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Two Sections

Jordan declines to run for Mayor of Portland



About 300 people joined the Black United Front in its third annual March Against Racist Violence Saturday. At the rally at Martin Luther King Park that followed, BUF co-chairman Ronnie Herndon related some of the progress made since the last march. A year ago the community was in the midst of the Tubman School site controversy which was settled with "a little marching on the floor and a lit-

tle marching on the table"; the School District has more black principals than ever; the District has Matthew Prophet, the best Superintendent the city has seen; 60 to 70 jobs have been obtained at Safeway and Fred Meyers; and the 7-Up boycott continues.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Commissioner Charles Jordan announced Wednesday that he will not be a candidate for the office of Mayor of Portland.

Jordan said he would not run because of his wife's poor health. "I have decided not to run because I have another love and another duty which comes ahead of even my love for Portland. My wife has been ill since childhood with rheumatoid arthritis. She has suffered serious reversals in her health in the last several months to the point where hospitalization is necessary, and I feel she would not be strong enough for the rigors of a mayoral campaign."

Jordan said factors for and against the decision to run were about evenly balanced until the unexpected turn of events about a month ago.

"My decision not to run should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the present administration in that office. I feel strongly that Portland needs and deserves a Mayor who can be the representative of all the people of Portland. The present Mayor has not developed and articulated a vision for the City. The one certainty about the times ahead... is that they will be turbulent times. And if Portland is to not only survive but to thrive,

the Mayor must adopt a 'business not as usual' posture. Portland needs a Mayor who does not cater to special interests, and who recognizes the importance of improving the quality of life for all its residents, young and old, rich and poor, business and working people alike."

Jordan said he has been encouraged to run by many people and organizations and believes there are fiscal and volunteer resources "to change the leadership in the Mayor's office, and to change the image and direction of our City."

Race has not been an important factor in his decision, he said.

"I watched with great interest the campaigns and elections for Governor of California and Mayor of Chicago. Race was an unhappy and divisive issue in both elections, but I am convinced that Portland is different because its people are different. Portland voters are an independent lot. They cast their ballots on the basis of the merits and abilities of the candidate. I'm confident they would not hesitate to elect a Mayor who is black if they were convinced that his leadership and ability were required to do the job."

Jordan did not rule out a future race. "There will be another day and other challenges and we will be there to meet them."

Wave of labor protest hits Portland

by Robert Lothian

Recession weary workers and cost conscious employers confronted each other during Portland's recent wave of labor protest, and union busting, strikebreaking, wage and benefit cuts and protests over non-union hiring practices sometimes led to violence.

"They're out to gut the unions," said Dick Schneider, administrative assistant for Machinists' Lodge 24, describing employer practices during the 3-week-old West Coast Metal Trades strike. Involved are 18 unions and 3100 workers at 78 machine shops from San Jose, Calif., to British Columbia.

Locally, strikebreakers were brought in to replace 130 workers at Harris Thermal, Inc., Tualatin, and 18 workers at the shop division of Northwest Marine Iron Works, 2516 NW 29th Ave. Bingham Willamette, 2800 NW Front, has threatened to replace 300 striking workers, but at press time operations continued with supervisory personnel. In Vancouver, 150 employees of Columbia Machine are also on strike.

Strikers at NW Marine Iron said they are being forced to accept a 20% wage reduction and benefit cuts as a bargaining example for negotiations involving other shops.

"We feel we are being targeted," said picket captain Ed Weatherbee, a machinist at Northwest for 9 years.

Weatherbee said the workforce at Northwest has gone from 90 last fall down to 18 seniority people who are prepared to tough out the strike. Workers at Bingham-Willamette and other shops were counting on them to hold out for a decent contract, he said. "I think we are prepared to stay out quite a while."

Workers with up to 35 years seniority were replaced by strikebreakers from Idaho and Washington, said Weatherbee, who was concerned that the practice might be illegal.

According to Oregon assistant attorney general Bob Bulkley, a 1975 law prohibits Oregon firms from hiring professional strikebreakers.

Police were called when shouting matches between striking Northwest workers and strikebreakers threatened to escalate. "There's a lot of ill feeling," said Al Seidl, Machinists' Local 63 board member and Northwest employee for 3 1/2 years. "So far, it's been orderly, but I'm afraid it could get nasty," he said. "There's no way, morally, I feel I could work next to somebody who crossed the picket line."

Schneider said that management

is arguing that for companies to remain cost competitive, workers must take 20% pay cuts amounting to yearly wage reductions of from \$4,000-\$8,000 per year, depending on grade level. They are also demanding reduced hospital benefits, holidays and vacations, he said.

"You ask them if they are pleading poverty, they say no comment. We ask to look at their records: they won't show us their records because they're making massive profits."

"We see a turnaround (in the economy), and we see this as a last ditch effort on the part of the employers to get all they can for the next three years, and we won't buy it," said Schneider.

"In essence, what they are trying to do is do away with the union, up and down the west coast. We're saying no way."

"We have no comment to make at this time," said Dick Sumke, shop manager for Northwest.

In other labor action, fistfights broke out along the Banfield freeway during a three-week-old protest by members of Local 701, International Union of Operating Engineers, against the non-union hiring practices of R.A. Hatch Co. of Bend. Hatch won a multi-million dollar freeway widening contract from the Oregon Dept. of Transportation. (Please turn to page 2 column 1)

Khomeini's reign totters

Mullahs against Mullahs in Iran

In contrast with the daily bombardment of news coming from Iran just a year ago, both the U.S. government and mass media have been uncharacteristically silent on the recent events there. This is at a time when many observers believe the country is going through its most crucial period after the 1979 revolution.

Below is one of a series by Ed Mason, who is just back from a tour of the Middle East.

Amid signs of a growing rift between the main two factions of Iranian clergy — the so-called Imam's line and its out and out ultra-fundamentalist rivals—Iran's news agency announced last Sunday that a trial time is now set for the leaders of Iran's Communist Tudeh Party.

The charges against the leaders of the Iranian Communists ranged from "spying and forging of documents" to "preparing to overthrow" the Islamic regime.

The response from this strongly pro-government party was forthwith: "We appeal... an international delegation of impartial observers — including legal and medical experts specializing in psychological and physical torture to visit the detainees."

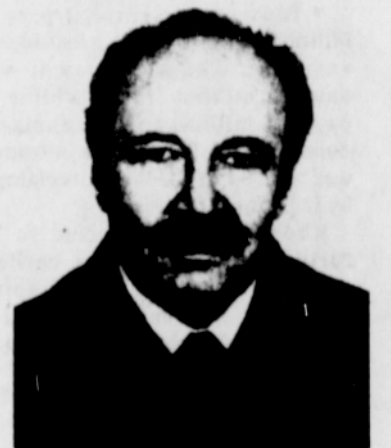
"We are said to say that six of our comrades now tried, have each served 25 years in Shah's jails on exactly the same trumped up charges." Well-placed observers in the Middle East attach great significance to this trial. According to them, these show-trials could easily decide the future of this strategic country of 40 million one way or the other.

While rumors of an early rapprochement with Washington abound, there is every indication to believe that the ground is being laid for the final ousting of most or all of the Khomeini faction.

Before going into the events surrounding the trials, it would be useful to look at some of the events before and after the arrests of the Communist Party leaders on February 5th.

• After an unprecedented week of heated debate on the Land Reform Bill for 12 million landless peasants in Iran's Parliament, the Bill was passed by a narrow margin. The next day the Council of Guardian, an extra-parliamentary legislative body, vetoed it.

• Earlier the same Council had vetoed many bills including



Kianoori: Iran's veteran top Communist said to be tortured.

nationalization of foreign commerce and government subsidies for cheap housing.

• On February 6th, the Council decreed that all the Iranian entrepreneurs overseas could come back, which practically opened the country's doors to counter-revolutionary upper classes residing in western countries.

• After a series of agreements, most of the Western European countries obtained their old share of (Please turn to page 2 column 1)

U.S. Bishops oppose nuclear arms race

The Roman Catholic Bishops of the United States have ratified a pastoral letter denouncing nuclear war and calling for Catholics to help rid the world of nuclear weapons.

The letter — titled "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response" — states "The nuclear age is an era of moral as well as physical danger. We are the first generation since Genesis with the power to virtually destroy God's creation. We cannot remain silent in the face of such danger."

"In simple terms," the statement says, "we are saying that good ends, defending one's country, protecting freedom, etc., cannot justify immoral means, the use of weapons

which kill indiscriminately and threaten whole societies. We feel that our world and nation are headed in the wrong direction."

"The whole world," the statement continues, "must summon the moral courage and technical means to say 'No' to an arms race which robs the poor and the vulnerable; and 'No' to the moral danger of a nuclear age which places before mankind indefensible choices of constant terror or surrender."

The letter, which the Reagan Administration unsuccessfully attempted to have softened, opposes any use of nuclear weapons. "We believe it necessary, for the sake of prevention, to build a barrier

against the concept of nuclear war as a viable strategy for self-defense. There should be a clear public resistance to the rhetoric of 'winnable' nuclear wars or unrealistic expectations of 'surviving' nuclear exchange, and strategies of a 'protracted nuclear war.'"

The Bishops supported the concept of a nuclear freeze and called for a "halt" in the production and deployment of new nuclear weapons.

While they refrained from saying nuclear weapons could never be used as retaliation, they emphasized that they knew of no circumstance where that action could be justified.

The letter supports the church's

philosophy of "just war" as legitimate self-defense and also upheld the right of Catholics to be pacifists. Under the "just war" philosophy civilians cannot be the target of violence and only that force necessary to achieve the goal can be used.

"We are called the peacemakers, not by some movement of the moment, but by our Lord Jesus Christ," the Bishops said.

Two years in the writing, the letter adopted Tuesday was the third draft.

The pastoral letter, passed by a 238 to 9 vote, is a teaching resource for U.S. Catholics and its authority or influence are not yet known.

Portland Branch, NAACP celebrates Brown Decision

The regular monthly meeting of the Portland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be held Sunday, May 15, at 4:00 p.m. at the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 5935 N. Mississippi. Hazel G. Hays, Branch President, points out that while the branch always meets on the third Sunday of the month except July and August, May 15 is the earliest "third Sunday" in 1983, since May 1 was Sunday this year.

The National Membership Drive of 1983 will end on May 17, the 29th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision desegregating the nation's schools. The branch meeting will be in charge of the Member-

ship Chairman, Harvey L. Rice. Rice points out that NAACP has worked all these twenty-nine years to implement that 1954 decision. Much progress has been made, especially in the South, but too many Black children are still not able to realize "equal" education — including those here in Portland. Rice has planned a program to take note of the Brown decision. There will also be music. Reverend Felton Howard, Minister of the Antioch Baptist Church will present the church choir. Reverend Hampton Calloway, Mount Gillard Missionary Baptist Church, will present the choir from his church. Well-known community soloist Joanne Collins will also sing.