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PUC grants rate hike

Oregon Public Utility Commissioner John Lobdell on Tuesday granted rate increases to Pacific Power & Light and Portland General Electric to cover a portion of their investments in the terminated WPPSS and Skagit nuclear power plants. Beginning in April, PP&L will increase rates \$19 million and PGE will increase theirs \$36.3 million. Lobdell hasn't yet calculated the effect of this latest rate increase on the average ratepayers bill.

Lobdell's decision was criticized by representatives of citizen groups which had opposed the utilities' rate increase proposals. According to Eric Stachon of OSPIRG, the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group, the rate increases violate Oregon law.

"Ballot Measure 9, passed by Oregon voters in 1978 by a margin of two-to-one, clearly says that utilities cannot charge ratepayers for power plants until those plants are completed," Stachon said. "Appar-

ently Commissioner Lobdell cares more about utility profits than about upholding the law."

Lobdell, who is serving his last week in office, expects his decision to be challenged in court. Stachon said OSPIRG and several other groups are reviewing the decision. He agrees that an appeal is likely.

"Someone has to represent the ratepayers," Stachon said. "If the Commissioner won't accept that responsibility, then we're forced to go to court."

Jackson gains ground

Jesse Jackson already has made more progress in his bid for the Democratic presidential nomination than Shirley Chisholm, the only previous Black contender, says the head of the nation's leading think tank on Black politics.

"Mrs. Chisholm was impatient in 1972," said Eddie Williams, president of the Joint Center for Political Studies. "She just declared."

But Jackson's decision to delay his announcement as long as possible allowed "time for accommodation" among Black leaders, said Williams.

The months of "elongated discus-



JESSE JACKSON

sion" allowed Jackson, first, to line up support from political "risk takers," such as Tuskegee, Ala., mayor Johnny Ford, and second, to mini-

mize public opposition from such "risk avoiders" as mayors Andrew Young of Atlanta and Coleman Young of Detroit, said Williams.

Jackson's recent endorsement by Black Baptist leaders is only one sign of Jackson's success in this area. "Upwardly mobile, middle-income Blacks in business, government and academia are climbing aboard Jackson's train in greater numbers than would normally take place," Williams said.

"For every [Black] leader who's hanging back, you can identify 10 or 15 who are publicly supportive," said Williams.

Phone rates increase Sunday

Public Utility Commissioner John Lobdell told customers of Pacific Northwest Bell Telephone Co. that the cost of leasing or buying their telephones will go up Jan. 1 when PNB's phone equipment is transferred to American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T).

"Now is the best time for PNB customers to decide if they want to buy a phone or continue leasing," Lobdell said. "The 'in-place' phone prices offered by PNB will expire on Dec. 31. After that, customers who wish to buy will have to choose between prices set by AT&T or retail phone sellers."

AT&T recently announced lease and sale prices that are substantially higher than those charged by PNB. In some cases lease prices will more than double by 1985.

For example, the current PNB monthly lease on a Trimline Tough-Tone phone is \$2.21. AT&T plans to charge \$3.21 a month in January 1984, and \$4.60 a month starting in January 1985 for the same phone.

The purchase price for that phone will be \$54.95 from AT&T as of Jan. 1. It can be purchased for as little as \$46.09 from PNB if it was "in place" as of Dec. 31, 1982.

The transfer of some PNB switches and equipment, including

residential leased phones, is one facet of the federal court-ordered breakup of AT&T which will take place in 1984. AT&T lease and sale prices will not be regulated by the PUC.

Lobdell said the AT&T divestiture and other changes in the telephone industry will mean higher rates for customers. He urged residential and business customers to closely evaluate their phone needs to find ways to reduce costs.

In the long run it is advantageous for many customers to buy their equipment, either from PNB or another seller, and avoid long-term lease costs, Lobdell said.



Winter fun: Jason Benton, age 8, and Damani Leach, age 7, enjoy the ice and snow that blanket-

ed Portland this holiday week by sliding down the front steps on a cardboard carton.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)



REV. HERBERT DAUGHTRY

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

What went wrong in Grenada?

by Lanita Duke

Grassroot News, N.W.—Among the events, issues and personalities 1983 will be remembered for will be the invasion of Grenada and the death of its progressive movement and leader, Maurice Bishop.

We hope history also records the statements of Don Rojas, Bishop's press secretary and journalist, who spoke with Prime Minister Bishop less than an hour before he was killed.

In the December 26 issue of *Intercontinental Press*, Rojas said Bishop told him to make calls to the outside world, saying that, "President Fidel Castro and the Cuban Communist Party had absolutely no involvement in this crisis and the Grenadian people could solve these problems by themselves without outside interference or intervention."

What really happened in Grenada?

According to a Grenadian who was not censored by the U.S. State Department, the problems arose from a bid for power by the deputy prime minister and finance minister, Bernard Coard.

Rojas said the rank-and-file membership of the New Jewel (Joint Endeavor for Welfare, Education and Liberation) movement did not know about a proposal for joint leadership between Coard and Bishop. He

said they would not have accepted it.

"Bernard was not the kind of political leader who had struggled for the masses and made sacrifices for them the way Bishop had.

"Bishop and others were brutally beaten by Gairy's Mongoose gang [Eric Matthew Gairy, dictator of Grenada before he was ousted by the New Jewel Movement]. Coard was teaching at the University of the

In a statement Oct. 20th condemning the killing of Bishop on the previous day, Fidel Castro warned Coard and his supporters that they had created the conditions "for imperialism to find a convenient excuse to move in and crush the Grenadian revolution."

The invasion of Grenada was not only a blow to the international Pan-African struggle, but also to the Black liberation struggle in Am-

in the movement.

Rojas said, "If there was any outside interference it would have come from the CIA using the opportunity of friction inside the party to manipulate, divide and destroy the party and the revolution."

Rojas cited history as a basis for his analysis that the CIA exploited the situation and developed the excuse for the U.S. invasion.

Facts are abundant about the CIA's involvement in Third World countries. Operating under the theme of protecting U.S. interests, they have plotted to overthrow governments in Iran, Angola, Sudan, Syria, Guatemala, Ecuador, Guyana, Zaire, Ghana and Chile. In more than half of these countries they have succeeded.

An in the U.S., the F.B.I. has been implicated in the murders of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and indirectly involved in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

A defector from Police Intelligence in California, Louise E. Tackwood, said police conspired against famous political prisoners and groups such as Angela Davis, George Jackson, the Black Panthers, the Nation of Islam, and Vietnam Vets Against the War, as well as ordinary citizens.

The assault on Grenada appears (Please turn to page 2, column 6)

Analysis

West Indies... and not subjected to Gairy's terrorism."

The mass media stated Coard had leanings toward a more Leninist orientation but Rojas said it was a bid for power that blew up in Coard's face.

"What happened in the weeks before, during and after Maurice's house arrest was leftism run amok... The party lost virtually all support among the masses. Many rank-and-file members of the party became alienated and disillusioned.

"There was such a serious demoralization withing the armed forces that a mutiny would have broken out in a matter of days."

Rojas said Coard and his people let their own ambitions and egos get the better of them.

erica. Bishop's New Jewel Movement was inspired by the Civil Rights movement that occurred in America.

The National Black United Front adopted a Grenadian slogan, "Forward together, backwards never!"

In 1981, the president of NBUF, Rev. Herbert Daughtry, said in Seattle that Grenada represented a new world order that was a threat to the interests of the U.S. ruling powers.

Rev. Daughtry said, "Nations are saying, 'Back off my resources.' And along comes Ronald Reagan who wants to play cowboy."

On national T.V., President Reagan talked about how the Grenadian airport was being built by Cuban forces and implied Cuba had a voice