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## Reagan's first year: Racism prevails

President Ronald Reagan says he is "opposed at every fiber of my being to discrimination." Yet his first year in office has seen a reversal of civil rights policies of his predecessors, attacks on laws and court decisions built over the past twenty years, dismantling of government agencies charged with enforcing minority rights, and an increase in secrecy and intelligence activity.

The Administration's response to criticism of its civil rights policy is that they will enforce civil rights laws without undue government interference.

Among the actions the administration has taken or proposed are:

1) **School desegregation:** The Administration opposes the long series of Supreme Court decisions on school desegregation. On November 19th, Attorney General Rey-

nolds announced that the Justice Department will no longer attempt to desegregate entire school districts but will focus on specific schools where there is evidence of state-enforced segregation.

2) **Civil Rights Commission:** Last fall Reagan terminated chairman Arthur J. Flemming, who had been critical of the Administration, and nominated Clarence M. Pendleton, a San Diego Black who opposes affirmative action. The Commission is advisory only.

3) **Affirmative Action:** The Administration has announced that it will seek a reversal of the Weber decision. This Supreme Court decision upheld the constitutionality of a voluntary management/labor training program to help Blacks (who were under-represented in the company) to obtain skilled jobs.

In response to a question at a De-

ember 17th news conference, Reagan, who was unfamiliar with the decision and his Attorney General's opposition to it, said he approved as long as it was voluntary. He later said he believed the Weber case had been "wrongfully decided" and agreed with Reynolds' statement that placing the rights of groups above the rights of individuals is "at war with the American ideal of equal opportunity for each person."

4) **Voting Rights:** Reagan has agreed to a ten-year extension of the Voting Rights Act but wants the act amended to make it easier for political jurisdictions to become exempt and to make it necessary for the government to prove not only that the right to vote was denied but that there was intention to discriminate.

5) **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission:** When Reagan appoints two new commissioners his

appointees will be in control. Already the General Counsel, who generally selects the cases the commission will pursue, has been talking about moving away from class action suits. The Commission is responsible for the administration of fair employment laws.

6) **Private Schools Case:** The Internal Revenue Service announced that it would revoke the 12-year-old policy of withholding tax-exempt status from private schools that discriminate. There was so much protest that Reagan announced that he will ask Congress to provide legislation forbidding tax exemptions to schools that discriminate. He said he is opposed to IRS "determining national social law all by itself," ignoring a series of court decisions upholding that policy.

7) **Class action vs. individual:** The

Reagan philosophy opposing government regulation to achieve social goals foretells a move away from class action suits to cases on behalf of individuals. Since the late 1960s it has been apparent that court proceedings on behalf of individuals are too slow and costly to have an impact on the system. The class action suit on behalf of all persons in the aggrieved class carries the threat that government can withhold funds for school districts and other public bodies, and can award settlements in the millions of dollars to thousands of victims of racism.

The Reagan administration is attempting to reduce the entire area of civil rights to a question of individual rights, therefore removing the opportunity for strong civil rights enforcement and a systematic approach to ending discrimination.



RONALD REAGAN



Jennifer Brown, 4, tries her hand at painting while attending Jeannette Fegan School of Early Learning. Jennifer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Brown. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Boise building offered for Tubman site

The Portland School Board agreed to disagree a while longer over the site of the Tubman Middle School.

Dr. James Fenwick, Interim Superintendent, recommended that the school be housed in the Boise school building. Boise is the only school in the area that serves students through the eighth grade.

Fenwick selected Boise because it is within the attendance area of the students it is to serve, it is large enough to house 750 students, and renovation will be slightly less costly than at Eliot.

Questions that need to be asked regarding the Boise site include:

•How will the assignment of 130 upper grade students from Boise,

along with a projected 400 students from King, Humboldt and Eliot, allow for the enrollment of students from other parts of the city in the magnet program? The district has long claimed that white students will not attend Boise, but will (do) attend Eliot.

•What are the population projections in coming years when students who are now in lower grades opt to attend Tubman rather than busing to other schools?

•The former school superintendent and certain board members have claimed 600 to be the largest acceptable enrollment for a middle school. Tubman would open with 750 or more.

•Is there adequate space for a

gym, playing fields and other space required by middle schools?

•Where would Boise's lower grade students be assigned? Humboldt is so badly overcrowded that part of its students will be assigned to Beach. King also is full. Will neighborhood students be heavily recruited out to avoid overcrowding, or will the pre-school programs be eliminated?

•If a major consideration is to save the Eliot program, how will that program be affected by a major transfer of Boise students to it?

•The Jefferson attendance area already has a far larger student population than can be housed at Jefferson. How will the establishment of Tubman at Boise affect Jeffer-

son's enrollment? Will undue pressure be applied to force students into other high schools?

•Has the district abandoned all consideration of integrated (or desegregated) education? If the elementary, middle school and high school are to be majority Black, does the district have a commitment to assign Black principals and administrators to these schools?

•Should the community retain a K-8 school to provide an option for students who do not function well in the middle school setting or prefer a smaller school?

•Boise was recently remodeled to provide space for a pre-school and full-day kindergarten program. Was (Please turn to page 11 col. 4)

## PCC considers Adams building for campus

by Catherine Siegner

Negotiations are now underway for a possible trade of Portland Community College's Cascade campus on N. Killingsworth for Adams High School, closed last year after school district budget problems.

"It's very, very pie in the sky at this point," said Dr. John Anthony, president of PCC's Sylvania campus, and one of the community college's negotiating team. "There's been no official action on the part of our board; I'm only authorized to just sit down and discuss it."

Cramped for space, the Cascade facility has been unable to offer the kind of courses that need more room, such as auto body, small engine repair and diesel mechanics, said Cascade campus Executive Dean Jim Van Dyke.

"When we opened 10 years ago, we had rented a facility on Union Avenue that offered auto body, small engine repair, diesel mechanics and aviation mechanics out at the airport," he added. "We moved them to Rock Creek (PCC's suburban SW Portland campus). We would be able to have such

courses—maybe not the same ones—but there'd be room at Adams."

Space is the major consideration for any trade, according to Anthony. "It would almost double our space. The labs are impressive. We could make [our courses] totally comprehensive and not have students moving around from Sylvania to Cascade to Rock Creek."

Cascade currently offers a variety of vocational courses for which either a certificate or an associate degree are granted.

They include: Educational para-

professional (handicapped aide); interpreter for the deaf; electronic servicing technology (radio and TV repair); commercial art; optical technology (either dispensing or manufacturing eyeglasses); general secretary and general office clerk; nursing assistant and a course for recertifying RNs; human services program; accounting and business management; computer field servicing (for repairing \$40-60,000 computers), and transfer programs in 24 areas that prepare students to enter four-year institutions at the (Please turn to page 11 col. 1)

## Behind the Libyan 'hit squad' rumors

With the Libyan hit squad scenario now largely forgotten, the worrisome question remains as to why President Reagan decided to put the country on a collision course with Col. Khadafy.

The explanation must be either that Washington is thrashing about blindly, or that there was some method to the madness. If we dismiss the former possibility, we still are left with the question of what was the method—or the message. And to find a plausible answer to this we must grope in the sometimes arcane language of overt diplomacy, a language which is often spoken in coded signals. In this case, it appears that the signals were directed not only at Libya, to cool its sup-

port of international terrorism, but perhaps also at Israel, to preempt a possible attack on Libya by staging a loud but only rhetorical U.S. attack.

Israel now has good cause, from its perspective, to fear the course of political trends in the Mideast. It fears that Washington may be ready to sacrifice it for the sake of accommodation with the Arabs. The hope Israel had for the Camp David peace process has turned into chagrin as the Saudi-sponsored peace plan has moved onto center stage. The mood in Israel is aggressive, evident in the unexpected decision to annex the Golan Heights.

In fact, the quick and provocative annexation of the Golan Heights at

a time when the U.S. is preoccupied with Poland may have served as a substitute measure for an attack on Libya. The reports that Israel was the origin of the Libyan hit squad intelligence suggests that Libya may have been targeted for the next Israeli strike. Buy why Libya?

The spectre that haunts Israel is that Egypt's new president, Hosni Mubarak, might become as unexpectedly reconciled to Egypt's arch-enemy Muammar Khadafy as Anwar Sadat became unexpectedly reconciled with Menachem Begin. There are signs, even if faint, that Mubarak is beginning to inch away from Sadat's Camp David policies and get closer to other Arab countries. He is constrained from overt moves

only by the April, 1982, deadline for the return of the Sinai from Israel.

An Israeli strike at Libya's cities, all on the Mediterranean coast, would have created no great difficulties for Israel's superbly effective air force. Coming just at the time of the Fez meeting of moderate and radical Arab states to consider the Fahd peace plan, it could have blown that plan to bits and shattered any impending Egyptian-Libyan rapprochement.

But then the U.S. seized the initiative and launched its all-out campaign against Libya, essentially forestalling a possible Israeli campaign. If the message to Khadafy was to stop fomenting trouble in other countries, the coded message

to Israel may have been to desist from launching an air strike that could scuttle current U.S. policies in the Mideast.

The U.S. has three paramount aims in the Mideast: to assure a stable supply and price of oil; to exclude Soviet power and influence from the region; and to bring about peace between Israel and the Arabs. Ever since the Nixon Administration launched the step-by-step diplomacy to bring about an Israel-Egypt ceasefire in 1974, the three aims have become part of a single policy package.

Until late November, the package seemed to be moving neatly along. The OPEC meeting in Geneva, a day after the President's AWACS

victory in the Senate, agreed on an OPEC-wide single price for oil. That was the best news the President could have gotten in his fight to dampen inflation and get the U.S. economy moving again.

The Soviets were still supplying arms to various Mideast countries, but even the most pro-Soviet ones, like Syria, Iraq, and Libya were seeking new relationships with Western countries which were their best and often only customers for oil.

And while the Camp David peace process seemed at a dead-end, a close relative, the plan put forth by Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia, for the first time contained an implicit (Please turn to page 11 col. 3)