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PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XIV, Number 7
December 7, 1983
25¢ Per Copy

USPS 959-680-855

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Top: Jamila Harris, Jumoke Askari, and Ayodele Askari join in chanting "Run, Jesse, Run!" at last Saturday's rally to kick off Jesse Jackson's campaign in Oregon.

Bottom: Ron Herndon, who is co-chairing the Jesse Jackson for President Committee, addresses the crowd of 250 Jesse Jackson support-

ers at the Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church. \$850 was collected toward the \$5,000 needed to qualify for federal matching funds. Contributions, which count as a tax-credit, should be made to the Jesse Jackson for President Committee, P.O. Box 6797, Portland, OR 97228-6797.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Reagan escalates war

More Marines died in Lebanon Sunday and they were joined by a navy pilot. The Marines are in Lebanon as part of a multi-national "peacekeeping force." The Navy is part of an administration "show of force."

The action that led to the deaths was a U.S. reconnaissance overflight of Syrian positions in eastern Lebanon. The Syrians shot at the planes; the U.S. retaliated with a bombing raid, and two of the raiding aircraft were shot down by the Syrians. The Druse forces, locked in a civil war with the unpopular minority government of Lebanon, shelled the U.S. Marines guarding the airport.

The current chapter in the civil war was set off by the 1982 invasion and occupation of Lebanon. As the Israelis withdrew from some areas (they still occupy Southern Lebanon), the uneasy truce was broken as

the Muslim majority attempted to take power from the upper-class Christian minority.

The U.S. took advantage of the situation to establish a presence in Lebanon through participation in the "peace-keeping" mission, but this role has gradually been changed to one of propping up the Gemayal government.

Israel also is sending reconnaissance planes over Syrian positions, including pilotless "drones." Syria has announced that it shot down two of these planes over Lebanon and Syria.

Defending his country's action, the Syrian Defense Minister said, "The interception by our air defenses of American planes is within our legitimate right of self-defense because we are engaged in a just war against unfair oppression by American imperialists and Zionism. Our forces will always confront any for-

ign air force that may fly over the positions of our forces."

The fatal air strike, in which one U.S. pilot was killed and another captured, might have been an effort to test Syrian defenses. A senior U.S. admiral said information about Syrian aircraft batteries was inadequate but the raid gave them needed information. About 40 missiles and thousands of anti-aircraft rounds were fired at the 28 planes.

The Navy admitted that the battleship New Jersey's guns could have reached the targets without the danger of loss of U.S. lives.

In the meantime, Israeli occupation forces in Southern Lebanon are facing increased opposition. Last month a car bomb destroyed military headquarters; last week Lebanese set off three bombs and ambushed a personnel carrier; on Sunday hand grenades were thrown at a patrol.

Local missile firm protested

Fifty-eight persons protesting production of cruise missile parts were arrested Dec. 2nd as they blocked access to a titanium castings plant and the company headquarters of Precision Castparts corporation in Milwaukie.

"This action is to protest flight testing of the cruise missile in Canada," said organizer Chuck Bell of the Refuse the Cruise Coalition. Testing of the controversial missile begins in January over parts of snow-covered Canada which resemble Russia.

Bell said local protesters hoped to slow production of the missile by preventing workers from entering Precision Castparts' titanium castings plant, where an essential cruise part is made.

Cruise opponents say the 20-foot long nuclear missile is a first-strike weapon which escalates the arms race. Its small size makes it easy to hide, they say, and its sophisticated guidance system enables the cruise to hug the ground and avoid radar detection as it rushes with pinpoint accuracy toward its target.

Under contract with the prime contractor, Boeing Corporation, Precision Castparts makes eleven housings which are part of the mechanism which controls the missile's ability "to go up and down," according to Castparts vice-president for administration Roy Marvin.

About 150 demonstrators braved snow and rain to gather before dawn at the plant on S.E. Johnson Creek Blvd. As day-shift workers showed up, protesters linked arms in front of the gate and sang folk

songs as police handcuffed, then dragged and carried them to a waiting bus. Others stepped in to take the place of those arrested. Supporters shouted encouragement.

One protester confined to a wheel chair was placed on a stretcher and carried to the bus by police, who reassured him that he could bring his wheel chair. "Good luck, Victor," shouted his friend.

"I just hope people are going to pay attention," said another protester, who declined identification. "Life is going on as usual as these bombs are being produced. It's really strange," he said.

"We're doing it for children," said a woman.

There were signs—"No cruise is good news," "We all have too much to lose, stop the cruise," and a large blue and green earth skewered by missiles paraded across the street.

Traffic backed up for blocks as workers waited in their cars. "It's a hassle; they shouldn't block the streets," said one worker who wanted the police to move faster in removing the protesters.

"Only in America," said Dan Lattanzi, a grinder in the titanium foundry. "I hate to see it, these protests and these missiles being made," he said, but he also felt that the cruise missile was necessary to stay ahead of the Russians. He thought Precision Castparts should stop production "only if everybody else does."

"We are a manufacturing company that is contributing to the country's defense," said Marvin. "What this has done is to heighten

our resolve that what we're doing is correct. We will continue to make these parts."

The protest caused some employees to be late for work and sent "a stir of excitement" through the plant, but caused no other problems for the company, he said.

March organizers disagreed. "It's real clear that business has been disrupted here," said Bell. "It's kind of a rebirth of the direct action movement where people go where the injustice is happening and physically put their bodies on the line to do something about it," he said. "If we keep coming back, it's bound to have some effect sooner or later."

Besides the cruise parts, Precision Castparts makes sophisticated castings for other military applications. Military contracts accounted for 35 percent of the company's 1983 business, "which means that 35 percent of our employees owe their jobs to that business," said Marvin. Precision Castparts has 1500 employees and sales approached \$90 million in 1983.

According to the company's 1983 annual report, Precision Castparts has made or will make parts for a variety of military aircraft, including the F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, F-20, Stealth bomber, C-130, C5b, KC135 and KC10.

The company has also made parts for General Dynamics harpoon and Raytheon patriot missiles, the M-1 battle tank, and General Electric 20mm and 25mm Gatling guns, according to the August, 1983 issue of *Oregon Business* magazine. Boeing, Pratt and Whitney and General Dynamics are major customers.

Refuse the Cruise = easy arrests

by Chuck Goodmacher

Major media and press coverage of the "Refuse the Cruise" civil disobedience action December 2nd at Precision Castparts in Milwaukie focused on the confrontation that took place there. Protesters blockading workers. Workers getting angry at protesters. Police officers forcibly removing protesters from the site and handcuffing them, etc. "58 Arrested At Local Protest," heralded the banner front-page Saturday *Oregonian*.

Although sensationalism is what the protesters created in their particular response to the great danger posed by the creation and deployment of first-strike nuclear weapons, most interactions with police officers at street level were civil.

Demonstrators and arresting officers showed guarded respect for each other.

During the days before and just at the start of the civil disobedience, the police seemed to be rather nervous and expected the worst to happen. At least 50 officers were on hand Friday morning, with more ready to be called in from five law enforcement agencies: Portland, Milwaukie, and Oregon State Police and the Multnomah and Clackamas County Sheriff offices. In preparation for an expected second wave of blockaders, the Portland Police Mounted Unit and additional officers were sent to the Milwaukie plant.

One of the 50 officers taking part in preparations prior to the action worriedly commented that at the

last demonstration he was in (Berkeley, 1970), demonstrators threw potatoes with nails stuck through them at the police. Would anything like that happen at Precision Castparts?

But non-cooperation rather than physical confrontation seems to have been both the means and the end for the protesters. Demonstrators went limp when being arrested and not one expletive was heard. After the arrests were made, officers relaxed and even began joking with some of the protesters.

One Milwaukie police officer told the protesters' lawyer he had chosen very nice clients.

"Compared to the '60s and '70s," commented Police Bureau Information Officer David W. Simpson, "this was easy. The protesters are not a hostile crowd."

AFSCME spearheads comparable worth drive

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—Last week the Federal Court dealt with the issue of pay equity between the sexes.

In Washington the State was found guilty of discriminating against women by paying them less than their male counterparts. This ruling has put the term of comparable worth in today's headlines.

In Portland the International Secretary-Treasurer of the organization that spearheaded the drive for comparable worth, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, (AFSCME), William Lucy, addressed 100 people attending Commissioner Charles Jordan's luncheon forum at the Monte

Carlo restaurant.

Lucy told the informal gathering that Washington State is not alone in paying women less than male employees. "Nationwide, studies have shown men are earning the top half of the salary grade while women were earning the bottom half. The public work force is rigidly sex-segregated."

Lucy said some jobs are filled exclusively by women. "In every job classification the wage distribution for women is way below the distribution for men. These findings are so consistent I have no reason to believe that Portland is any different."

Lucy also added that this disparity is not limited to the public sector.

He said the issue of comparable worth should not hinder affirmative

action. "It will just enhance existing affirmative action programs. The problem is the perception that they are positioned against each other. Black women are discriminated against more because they are women and the problem is lack of promotional opportunity."

"The problem of pay discrimination overrides race. The pattern is too consistent and systematic to conclude it came about through the invisible hand of the marketplace. It is the result of the all-too-visible hand of discrimination."

Lucy added that once states are made aware of the problem, "it is almost immoral not to try to correct it."

The current diminishing strength of unions will not affect this issue, Lucy said during the question and

answer period. "The issue is discrimination and discrimination is against public law and policy. Bringing parity in the pay scales of men and women is one issue both public and private employees will have to confront."

AFSCME advocates using collective bargaining, litigation and education in its pay equity efforts. Lucy concluded with the belief that states ought to confront this issue early to save millions of dollars rather than facing the issue in court.

"Injustice has to be addressed regardless of the economic situation. In the past child labor laws, minimum wages and health and safety laws were seen as economic threats. Just as they were not threats, comparable worth is not a threat. It is the law."



William Lucy addresses a luncheon forum held by Commissioner Charles Jordan on the issue of wage discrimination.
(Photo: Richard J. Brown)