

EDITORIAL/OPINION

School Board must obey law

Why does the Portland School Board refuse to obey the law and allow voters to determine whether board members should reside in seven zones instead of at-large? Of course it is an effort to protect their own turf. For years the Portland School Board has considered itself above the law—remember the years of unfair, one-way "desegregation" that was justified with promises, half-truths and distorted statistics?

Now the Board is attempting to resist the efforts of citizens who believe representative government would be better served by requiring representatives from all areas of the city. Currently three members live in Northwest and three others a few blocks of each other in Northeast.

Some board members—rather than look at the law—attempted to avoid the question by asking how the new system would change the quality of the board. Although that question is irrelevant—and implies that lower-class areas might not have quality candidates—the answer should be apparent. No, it is not assured that the next board would not be as homogeneous as the

current board—five white men, one white woman; four attorneys, all professionals; all nearly the same age; the same social class. But it is certain that there are many, many citizens who are as well qualified and perhaps more open-minded than some of the current board members.

Nomination/election by zones would be one more step in the direction of representative democracy. Along with extending the vote to Blacks, women, renters, young people, the move across the country to single-member districts (Congress, state legislature, county commissions, Metropolitan Service District, etc.) has brought the voter closer to the elected official and allowed the voter the opportunity for a better elected legislators county-wide, would never go back to that system.

The School Board can try to stand in the way of democratic progress—as it has for at least 20 years—but in the end the people will prevail. Why spend a lot of unnecessary time and money to fight progress?

Stop the killing now

Last week a unit of Nicaragua's Popular Militia—the old men, little boys and women who protect their homes and fields from U.S.-supported "Contras"—shot down a U.S. reconnaissance helicopter that had flown into Nicaragua from Honduras. The helicopter was able to land across the border in Honduras, but the firing continued (according to news reports) and the U.S. pilot was killed.

President Reagan's response was predictable. It's not right to shoot from one country into another, he said.

That's exactly what the Nicaraguans are saying. It's not right for the U.S. to train, support and pay troops to invade across Nicaragua's borders and to bomb its cities and ports.

There were more than 200 overflights by U.S. recon-helicopters and airplanes during the first eleven months of 1983, Defense Minister Humberto Ortega said in late December. There were 19 airborne attacks by "those counterrevolutionary instruments of the CIA" including the bombing of the Managua airport and the destruction of port facilities in Corinto. Since Ortega's remarks the port of Portino was attacked

by air and sea.

There were also 100 violations of Nicaragua's territorial waters by U.S. naval ships and 60 by Contras. These included 16 attacks on port facilities, ships and fishing boats.

There were 90 known incursions by counter-revolutionaries, 79 from Honduras and the rest from Costa Rica. "These infiltrators respond to plans for kidnapping the remote populations, assassinations, campaigns of terror and economic sabotage that the CIA has designed for the counterrevolutionaries," Ortega explained.

During the first 11 months of 1983, 346 civilians were murdered, and 601 wounded or kidnapped. Of the 346 killed, 242 were farmers and workers and the other 104 were technicians or professionals.

In the face of these statistics of war—"shooting from one country into another"—Reagan is suddenly concerned that a U.S. pilot has been killed while carrying out these deadly operations.

Perhaps he should give a little concern for the men, women and children he is killing and maiming in Nicaragua.

"Central City" plan set in motion

(Continued from page 1, column 3)

•Will the new planners be hired or existing staff transferred from other duties?

•Will the public financial assistance be given to firms in the target area and, if so, will special preference be given to locally-owned or minority-owned enterprises?

All of these questions are laden with political connotations. Some will be answered as the plan develops, but most will be resolved in the next three months during what Commissioner Strachan's resolution calls a "pre-planning process."

The pre-planning process, to begin immediately upon passage of the resolution, calls for the hiring of a consultant (for \$18,000) and the formation of a Pre-Planning Committee. The Pre-planning Committee will include Mayor Frank Ivancie, Portland Development Commission Executive Director Pat LaCrosse,

Portland Planning Bureau Chief Terry Sandblast, Commissioner Strachan (serving as chair) and three citizens. Ivancie will appoint two of the citizens, and Strachan one.

The resolution empowers the Pre-planning Committee to "assist the consultant(s) in preparing for Council consideration a timeline, process, budget, detailed management plan, exact boundaries and scope of study." The Pre-planning Committee also will "recommend criteria for composition of a broad-based Citizens Advisory Committee to ensure adequate and balanced representation. . . ." A budget for Fiscal Year 1984-85 is to be presented by May 1 from this group to the City Council.

Responding to comments from the Southeast Uplift board about the "stacked" nature of the pre-planning phase, Commissioner Strachan reiterated her commitment

to citizen review and as chair of the committee said she would do everything possible to allow for it.

If other members of the committee don't want open, public hearings during the pre-planning phase, Strachan promised, "I'll do it myself."

Despite this pledge, there remains significant concern from Southeast Uplift activists about the openness of the pre-planning process. "It's not that easy for Joe Citizen to call up Pat LaCrosse and talk with him for 20 minutes," commented one of the board members. Worried that limited response time might lock citizens out of the process, Committee Chair Ben Butzien noted, "They've only got three months, and we know how that works with neighborhood associations."

Next week: A look at how the Central City plan could change the face of Portland.

Public Safety Commission seeks input

(Continued from page 1 column 3)

will likely be surveys and cable TV programs, she added.

Public participation is also encouraged at commission meetings held the second Thursday evening of each month at the Portland Building, she said. To place an item on the agenda it is necessary to call or write ahead.

Nielson said that at the end of two years, or as ideas come up along the way, the commission will take its

findings to the City Council and the County Commission. Lindberg sees the Public Safety Commission's report as a plan for policy makers "that would be our guiding light as far as budget decisions in the future."

He looked forward to the Commission's work having the same impact on public safety as the City's energy savings plan had in that area, becoming a model for many other cities.

Lindberg said the idea for the Commission grew out of controversy surrounding the opossum incident, internal police department problems, budget cuts, and lack of jail space. Contrary to the fear of some city commissioners, said Nielson, the commission will not be assessing the performance of the police and local criminal justice system. "The purpose of this commission is not to point fingers," she said.



Full employment agenda needed

by Dr. Manning Marable "From The Grassroots"

Months after Reagan's highly touted "recovery," over 10 million Americans are still unemployed. The Reagan Administration has done everything it can to guarantee widespread suffering and joblessness for the future. Budget reductions slashed over two million jobless men and women from receiving unemployment compensation benefits last year. Funds for vocational training and for new federally-sponsored jobs have been cut 60 percent since January, 1981. About 100,000 people lost jobs due to Reagan's reductions in Urban Developments Action Grants (UDAGs). And another \$2.1 billion cut in 1982 destroyed 340,000 jobs for low-income people funded by state and local programs.

With the exception of Jesse Jackson, none of the Democratic presidential candidates are proposing effective full employment agendas. Most of them are advocating a "watered-down" version of Reaganomics—real increases in defense spending, no restoration of social programs to pre-1979 levels, and no massive vocational training and jobs initiatives. It's clear that the demand for "full employment" cannot get on the national agenda unless we employ grassroots activism and protest strategies which were also used during the civil rights movement. We cannot depend upon the Democratic Party or the electoral system to implement reforms unless we build a powerful movement for jobs and greater social justice.

The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), the largest grassroots organization in the U.S. with over 50,000 low and moderate income member families in 25 states, has de-

veloped an effective campaign to fight for jobs. ACORN is pushing cities across the country to adopt "First Source" resolutions. A First Source Agreement requires companies that receive specific types of public assistance to hire the hardcore unemployed first. Companies that obtain tax abatements, UDAGs and low interest loans at taxpayers' expense have to agree to use their city's manpower training agency as their first source for all entry-level positions which are generated by their business development.

The people who benefit directly from First Source Agreements are those who have been the principal victims of Reaganomics. Workers are eligible for First Source jobs if they have been jobless for half a year or more, or are foodstamp or welfare recipients, or have a poverty-level family income. A corporation can recruit other potential workers only if the city manager is unable to find sufficient numbers of qualified women and men with the above criteria.

Can First Source Agreements really work? ACORN organizers point to a recent Rutgers University study which praised Portland, Oregon's First Source program for increasing the hiring of persons eligible for their CETA program. Over 1700 unemployed were hired in Portland alone; another 1500 found jobs through Minneapolis, Minnesota's program. The Rutgers study stated that "employers in Portland confirmed that they are hiring a greater percentage of minorities and women than they would have done in the absence of First Source and they are pleased with the persons they have hired."

In 1983, ACORN won First

Source Agreements in Little Rock, Arkansas, Denver, and Dallas. Little Rock agreed to require First Source Agreements for every contractor receiving emergency jobs money, and 40 ACORN people will be hired by the developer of one hotel. 125 ACORN members in Denver will be hired, and forty ACORN members were placed for jobs by the Dallas Alliance of Businessmen. Atlanta mayor Andrew Young voiced strong support for the first source concept, and Young's staff is drafting an ordinance that will include recipients of all forms of public subsidy. In Detroit, progressive councilperson Mel Ravitz plans to introduce ACORN's resolution. This fall, Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry issued a First Source Order that covers all city-aided projects.

ACORN has combined its public lobbying with Grassroots protests to force the First Source issue. Last August 16, for example, ACORN activists showed up at selected sites in 15 cities in a series of coordinated job actions or "work-ins." Many of the sites chosen for the demonstrations receive federal funds from UDAGs, but few if any low-income people, Blacks or welfare recipients obtain jobs created by public money.

ACORN leaders would be the last to suggest that First Source Agreements are a solution to the unemployment crisis. Not even the defeat of Reaganism will bring about a full employment economy. But the First Source campaign is a bold and worthwhile technique which moves us in the right direction. For more information, contact Ms. Michele A. Tingling, ACORN, 413 8th Street, S.E., Washington D.C., 20003, (202) 547-9292.



From the Boardroom

by Gladys McCoy, County Commissioner

This information is designed to prepare you for an "onslaught" of ballot measures in May, each requesting tax dollars for services. The following is the request before the Board of County Commissioners. There will be others and I will bring them to your attention as they come forth. You need to begin to prioritize each issue and become informed of its merit so you may vote as an informed voter.

On December 13, the Justice Coordinating Council made its final report to the Board of County Commissioners. They are asking at the election of May 15, 1984, that the citizens of Multnomah County approve a three-year serial levy for County Correction Services.

The purpose of this measure authorizes Multnomah County to levy \$4,640,000 each of the three years 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87, for a total of \$13,920,000.

Recommendations:

1) Reopen Claire Argow Center for a women's correctional facility \$3,073,540.

2) Reopen the courthouse jail for sentenced male misdemeanants. Maximum sentence: 30 days—\$1,408,700.

3) Establish a work release/restitution center in an urban location for sentenced misdemeanants and low-risk felons. Average length of stay: 3 months—\$1,920,960.

4) Establish a mental health "urgency" center for 4 to 14 day pre-trial residence with release supervision and services—\$2,305,150.

5) Establish a mandated alcoholism treatment facility for misdemeanants and city ordinance violators. Average length of stay: 4 months with release supervision and services—\$2,433,220.

6) Contract for pre-trial release

supervision: temporary shelter and services—\$512,260.

7) Expand pre-trial close street supervision: Add 2 staff; length of supervision: 60 days—\$256,130.

8) Contract for sentencing sanctions and services: Alcohol, drug, mental health counseling, job placement, education and training and related court ordered services—\$512,260.

9) Establish day labor/community service program for sentenced offenders to work daily in public service projects and reside at home, in lieu of jail. Length of involvement: 2 months. Work crew size: 10. Staff, 3. \$384,180.

Further, the Justice Coordinating Council recommends that the policy for Multnomah County be as follows:

1) To establish and maintain a corrections system which enhances public safety by:

•Appropriate detention of persons arrested for criminal conduct to insure appearance in court and to prevent recurrences of criminal conduct.

•Appropriate incarceration of convicted defendants for purposes of deterrence, punishment, prevention of recurrence of criminal conduct and the safety of the general public.

•Appropriate placement of defendants in non-secure facilities and programs which encourage payment of restitution to victims and accountability for adherence to court ordered requirements.

2) To adhere to the obligations imposed by the federal and state constitution and statutes. Disposition of offenders will be consistent with such requirements and those the sentencing judge has directed.

3) To provide adequate booking and pre-sentence detention space

for persons arrested and detained for violation of municipal, state and federal statutes. However, under ORS 169.030 and other applicable statutes, each entity shall pay the county for costs of providing such facilities for any prisoner put into the system by that government entity. The county shall enter into a contract with each entity to define such costs.

4) To provide appropriate housing for sentenced misdemeanant prisoners.

5) To determine quickly guilt or innocence and to appropriately punish wrongdoers by providing, directly or through the State, sufficient resources to the courts, prosecution and indigent defense for speedy adjudications.

6) Whenever possible, to hold all pre-trial detainees in the Multnomah County Detention Center in order that they will be available to the judicial system while their cases are being adjudicated.

7) That the state should provide the facilities and pay the costs of housing sentenced felons in local correctional facilities. The provisions of ORS 169.030 should be amended accordingly. Prisoners would remain under the jurisdiction of the court and not be transferred to the state.

8) That the legislative branch of city, county and state government and the taxpayers provide adequate funding to implement policies heretofore mentioned.

I expect the Board of County Commissioners to hold both work sessions and public hearings during the month of January before putting this package on the May, 1984 ballot. We need your input. I urge your review of these recommendations and let me hear from you.

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