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Two Sections



CHARLES JORDAN

City Hall role has many facets

The question is frequently asked, "of what benefit to the black community is the black elected official?" Black citizens are frequently heard to remark that black public officials are not responsive, do not push black community objectives, and do not identify with the black community.

City Commissioner Charles Jordan feels that his position in city government is vital to the black community but that because of personality and politics he often works quietly behind the scenes.

"It is true that black people in Portland do not have political power—that the power of any black official is restricted. The 'power structure' sets a line—a line I cannot rise above. When I start pushing through that line, things will happen to put me in my place.

"For example, Frank Ivancie would not have been able to remove the Police Bureau from a white Commissioner the way he did from

me. It would not have been allowed by the decision makers downtown."

Within the limits set by the power structure, Jordan believes he has accomplished much for the people of Portland. "I can't just go out and work for black people only, but I believe many of the policies and advances I've provided are a direct benefit to the black community. Also, it is better to be in the system working to bring changes—you don't make changes from the outside."

Jordan is aware of criticism that he appears not to be pushing black objectives. "Black people often do not understand the political process," he explained. "You have to work through the system—the process. I do what I can to make those processes more open and accessible to the public.

"An example is the Police Audit Committee. It won't answer all the problems, but it is a step to opening the process. The vote demonstrated

that the people want more involvement and I believe Frank [Ivancie] and Chief Still heard the same message and plan to cooperate."

Among Jordan's accomplishments in his nine years on the City Council that directly benefit the black community are:

- Adoption of a citizen audit committee to audit the internal affairs process of the Police Bureau, with subsequent approval by the voters.

- Adoption of an Affirmative Action Selective Certification Program to allow minorities and women to be hired rather than limiting selection to the top through test scores.

- Adoption of an ordinance establishing special bid conditions on all construction contracts to increase minority participation. Introduction of a Minority Business Enterprise Information Program. City 10 percent set-aside goals have been exceeded during the past three years according to Jordan.

- Required 20 percent MBE use in

the Cable Systems Pacific, Inc. franchise contract.

- Established the Neighborhood Mediation Project to mediate private and neighborhood problems to avoid police and court involvement.

- Established a community program to assist families affected by domestic violence (funded for 18 months).

- Established the "Mounted Patrol" which brings police officers in close communication with the public.

- Combined neighborhood based crime prevention program with police bureau program to provide broad crime-prevention program—residential, commercial, sex abuse prevention, juvenile programs, locks project, etc.

- Adoption of ordinance that requires developers who convert rental housing to condominiums to provide moving expenses for low-income displaced renters.

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US eyes new Soviet leadership



YURI ANDROPOV

The death of Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and the selection of Yuri V. Andropov as Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party has thrown the US government and press into a state of confusion as they try to predict that nation's next move.

Brezhnev, known in much of the world as a man of peace, was the author of detente with the US and a promoter of the SALT II disarmament talks. In recent months he had proposed a bilateral nuclear freeze and had instituted a unilateral freeze on deployment of new Soviet missiles targeting Europe. He also supported liberation struggles in the Third World. Shortly before his death Brezhnev announced that in the face of US militarism the USSR would upgrade its military.

Andropov, who is considered to be highly intelligent and well informed but perhaps more oriented toward the west, picked up

Brezhnev's theme Monday saying that because "the forces of imperialism are trying to push peoples onto the road of hostility and military confrontation" the USSR will remain vigilant but will always be ready for "honest, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with any state that is willing to cooperate."

Speaking at Brezhnev's funeral, he said, "We shall guard and develop our solidarity and our cooperation with the countries that have gained freedom from colonial oppressors, with the struggle of the peoples for peace, for the relaxation of international tension."

Ronald Reagan has received some criticism because he did not take the opportunity presented by the advent of a new leader to attempt to improve relations between the two nations. Instead of attending Brezhnev's funeral he sent Vice

President Bush and Secretary of State Schultz.

The Reagan administration is reported to be more concerned about not giving the impression of being conciliatory than with missing opportunities to promote peace. Bush said any change in attitude toward the Soviet Union will depend on "constructive behavior" by Moscow.

There is also concern in Washington over the USSR-China relationship. Since the Peoples Republic split with the USSR in the late 1950s the US has wooed China as an economic and military ally. The USSR has attempted to mend relations with China and in Moscow the Chinese Foreign Minister said, "The Chinese people sincerely wish that there would be a genuine improvement of relations between the two countries..."

Oregon unemployment reaches 11.5 percent

Oregon was dealt another economic blow in October, when the state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate returned to the 1982 high of 11.5 percent, up 0.3 percent from September. The national unemployment rate rose to 10.4 percent.

Total Oregon employment dropped by 8,300 workers in Oregon, signifying a moderate reduction in agricultural jobs and weak-

ening in some non-agricultural sectors. As a result the unemployed count went up 3,000.

Any sign of real economic strength was missing in the October statistics, according to the State of Oregon Employment Division.

The manufacturing industries showed a drop of 5,600 workers over the month. Lumber and wood products employment was at its lowest October level since 1935 when

data was first recorded. Significant employment declines were evident in other manufacturing areas. The metals and machinery industry lost 1,200 jobs in October.

Construction showed a stronger than expected drop (-2,600) with work reductions reported in all major segments of the construction industry.

The only significant gains in em-

ployment in Oregon were in government employment, which reflects the beginning of the school year.

With the beginning of winter near, Ray Thorne, Employment Division Administrator, does not foresee any economic improvement in the near future.

Total non-farm unemployed (drawing unemployment compensation or registered with the Employment Division for work) is 134,700.



Aisha, Ayanna and Cicero Curry are fascinated by the ice sculpture which served as a table centerpiece at the art show sponsored by The Links at the new Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center on Sunday. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Flemming warns of move to dismantle civil rights legislation

EUGENE—The Johnson-Helms amendment now bottled up in committee in the House of Representatives is another attempt by the regressive movement to dismantle the mechanisms of civil rights, Arthur Flemming said here this week.

Flemming, the head of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission fired a year ago by President Reagan, said the regressive movement in America is working to weaken or eliminate the procedures created to implement

desegregation and affirmative action. He spoke to an audience of more than 100 at the University of Oregon.

The movement's technique is to attach riders to appropriations bills forbidding use of funds to implement such efforts as busing children to achieve school desegregation, said Flemming, UO president from 1961 to 1968.

The Johnson-Helms amendment, a rider to a Justice Department ap-

propriations bill, would limit court-ordered busing to transportation of children to the school nearest home or to a school no more than five miles or 15 minutes from home, said Flemming. His firing last November came minutes before the commission released a report critical of the Reagan administration's desegregation efforts.

The amendment has already been passed in the Senate by a 20-vote margin, "a serious defeat for the

civil rights movement," he said. The bill would prevent the executive branch from carrying out desegregation remedies and, Flemming believes, would violate the U.S. Constitution by limiting the court's ability to interpret the constitution and to rule independently on civil rights cases.

Flemming currently is the head of the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights, a group made up of distinguished Americans who are moni-

toring the performance of the present administration on civil rights matters.

He said people at the grass roots need to understand the regressive movement's efforts to weaken desegregation and affirmative action through the use of riders to bills, so they can air their views with their Congressmen.

Flemming said he believes there is support for civil rights at the grass roots level in America as witnessed

by the extension of the voting rights act, not for five years but for 25 years. Congressmen heard regularly and often from their constituents on the extension bill, he said.

Flemming, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the Eisenhower administration, has been president of three colleges or universities, president of the National Council of Churches, and has served on many federal commissions.