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DENNIS BUCHANAN



ANNE KELLY FEENEY



JEWELL LANSING

Local officials take oath of office

Dennis Buchanan was sworn into office as Multnomah County Executive in ceremonies Monday, promising to continue the "tradition of open, honest government" practiced by his predecessor, Don Clark, Clark.

Buchanan said his highest priority would be work closely with the commissioners in the budget-cutting process. He also pledged to retain basic County services which include

road maintenance, public safety, taxation and assessment.

Anne Kelly Feeney was sworn in by Supreme Court Associate Justice Betty Roberts. Ms. Feeney was elected to the position of County Auditor. Ms. Feeney has pledged to consider the human factors when auditing County programs.

Jewell Lansing took the oath of office from Circuit Court Judge

Philip T. Abraham. Ms. Lansing was elected to the office of Portland City Auditor; she had previously served as Multnomah County auditor.

Additional new officials to take office Monday were Nely L. Johnson, newly elected Multnomah County District Court Judge and Lee Johnson, appointed to the Circuit Court by Governor Victor Atiyeh.



Bug bites man: Curiosity got the best of this young man as he explores the interior of this giant bug who waits patiently on the empty playground.

hoping better weather will bring the children out to play. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Puerto Rico: U.S. colony

On New Year's Eve four bombs ripped government buildings in New York City—a signal that the fight for Puerto Rican independence is still alive. While the former European colonies of Africa, Asia and the Caribbean have achieved independence during the past 35 years, Puerto Rico remains a colony of the United States.

The conquest

Since the 18th Century the U.S. has recognized that possession of Cuba and Puerto Rico were essential to control of the Caribbean sea lanes. The U.S. government took advantage of the 1895 Cuban revolt against Spain to intervene in that war and take possession of both Cuba and Puerto Rico.

In July of 1898 U.S. troops invaded Puerto Rico—populated by

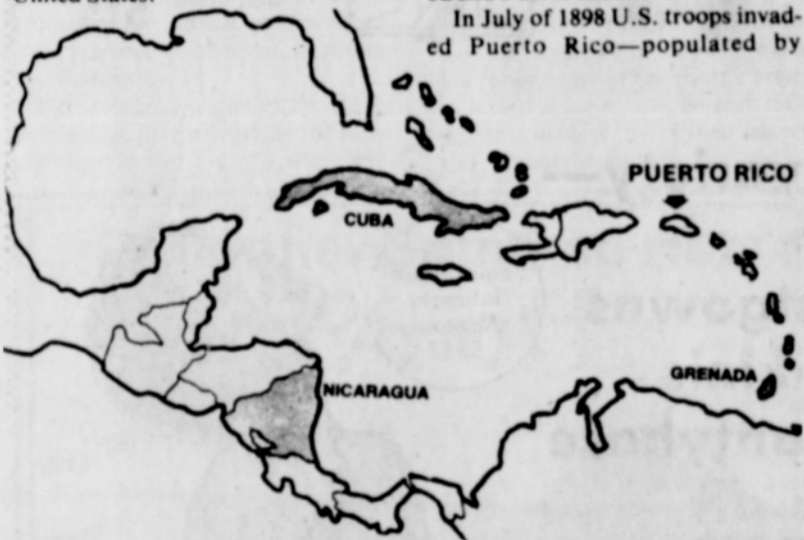
Spanish speaking people of Spanish and African descent. The Treaty of Paris between the U.S. and Spain was signed on December 10, 1898. The treaty, which the Puerto Rican parliament never ratified, ceded possession of the colony to the U.S. Parliament was dissolved, new laws imposed, and military rule imposed.

The Foraker Act, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1900, allowed Congress to establish a civilian government in Puerto Rico that was subject to U.S. law and whose acts could be overturned by Congress. A civilian governor was appointed.

The 1917 Jones Act imposed U.S. citizenship on the Puerto Rican people and established a legislature whose laws could be nullified by the U.S.-appointed governor or by Congress. Responding to a 1943 demand for independence, Congress agreed to allow residents of Puerto Rico to elect their governor.

The role of the U.N.

Following World War II the (Please turn to page 5 column 1)



Salem house burning unsolved

The Salem Human Rights Commission sees the burning of a Salem home as a racial incident; the Salem Police Department has designated the owner, Robert T. White, as a suspect.

The home was burned early on December 23rd following a robbery. The house was spray-painted with "KKK" and the words "Merry X-mas Nigger" were spray-painted on the fence.

At a special meeting of the Commission, called to determine what its response to the arson should be, chairman David Gomburg said that whether the "KKK" was the motivation or whether it was used to cover a robbery, the incident is racist.

He said that although everything seems to be all right on the surface in Salem, there are "ugly overtones just below the surface."

Robert White was paroled from Oregon State Penitentiary on December 17, 1982, after serving 2½ years. Prior to his parole he was on terminal leave for three months. The incarceration resulted from theft in Multnomah County. White returned from Morocco to face trial, returned the rented equipment he had taken, and was sentenced to 10 years.

White said he had problems with white inmates while in the penitentiary, had been threatened by inmates he associated with white power groups, had been called "nigger"

by staff, and had filed discrimination complaints. While serving as Imam for the Muslim prisoners he filed a suit demanding the right to observe Muslim holy days. The situation for the 14 to 16 percent of the prison population that is black is very serious, White said, and there is no black staff in positions of authority. Because he challenged the racism in the prison he was the target of intimidation and called "fighting nigger," he said.

After leaving prison, White was able to earn good wages—between \$1500 and \$2500 a month—and purchased a new home on November 10, 1982. He was then injured in a car wreck and was unable to work. (Please turn to page 4 column 3)

Democrat controlled Oregon Legislature faces crucial session

With the 1982 campaigns behind them, Oregon's state legislators face the task of translating political promises and party platforms into effective policies and programs. How successful they will be is an issue of critical importance for the welfare of all Oregonians.

Economic development was the "hot" issue of the 1982 campaign. Every candidate promised they would work to create more jobs in Oregon. Each political party offered prescriptions for putting 165,000 unemployed Oregonians back to work. How will they do it? Through legislation generated out of the House and Senate's Joint Committee on Trade and Economic Development.

Given this over-arching commitment to economic development, one would expect to see state legislators fighting to be appointed to the committee responsible for job-creation legislation. One could also expect that the chair of this key committee would be a regular in the majority party, someone close to the Democratic leadership, someone who could guarantee passage of legislation the committee reported out.

Analysis

Will it happen?

The Senate Democrats are still battling to choose a leader, and their stalemate may not be resolved until after the legislature convenes on January 10th. Until that decision is reached, assignments to Senate committees are in limbo. This time spent in partisan bickering is only delaying the decisions that need to be made to get Oregon on the road to economic recovery.

Democrats in the House of Representatives, under the direction of Speaker-elect Grattan Kerans (D-Eugene), face the difficult organizational task of overcoming years of neglect and political compromise in regard to key committee assignments. During the 1979 session, Speaker Hardy Myers (D-Portland) prevented a fragmentation between

urban and rural segments of the Democratic caucus by giving the chair and several seats on the Trade and Economic Development Committee to rebellious—primarily conservative—rural legislators. Since the political structure of this committee was more conservative than the House as a whole, most bills passed by Trade and Economic Development died on the floor of the House.

Speaker-elect Kerans, however, is playing with a different hand. The 1982 elections removed several key rural conservatives from the House of Representatives, including Rep. Mae Yih (D-Albany), the previous chair of Trade and Economic Development. With Yih in the senate, Kerans is faced with the dilemma of

having several other conservative rural Democrats with seniority on the economic development committee waiting in line to fill the vacant position. And none of the liberal Democratic insiders want to be chair of what has come to be known as a dead-end committee.

Given these problems, Kerans is using the Trade and Economic Development Committee as a political football. By nominating Rep. Jeff Gilmore (D-Jefferson) as chair, Kerans removes this conservative rural Democrat from the key Ways and Means Committee. (The meeting schedule of Ways and Means generally precludes any member from serving as chair of another committee.) Consequently, the Democrats on Ways and Means—Reps. Vera

Katz, Tom Mason and Rick Bauman, all of Portland, and Wayne Fawbush of Hood River—are moderate to liberal like the speaker, while those on Trade and Economic Development are conservative.

House Republicans also are using their seats on Trade and Economic Development for similar purposes. Minority Leader Larry Campbell (R-Eugene) has put urban liberal Mary Burrows (R-Eugene) here to get her off the crucial Revenue Committee. As such, a liberal Republican joins conservative Democrats on what might otherwise have been a committee that generated innovative solutions to tough problems. Instead, these assignments will create a Trade and Economic Development committee. (Please turn to page 4 column 1)