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District 18 hopefuls—Harold Williams, Luther Strong, Jr. and Margaret Carter—cast their votes in community forum to select Democratic candidate for State Representative.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Suit challenges CIA

A suit filed by Rep. Ron Dellums under the 1978 ethics law has resulted in an order for Attorney General William French Smith to conduct a preliminary investigation of charges that President Ronald Reagan and other officials have violated the Neutrality Act by supporting counterrevolutionary groups seeking to overthrow the government of Nicaragua.

Dellums and two citizens filed the suit on July 8th under the 1978 Federal Ethics in Government Act. This law requires the Attorney General to conduct a preliminary investigation when specific and available evidence has been received that a federal official has violated the law.

The plaintiffs charged that they sent Smith a letter on January 27th outlining violations of the 1974 Neutrality Act. The act makes it a criminal offense to furnish money or prepare a military enterprise against a country at peace with the

U.S. Maximum penalty is a \$3,000 fine and three years in jail.

The letter charged Reagan and members of his administration, including CIA director William Casey, Assistant Secretary of State Thomas O. Enders, Secretary of Defense Casper W. Weinberger, with approving a covert CIA plan to finance and participate in the attempted overthrow of the Nicaraguan government.

The attorney general's office denied Dellums' request for the investigation; hence, the suit was filed.

Federal District Court Judge Stanley Weigel said he was making no ruling whether any federal official had broken the law, but emphasized that the reason for the ethics laws is to assure that Congress and the people have access to the facts when a law violation by a high government official is charged.

Carter wins community vote

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—On a cold, wet Saturday afternoon—Nov. 4th—one-hundred ninety-nine residents of District 18 voted in a process which could lead to sending the first Black woman representative to Salem.

In a packed basement at Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church, residents participated in a voting process developed and designed by the District 18 Leadership Forum. This group's main purpose was to organize and solidify the Black vote in District 18. Comprised of Herb Cawthorne, Rev. John Garlington, Rev. John Jackson, Ronnie Herndon and Marion Scott, they gathered responses from 21 Black organizations to develop the forum that would choose one candidate to support.

District 18 was carved out, according to Rev. Garlington, to increase Black representation in Salem. However, when the seat first opened, seven Blacks threw their hats into the ring and split the Black vote, allowing Ed Leek, a white man, to win.

Garlington said, "The issue is not Ed Leek. Given the ratio of Blacks

to whites many people felt if we did not develop some type of forum to help our community choose a candidate we would have the same fiasco as we had two years ago."

Representative Ed Leek, who was present, declined to comment on the proceedings. "I'm here as an observer, not a commentator," he said.

Three candidates were presented: Luther Strong, Margaret Carter, and Harold Williams. The presentation included opening remarks, a controlled question and answer period with each candidate answering the same questions, and two-minute closing remarks.

Luther Strong, a corrections officer, called for an increase in small business in District 18. "There is a decline in businesses in Northeast Portland; in the Black community we have no businesses." Strong also called for more accountability from programs that service the area. "They put a divider in the middle of Union Avenue and killed all the parking in the streets. We need to look at the various programs and tell them what we want done. We need people's ideas to be developed."

Margaret Carter supported a Bus-

iness Enterprise Zone. "Companies will locate plants in our district and receive low-interest loans and reduced state taxes." Carter also said regulations ought to be included to prevent abuses. She also said she would support the State's divestment in South Africa. "No State funds will be used to support South African racism. I will work for legislation to stop the investment of State funds into corporations doing business with South Africa."

Harold Williams' platform was his understanding of the political process due to years of employment by the State. "I understand the process. We can't have anyone doing on-the-job training. I come before you saying, 'I'm prepared.' We need to work on our image. This is a game of hardball and not a popularity contest. We need someone in Salem who understands the process and my qualifications and abilities to deliver outshine anyone."

In the question-and-answer period that followed, many of the candidates' answers were similar, with only slight deviations.

All three said they supported the Equal Rights Amendment, with Strong stating, "The issue relates to white women. Black women have al-

ways been liberated."

Again, all three said they would work and support Jesse Jackson. However, Carter added this qualifying note: "I don't want Reagan back in the seat. If feel that something will come about that will dissolve the vote to a point where Reagan will get in then I will have to look twice at supporting Jackson."

From the audience came the question, "What have you done, over and above your job responsibilities, for residents in District 18?" Harold Williams sidestepped the question by answering, "I will create and uphold an image by being a good father and husband. To relate to the Black woman in a positive and understanding way."

Carter described her hours of volunteering at Portland Public School counselling young girls and at Claire Argow, counselling women behind bars.

After closing remarks two and a half hours were allocated for votes. Many people who did not attend the presentation walked in to mark their ballots.

At 6 p.m., Cawthorne and Herndon counted the ballots while surrounded by observers from each

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PP&L, PGE proposals violate state law

by Eric Stachon

The familiar saying, "Actions speak louder than words," has taken on added significance for ratepayers of Pacific Power & Light and Portland General Electric. For while the utilities talk a good line about "caring what our customers think," their actions speak otherwise.

Last month, both PP&L and PGE announced plans to charge ratepayers \$243 million for the costs of terminated nuclear plants in Washington. These rate increases are illegal because they violate a 5-year-old Oregon law.

In November 1978, Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 9. The intent of this measure was to prohibit utilities from charging ratepayers for costs associated with power plants until those plants are completed and actually produce power. The nuclear plants PP&L and PGE want to bill to ratepayers were never constructed.

Utilities suffering from amnesia—they haven't forgotten that Ballot Measure 9 is the law. PP&L and PGE want to pass these costs on the

ratepayers so their stockholders don't have to take a loss. And the utilities think they've found a legal loophole which will allow them to do just that.

Analysis

There are a number of citizen groups working to stop these rate increases. They include the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG), the Coalition for Safe Power, the Gray Panthers, and others. In an ironic twist, *The Oregonian* has also opposed the utilities' plans. In an Oct. 19 editorial, *The Oregonian* stated that Ballot Measure 9 was "the law of this state," and that, "in trying to squirm through the loophole, the utilities may be buying for themselves far greater hostility from an already angry and distrusting public than they suspect."

The Public Utility Commission is holding a public hearing in Portland

on Tuesday, November 15, at the Masonic Temple, 1115 SW Park. There will be 3 sessions—10 A.M., 1:30 P.M., and 7:30 p.m. The hearing will provide the "angry and distrusting public" with an opportunity to reaffirm what voters said back in 1978—"Don't bill ratepayers for poor management decisions."

PP&L and PGE spent over \$200,000 in 1978 trying to defeat Ballot Measure 9. The fact that they lost (by over two-to-one) has not changed their minds. Perhaps when they say they listen to their customers, what they mean is that they listen only when they want to.

Goode wins Philly mayoral race

W. Wilson Goode was elected mayor of Philadelphia Tuesday, becoming that city's first Black mayor.

Goode, a Democrat, defeated two opponents, Republican John Eagan and Thomas Leonard, a Democrat running as an independent.

With heavy voting in Black neighborhoods, Goode won 97 percent of the Black vote and sufficient white votes to win comfortably.

Goode insured a good voter turnout by sending more than 8,000 vol-

unteers to the streets Tuesday to encourage voting. According to the last registration figures, Blacks make up about 39 percent of the electorate.

Goode, 45, is the son of a North Carolina sharecropper. He currently is city manager of Philadelphia.

Goode's election means that the mayors of three of the nation's four largest cities are Black—Harold Washington of Chicago, Tom Bradley of Los Angeles, and Wilson Goode of Philadelphia.

Nicaraguan government prepares for U.S. invasion

The government of Nicaragua has declared a "National State of War" and is preparing for an expected U.S. invasion. The government announced on October 25th, the day of the invasion of Grenada, that the Reagan Administration, using the U.S.-backed dictatorships of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, is planning an invasion of Nicaragua.

Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega said all the U.S. is waiting for is "a pretext to invade." He denounced Reagan's savage invasion of Grenada and warned that a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua will meet with massive armed resistance and will become "bogged down" in another Vietnam.

CIA-backed action against Nicaragua has increased in recent weeks. The Condeca military alliance—Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras—was revived and has been meeting with General Paul Gorma,

head of the U.S. Southern Command, since October 2nd. Opinions have been expressed that the Condeca group will be used as a front for an invasion, in much the same way that the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States was used as an excuse for the invasion of Grenada.

The CIA has admitted that it was responsible for bombing the Managua airport early in October and the attacks on Nicaragua's port of Corinto on October 10th. The CIA and U.S. military advisors are reported to have taken complete control of the "contras" and U.S. officials have admitted that "attacks against industrial and transportation targets inside Nicaragua would be a quicker and more effective way of hurting the Sandinistas than previous efforts."

John Stockman, a former CIA agent who was station chief during the Angolan invasion in 1975,

charged that the CIA is attempting to "sabotage strategic sectors of the economy of Nicaragua, in order to spread fear among the population and force the government to divest its resources from national construction to military defense."

Nicaragua has asked its allies for increased shipments of arms and is arming and training its total adult population.

According to the *New York Times*, Secretary of State George F. Schultz has taken firm control of foreign policy. It was he who convinced the Pentagon to invade Grenada to show American resolve in the area and to step up covert operations against Nicaragua. Schultz's emergence as leader is due in part to Reagan's view that he is tough and not afraid to resort to force. On October 25th, Schultz told the National Security Council that Grenada was "a turning point." The *New*

York Times reported that Schultz urged an invasion as early as October 17th but that Pentagon opposition was not eased until October 19th, the day Maurice Bishop was killed. The State Department argued that a limited operation to evacuate U.S. citizens was not sufficient and that the aim should be to take over the island.

The officials quoted in the *New York Times* acknowledged that there was a lesson in the invasion for Nicaragua and for those in Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras and El Salvador who are worried about U.S. reliability.

Another scenario could be an invasion of Cuba. On November 1st the State Department announced a "no notice" naval exercise off the coast of Cuba involving six ships led by the aircraft carrier U.S.S. America. The maneuvers, which are expected to include a landing at the

U.S. military base at Guantanamo, are commanded by Admiral Wesley McDonald, who commanded the Grenada invasion.

The war of words between the U.S. and Cuba continues, with Washington accusing Fidel Castro of ordering the assassination of U.S. citizens abroad. Cuba, whose embassy in Grenada remains surrounded by U.S. troops, charges the U.S. with physical and psychological abuse of Cuban prisoners held in Grenada, including telling them their government was refusing their return and asking them to defect to the U.S. The U.S. still has not provided a report on Cuban dead.

Castro has warned that the Cuban people are well-armed and will defend their country, fighting from street to street and from house to house, "to the last drop of blood." An invasion by the powerful U.S. military would be successful, he has

said, but would cost the U.S. at least 50,000 lives and would win an island destroyed and soaked with blood.



Demonstration & Vigil
in conjunction with the
Nov. 12th March on Washington
protesting U.S. involvement in
Central America
Terry Schunk Plaza,
S.W. 4th & Madison
3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12th
Speakers include Jose Escobar,
F.D.R.; Ada Sanchez, People's Test
Ban; Ron Herndon, Black United
Front; Brigitte Dennis-Sarabi, Car-
ibbean Education Project. Music:
Kate Sullivan, Ernie Tong.