have met so many wonderful people. If you are in Zimbabwe, look me up in the telephone book then drop in to see if I have managed to stay out of trouble. I will be returning to Portland definitely on June 18, 2024, the day when I will turn 70 and retire because I need that social security that I have been paying into your system for the past half-decade.

Again, farewell, It's been fun and educational knowing you. Remember, the struggle is far from over, but, since we overcame slavery, colonialism, Jim Crow, lynching, attempted genocide and the like, we must be made of very tough fibre. Let us never relax our guard: we are all we have. See you in Zimbabwe (on your next vacation!).

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