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# THE NEW PORTLAND OBSERVER

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## Black United Front calls 7-Up boycott



Mayor Francis Ivancie proclaims Portland's first "Black Business Week." Observing are: Charles Crews, President, Oregon Chapter of National Business League; Anthony Allen, grandson of W. D. Allen, early Portland businessman; James

Berry, Executive Secretary, NBL; Floyd Booker, Executive Board, NBL; Mrs. Kathryn H. Bogle, Portland Observer; Dick Bogle, grandson of Waldo Bogle, early Portland businessman.

(Photo: Ricky Booker)

### Portland celebrates Black Business Week

by Kathryn Hall Bogle

Black Business Week was announced in Portland for the days of February 20 through February 27, 1983, by proclamation signed by Mayor Francis J. Ivancie.

Mayor Ivancie urged all Portlanders to "join me in tribute to Portland's black business pioneers with special recognition of the National Business League, the nation's oldest national business association [which was] founded in 1900 under the leadership of Dr. Booker T. Washington, and whose Oregon chapter stresses economic development in the black community."

Among witnesses attending the signing of the proclamation in the mayor's office was Charles Crews, president of the Oregon chapter of the NBL.

The NBL, a professional and trade association, "is dedicated to promoting full participation of the minority private sector within the American economic system. There are more than 120 chartered chapters throughout the nation with headquarters in Washington, D.C. They seek to eliminate the exclusion of the minority business community from economic initiatives, not simply for our own interests, but for the stability of the nation as well."

The NBL has an advocacy program, according to Crews, who says, "The League consistently works to move the minority private sector into the mainstream of the free enterprise system." He cited the National Council for Policy Review, designed by NBL, as a mechanism to build a close partnership with both the federal government and the private sector to provide a consolidated forum for effective dialogue on national concerns. "From this foundation," Crews said, "NBL seeks to make economic parity a reality for blacks and other minorities."

From the beginning, NBL "has (Please turn to page 4 col. 1)"

### Black voters elect Washington

The victory of black mayoral candidate Harold Washington over two prominent white candidates in Chicago's Democratic primary election is seen as a result of black unity.

Washington, a former state senator and Congressman, said the victory underscores a "coming into political maturity" of minority people. He said black people have demonstrated this concern through street protests and have believed that passing civil rights laws was enough. "We've got to be involved in main-

stream political activity. That's what's happening here in Chicago and that's the lesson that's going out across the country."

Washington won 37 percent of the vote, the remainder splitting between Mayor Jane M. Byrne and Richard M. Daley, son of the former long-term Chicago mayor. Washington received over 80 percent of the black vote and little of the white vote.

Success in the Democratic Party primary should mean easy victory in

the Democrat dominated city, but race is expected to play a major role. Chicago has 3 million residents including 1.6 million voters, 40 percent of whom are black.

Already the Republican Party is working for an upset, sending numerous national party officials to Chicago to meet with the Republican candidate, Bernard Epton. Epton, who also is a former state legislator, has suggested that he and Washington pledge not to use racism in the (Please turn to page 12 col. 3)

The Black United Front has called for a boycott of 7-Up and other products of the Portland Bottling Company—Nehi, RC Cola, A&W Root Beer, and Squirt.

7-Up is only one of the companies that will be the target of economic boycotts, according to BUF co-chairman Ronnie Herndon. "This just happens to be the most flagrant example of arrogance and racism. We are not going to sit back that don't even have the decency to have employment practices that allow blacks to work there."

According to Herndon there are currently no blacks employed by Portland Bottling Company, which regularly employs 125 persons and adds approximately 25 workers during the summer. "From what we have been told there have been no black employees for three years and there have never been more than two blacks employed at one time."

7-Up locally has chosen to ignore the agreement between Operation PUSH and the national 7-Up company which acknowledges corporate responsibility to return some of the profits made in the black community through employment and in-

vestments. "Don't think the local company has a perpetual lock on the 7-Up distributorship," Herndon said. "Perhaps another group, which would be more responsive, would like to have this distributorship." Herndon indicated that the BUF has notified the national office of its meeting with the Portland Bottling Company and the resultant boycott.

"We had one meeting with them and scheduled a second meeting," Herndon said. "Just prior to when the second meeting was scheduled, the director of 7-Up said he had not done the things he had agreed to do for the second meeting. He was going to check out an old affirmative action plan that had been imposed on the company by the State. Since he had not done that, there seemed no reason to have a meeting."

"We wrote a letter expressing our disappointment and indicated that we would decide what to do. Copies were sent to PUSH and the national 7-Up office."

"7-Up has told the press they thought we had an agreement, but that letter should have convinced them otherwise."

Herndon is pleased with the community response. Several merchants have taken 7-Up products off their shelves and posted signs supporting the boycott. They include: Alberta Fish and Poultry, Joe's Place, the Esquire Club, Cleo's, the Tropica, Peterson Grocery, Geneva's, El Dorado, Burger Barn, Allens Grocery, King Neighborhood Facility and others.

"7-Up is just the first on the list," Herndon said. "We need to ask businesses what they are doing to help this depressed community; most of them have been leeches. Have you ever seen a black person working in a Chinese restaurant? Yet look at the money we spend there. We need to make a conscious effort to buy here—why always go downtown to restaurants where we can't work?"

Herndon expects white support of the boycott. "I think when the issues are explained it will grow." Several predominantly white organizations have expressed interest and indicated support.

"We are organizing our own community first," Herndon said. "Then we will reach out to the others. I think the boycott will definitely be felt."



Black History Day was celebrated at Humboldt of local celebrities. Early Childhood Education Center with a program

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## U.S. government fears collapse of El Salvador regime

Reagan seeks more aid.

President Ronald Reagan has requested an additional \$60 million in military aid for El Salvador (\$26 million has been approved for this year). An increase in U.S. military "advisors" and a possible change in role for the U.S. military is also being considered.

Reagan met with about twenty key members of Congress Monday to discuss El Salvador. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, who until now has not been as hawkish on El Salvador as his predecessor Alexander Haig, told the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations he strongly backs military aid because he is worried about a "Soviet-backed takeover." He said Salvadoran church leaders and

others who advocate negotiations are only encouraging the insurgents. Shultz said he fears that not only is El Salvador critically located but it is "connected right up to Mexico, with which we have a long border."

Reagan told the assembled Congressmen Monday that the survival of the Salvadoran government is at stake. Republican Senate leader Howard Baker said the immediate problem is whether the El Salvador government can sustain itself and that Reagan is of the opinion that it cannot.

Democratic Senator Henry Jackson of Washington said the real problem is the destabilization of Mexico. "Mexico is the ultimate target." He added that there are real problems in Mexico—severe un-

employment, unrest, corruption—that could be used by foreign agents to destabilize that nation.

White House advisors said Reagan has not decided whether U.S. military advisors would play a more active role in the civil war.

The President's action places El Salvador at the forefront of the nation's foreign policy again—a place held recently by the Middle East.

**The House Human Relations Committee will hold a public hearing on divestment from South Africa on March 10th, 7:00 p.m. in Hearing Room E at the State Capitol in Salem. The public is invited to testify or to send written testimony.**

U.S. intervention predicted

Arnoldo Ramos, a representative of the guerilla movement in El Salvador, told the *Observer* last week that his organization, the FMLN-FDR, expects U.S. military intervention in that nation's civil war.

The guerilla movement is making rapid gains both militarily and politically, Ramos said. Although bringing untold suffering to the people of El Salvador, prolongation of the war through U.S. aid can only help the guerillas. Militarily, the guerillas are on the offensive; the government forces can only defend. "If they move their forces from San Salvador to the Eastern provinces to counter-attack, we pull back and strike in San Salvador. They can only try not to lose any more

ground." The guerillas control about 20 percent of the country.

The government troops—disheartened by the long war and the increasing losses—are demoralized. One tactic the guerillas are using successfully is to encourage surrender and to return military prisoners through the Red Cross. "Sometimes the troops coming to attack us meet the prisoners returning—persons we have treated well and provided with medical care. It is very difficult for them to continue to the battle." This also gives the guerillas a constant supply of weapons. "We capture our guns from the government forces; we don't have to buy them on the world market."

A recent attempted coup by one of the military leaders shows the weakness of the government,

Ramos said. He is the only military leader with the ability to wage a successful war, yet politically he is unacceptable because he is so fascist that he would eliminate even the appearance of civil rights. Politically, the El Salvador government is falling apart and as time goes by the rifts will widen.

The guerillas have accepted the idea of a negotiated settlement as proposed by Venezuela, Mexico and Panama, but the U.S. is opposed.

The time will come very soon when the U.S. will have to decide between sending troops to El Salvador or accepting defeat, Ramos said. The FMLN-FDR fully expects the decision will be the deployment of troops.

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