

Portland Citizens Party endorses Jesse Jackson campaign

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—The Portland Chapter of the Citizens Party has added its colors to Jesse Jackson's rainbow coalition—if Jackson decides to run for President.

The Citizens Party is a political alternative to the two major parties; its politics are based on economic democracy, disarmament, and ecology. Its members have been defined as the non-Marxist left, and they call themselves "progressives."

After a thorough urging by Black United Front co-chair Ronnie Herndon, and by the chapter's co-chair, John Blank, the Portland Chapter voted unanimously to support and endorse Jesse Jackson.

This move ventured away from the stand taken at the Party's national convention held this September. According to reports, ex-Mormon Sonia Johnson wanted the Citizens Party to endorse a woman for president, while Barry Commoner, the Party's 1980 presidential candidate, proposed a nationwide endorsement of Jesse Jackson.

Commoner told his fellow Citizens Party members that a major left thrust in the presidential campaign would occur if the Party threw its weight behind Jesse Jackson. However, other members of the Party wanted to run their own candidate on a Citizens Party ticket. The national convention decided on the latter, but a Texas proposal gave each state autonomy in its presidential endorsement. It was in this context that the Portland Chapter voted to support Jackson.

Ed Blackburn, co-chair of the Oregon Citizens Party, said Jesse Jackson's stand on many of the issues facing the United States was en-



Members of the Portland Chapter Citizens Party cast their votes in favor of endorsing Jesse Jackson's anticipated campaign for the Democratic Party nomination for President. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

couraging. "He has come out as much more of a progressive than any of the other so-called Democratic candidates. When we ran [Barry Commoner] in 1980 we wanted to create a context in which the winners of the two major political parties would have to govern by recognizing a large movement outside of those two parties. We were not successful in doing that in 1980. We think Jackson's rainbow coalition has a much better chance of doing that. It will create that context by letting the leadership of this country know there is a big group of people out there saying—'No! We don't want

Pershing II and Cruise missiles deployed, we want out of El Salvador and most of all we want the power increased for those who don't have any. We want justice."

Ronnie Herndon said he had not seen the kind of spirit injected into a presidential candidacy by Jesse Jackson's soon-to-be-announced decision to run or not to run. "Jackson has brought about an increase in voter registration among Black people and that has the potential of affecting local as well as national politics."

Herndon also said this is the first time in the history of Afro-Ameri-

cans' involvement in politics that the issue of coalition was being addressed on a national level. And he stated that the Citizens Party had nothing to lose and everything to gain by endorsing Jesse Jackson. However, Herndon said, they made a "tragic mistake" at their national convention by not endorsing Jackson.

Off the record, many leftists feel that the Citizens Party has made a

stand other organizations will soon have to follow. They will either choose to endorse Jackson or have some very good reason for not endorsing him. Either way, some feel the move in Oregon may cause the national Citizens Party to reconsider their own candidate.

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Strachan confirms Kafoury job

City Commissioner Margaret Strachan announced Friday that she had hired former State Representative Gretchen Kafoury as Human Services Coordinator for the City.

Kafoury, former chair of the House Human Resource Committee, begins in the new position immediately, Strachan said. She placed first among 53 applicants for the position in the Civil Service examination and interview process.

"Gretchen Kafoury's long-standing commitment and involvement with human services will be a major asset for the City as we prepare a future human service agenda," Strachan said. "She has been keenly involved in virtually every human service issue, including health care, mental health, alcoholism, child care, juvenile corrections, aging, social services—you name it, she has been deeply involved in advocating for it."

Strachan said that she had committed herself from the outset to hire the person who scored highest in Civil Service evaluating process. She said she was dismayed concerning allegations that the Civil Service process was unfair, noting that Civil Service is designed to assure that candidates for jobs are evaluated on merit alone.

"I kept arm's length from this process and early on said that I would hire the individual with the top score, no matter whom that indi-

vidual was. That is what I have done," she said. "Frankly, I think it is an additional benefit that Gretchen Kafoury and I have a familiarity and respect for one another. It is important that the Human Services Coordinator and Commissioner-in-Charge work together well to develop a future human resource agenda."

Strachan described the position as one of coordination, communication and advocacy. She said Ms. Kafoury will help develop a new City Human Services Policy to guide the city's short-term and long-term delivery of human services. She said that Ms. Kafoury's extensive experience in state, local and federal government will help her coordinate the city's functions with those of other governments.

Ms. Kafoury served for six years (1977-1983) in the Oregon legislature. Most recently, she was a legislative consultant for the Tri-County Community Council. She also previously served as technical assistance coordinator for the Civil Rights Division of the State Bureau of Labor. Ms. Kafoury also was a Peace Corps Volunteer, a public school teacher and a member of the fiscal staff of the Metropolitan Child Care Coordinating Council.

While in the Legislature, she led the legislative oversight of budgets for Adult and Family Services, Children's Services, Mental Health,



MARGARET STRACHAN

Health and Juvenile Corrections. She was chief legislative sponsor of a wide variety of human service policies and laws covering domestic violence, day care, hospice care, nurse practitioners, mental health deinstitutionalization, civil rights, juvenile corrections and displaced homemakers. She also advocated for the statewide Medically Needy program and for cost containment in the mental health system.

Ms. Kafoury also has served on the boards of many social service agencies in the metropolitan area.

Starting salary for the position is \$28,104, Strachan said.

Central American union leaders visit Portland

Three trade union leaders from Central America will meet with trade unionists in Oregon this week.

Miguel Angel Albizuere is general secretary of the National Committee for Trade Union Unity in Guatemala, representing 85 percent of Guatemala's workers. Marta Alicia Rivera, U.S. representative of the National Association of Salvadoran Educators, representing 90 percent of the nation's teachers, was the group's general secretary until she was forced to flee the country in 1982. Sebastian Castro represents the Sandinista Workers Confederation, the principal union federation in Nicaragua, which represents 63 percent of the nation's union workers.

Among the meetings in the Portland area are a general public meeting on October 23rd, 7:00 p.m., at the Retail Clerks Hall, 915 N.E. Davis.

They will appear at: Portland State University, October 24th, 3 p.m., Smith 298; Lewis and Clark College, Council Chambers, 3:30 p.m.; Cornucopia, Centro Cultural, 3 p.m.; Teachers meeting, Lewis &

Clark Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.; Public Employees Meeting, 1529 SW 12th, 7:30 p.m. (Call Jamie Partridge, 232-7206 for information.)

They will discuss the situation in trade unions in their countries and how the labor movements view the Central American conflict.

Dellums attacks missiles

(Continued from page 1 column 6) to thunderous applause.

Mayor Washington dealt with a similar if somewhat more localized theme as Dellums, although he too joined the East Bay Representative in blasting arms spending by the Reagan Administration. Referring to the military budget, Washington told the crowd, "We don't have to accept that, we don't have to accept the destruction of social programs."

The bulk of Washington's talk to diners, however, centered on how a coalition was built in Chicago that successfully put the progressive legislator in the mayor's seat.

To begin with, Washington argued his victory and roots that reached all the way back to "the late '50s." While it represents a movement that finds its source in the civil rights upheavals of that period, it

has grown far beyond that now. "It is a real rainbow," he said.

Washington pointed out his candidacy was largely responsible for the registration of more than 200,000 Black voters in two months. But he also told the audience that even with 85 percent of the Black votes, and 70 percent of the Hispanic votes, "We would not have won without white voters."

Just as Dellums exuded a sense of confidence and determination on the national level, Washington projected a fighting stance in his ongoing battle with the machine-dominated, conservative Chicago City Council. "We are going to straighten out that mess in Chicago if it takes 20 years," he said. "Neither a city council nor the Reaganites are going to stop this movement."

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