

# OBSERVATIONS

FROM THE SIDELINES  
BY Kathryn Hall Bogle

**T**HE WEEK has been a full one with a range of events taxing to the limit the space allotment for Observations. So, only highlights of each will reach print. City Commissioner Charles Jordan, at the December 1, "Commissioners' Forum" and luncheon, the twentieth he has arranged, invited 135 members of the public to hear William Lucy speak on the issue of comparable worth. With this almost innocuous title, the speaker, introduced by Gail Washington, catapulted his audience into the stratosphere of high and complicated finance and law involving the national economy, individual states of the Union, and, possibly, private business. Trillions of dollars could be the cost, he said.

For what? Back pay and benefits to state workers in predominantly women's jobs who earned less than men in jobs of "comparable worth." William Lucy serves as National Secretary-Treasurer for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union. He has held this position with AFSCME since 1972.

"Women comprise 40 percent of the one million AFSCME members," said Lucy. "A Federal Judge (Judge Jack Tanner) has found Washington State guilty of sex-based wage discrimination in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Our union has committed the human and financial resources necessary to fight pay discrimination in the courts, at the bargaining table and through the legislative process," he said.

Lucy drove home a point of contention, saying, "A dual labor market exists—one for men's jobs and one for women's jobs... I would like to commend the Portland City Council and Commissioner Jordan for taking such steps, as you have to this point, toward fair, equitable pay for city employees."

A detailed ruling is expected within a few days from U.S. District Judge Jack Tanner, a Black resident of Tacoma.

**F**OR THEIR second annual ball, the Oregon Association of Black Lawyers (OABL) were hosts at the Benson Hotel recently.

Named the "Ebony and Ivory Ball," about 300 guests dressed to that theme, most of them or their spouses coming from some branch of the legal profession.

With a membership roster of about 36, the OABL is interested in attracting and assisting more Black women and men to the study of law and each year scholarships are awarded to students already enrolled. This year's two \$500 scholar-



Prospective debts and friends of The Links, Inc., hear about Spelman College from Vicki Crawford, Assistant Director of Admissions. Front row: Vee Towery, Phretina Baugh, Kimberly Loving, Denise

Washington, Darcell Mason. Back row: Delicia Maxwell, Nicola Johnson, Vicki Crawford, Hollie Simone Trotman, Marian Brooks.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

ships went to Gregory Gudger, law student at Willamette University, and to Jeffrey Beaver, law student at the University of Oregon.

A feature of the evening before dancing ended was an auction held to help raise funds for scholarships next year. Edward Peterson, Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, in attendance at the ball with his wife, Anna, acted as Chief Auctioneer. The Chief Justice was assisted by Judge Aaron Brown. Two basketballs, covered with Trail Blazer autographs, went to high bidders Attorney Anser Haggerty and Attorney Roosevelt Robinson. Lunch for three in the august chambers of the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court went to Eva Kutas, a legal assistant.

Responsible committee "structure" for the ball fell to the efforts of Atty. Marcia Neal, who handed out chores to her husband, Lloyd Neal of the Trail Blazers and to others, including Attorneys John Toran, Monica Little, Robert Browning, Ron Knox, Jeff Millner, Ken Walker, Anser Haggerty, Roosevelt Robinson and Ernest Estes.

**S**INCE HER early fall recruiting strip to Portland with a number of representatives of Black colleges, Vicki Crawford found that being in Portland once was not enough. Crawford, who is Assistant Director of Admissions at Spelman College in Atlanta, came back to town as a member of the National Association of College Admission Counselors.

This time she found that Spelman was the only Black college among the 100 represented at the Coliseum at the NACAC Fair recently.

Spelman selects students carefully and has an enrollment of only 1,450 on campus. Therefore, while in Portland, Crawford gave special attention to about 15 girls, all high school seniors, some of whom have enrolled in the 1984 debutante program of the local chapter of The Links, Inc. Lydia Roy and Rochelle McElroy, directing activities for the prospective Links debts this year, set up the special session for the debts and their friends. June Key acted as coordinator for Crawford.

Vicki Crawford will travel to Seattle with NACAC before returning to Atlanta.

**E**ARLY NOTES of beautiful Christmas music swelled from the chancel of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church when the 36-member Chancel Choir, robed in crimson, sang "The King of Love" on Sunday evening before a large appreciative audience. The cantata told the story of Jesus' birth from the first awareness of His coming to the joyous Alleluias of the celebration of His birth.

The spoken word effectively tied in the historic details told in the lyrics and music. Minnie Harris acted as narrator. Dual accompaniment was by Barbara Thompson on the piano and by Scott Harris at the organ. Carl T. Harris was the able choir director, with Emmitt S. Porter, president of the choir and the

## Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

### 1st Session of 98th Congress a mixed bag

In the weeks and months since this first session of the 98th Congress began back in January, I have written weekly on the issues and legislation that has come before the nation and Congress. The work on these concerns never really ceases, and the process of legislating continues whether Congress is in session or not.

But the adjournment of the session provides us with a clear vantage point from which we can look back and see what Congress has—and has not—addressed and what issues still must be pursued to their conclusion when Congress reconvenes in January, 1984.

#### What hasn't been done

Unfortunately, the "has not accomplished" side of the ledger sports some rather large items, including the \$200 billion deficit.

The failure of this Congress to act on whittling down the deficit demonstrates a lack of political will on the part of the House, the Senate and the Administration to take the necessary difficult steps. Now, the conventional wisdom tells us, no action will be taken until after the 1984 elections.

I think this is unacceptable. We have to put every government pro-

gram on the operating table and go at it with a scalpel to cut away the unneeded and the wasteful.

That includes the defense budget. Even though Congress did not give the President the full increase in the defense budget that he sought, the \$240 billion that has been authorized is still the largest government spending bill in history. What is more shocking is that it includes items such as the MX, Cruise Missiles and Pershing Missiles that will not really add to our real defense but will be mere nuclear "bargaining chips."

Also, Congress must take actions next year—because none were taken this year—to ensure the survival of the Medicare system. I plan to be active in that battle to ensure that the changes that are made cut waste in the system, not vital services.

#### On a more positive note

Not all the news was bad, however. In my mind, there are at least two major accomplishments of this Congress that merit attention.

First, working from a broad-based consensus, Congress passed and the President signed into law, legislation to reform the nation's most important social program: Social Security.

I think I can safely say that no one in Congress got everything they wanted in this reform legislation. Certainly, I didn't. But, there was agreement on one goal: to save the financial integrity of the system. And that was accomplished.

The second major accomplishment of the Congress this year came when the Congress and the President joined to pass the jobs bill and provide employment for millions of Americans thrown out of work in the midst of the recession.

This is only a short list of the tasks that Congress did—and did not—take up. As we begin to tackle the issues that remain, I will continue to keep you up to date as best I can in this column. In return, I hope you will keep me up to date with your phone calls and letters.



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## Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

In response to Presidential Counselor Edwin Meese's suggestion that there is no hunger in America, the **Street Beat** team asked Portlanders, "Do you think there are people in America going hungry?"



**Karen Rippe**  
Homemaker

Of course! People are out of work and are wondering where their next meal is coming from.



**Cynthia Coleman**  
Bell Ringer

Yes, but in Portland there are enough resources to fill the gap.



**Jim Brant**  
Store Owner

Yes, there is a lot in America. The way the economy is you can't help but be hungry.



**Joe Sticks**  
Sales

Yes, for a variety of reasons. Many may be out of work. But I believe there are a few who take advantage of programs to feed the poor.



**Reetta Harris**  
Daycare Worker

Yes, there are. President Reagan should try to help people more instead of saying it doesn't exist. There is hunger in America.



**Marion Coach**  
Retired

There is hunger everywhere. Some have less than others. No one is hungry on purpose.