

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Haste makes waste

Our community is being asked, once again, to trust a quasi-public/private organization to provide for the dispossessed of Portland. This time, it is the newly-formed Private Industry Council (PIC) to effectively manage the new Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA). The PIC will replace CETA.

Because PIC is a new creation, it has no proven history of commitment to the low-income population, minority youth or Black males who live with a criminally high unemployment rate. Also, observers have raised concerns as to whether PIC administrators possess the necessary experience in dealing with various cultural groups.

PIC has been called upon to produce a training and employment plan that is expected to go before the City Council May 30th. Before the City Council approves the plan, the following questions need to be answered:

(1) How will one million dollars of the money allocated to youth be spent in order to ensure a reduction in the catastrophically high minority youth unemployment rate?

(2) The target groups added at the last minute in response to community concerns are as vague as the original plan. Stating one third will be served without saying whom or how is

inadequate.

(3) Why should PIC pressure the City Council for approval when the director of PIC has admitted that the plan was vague and was drafted only to meet a deadline?

(4) The emphasis PIC puts upon job placement is not balanced by training. The plan states what it wants to do but does not tell the public *how* it is going to impact the unemployment rates for those who need assistance the most.

(5) Although PIC has allocated money for welfare recipients, the plan will penalize those under ADC because PIC will not assist them in childcare, transportation or meals.

We respect and admire many on the Private Industry Council's Board, along with the vocal commitment of its director. However, unless these concerns are met, the City Council should defer signing a partnership with PIC.

Why sign a contract without reading the fine print? PIC needs to go back to the drawing board and develop a new plan with input from the Urban League, Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, Black United Front and the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center. expectations of those who need it the most.

Demand MX defeat

The recent vote by the Democrat-controlled U.S. House of Representatives to continue funding production of 15 MX missiles endangers the security of all Americans. The Republican-controlled Senate may modify the House bill and give Reagan 40 of the 100 missiles he requested. Whether it's 15 missiles or 40, the MX is a misguided weapon system the country cannot afford—militarily or economically.

All Oregonians, but especially people in economically lagging communities (actually the entire state fits this description), should call or write our U.S. Senators, Bob Packwood and Mark Hatfield, to express opposition to any MX's.

Reagan and his supporters in Congress say the MX is needed as a "bargaining chip" in 1985 if arms limitation talks don't resume soon. This country doesn't need more bargaining chips for future talks. We need real action now toward slowing the arms race. Just as the deployment of Cruise missiles in Europe triggered the recent Soviet move of putting submarine-launched

nuclear missiles within 5 to 7 minutes of American cities, so will the production of MX missiles escalate the arms race.

The MX not only increases the danger of nuclear war, it accelerates the rate of growth in the divisions between rich and poor. Here's why:

Military spending now accounts for 48 percent of the entire federal budget, and as a report by Employment Research Associates of Lansing, Michigan shows, "draws from the many and gives to the few ... The military budget is taken from all taxpayers but is funneled to a relatively narrow group of military contractors and employees."

The report details economic losses caused by military spending: a family of four in Portland paid \$1,400 more in taxes yearly than it received in economic benefits. Oregon, as a whole, came out \$864 million poorer in 1979.

Clearly, our Oregon Senators should vote against funding *any* MX missiles. Let them know how you feel.

YOUR STRATEGY FOR FORCING THE SOVIETS TO NEGOTIATE ISN'T WORKING



THEY'VE SEEN THE BILLIONS YOU'VE POURED INTO DEFENSE... THEY'VE SEEN THE MISSILES IN EUROPE...



THEY'VE SEEN THE THOUSANDS OF NEW WARHEADS, AND THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS



JUST WAIT 'TIL THEY'VE SEEN US TEAR UP THE SALT II TREATY



Carter exemplifies unity

by Herb Cawthorne

Margaret Carter is "the best example of unity in this community." Ron Herndon described the feelings best. Margaret Carter, through a tireless campaign and honest thought, has served as a concrete example of what we can do as a community, if only we will organize, think and carry out the plans.

The race in District 18 was hard fought. This community started fighting two years ago, when we realized that we had squandered away a perfect opportunity to get someone in the State Legislature. So many people ran, the vote was split. Ed Leek won as a result. No matter who we had voted for, no matter who we liked the best, many of us made up our minds that this should never happen again. If this community loses again, it won't be because we beat ourselves.

The race in District 18 began to draw attention when Margaret Carter began to discuss running for the Legislature. We knew Harold Williams was running and there was no reason to suspect that some others might not get in the race.

Out of many discussions, the District 18 Leadership Forum was created to find a way to give a strong endorsement to one candidate, hoping that this would provide some way to "lean toward" one of a group of otherwise good people. We could only have one with strong support. Any more than that would divide the votes again.

We held the Forum on November 5, 1983. The structure was well organized and the rules were known by everyone, including all the candidates. (We had argued over the rules for five meetings and each candidate was either there or had representatives at every meeting. It was a great success. Two-hundred voters on a Sunday afternoon, 7 months before a primary election, is a very good turnout. Margaret Carter finished this first stage of the District 18 race by winning the Forum in impressive fashion.

Then, an articulate, dedicated individual took over from there. Margaret Carter ran an outstanding campaign. She sharpened her knowledge of the issues each week and she got more and more at ease when speaking in homes, at banquets and to rallies. She went after and got almost every important endorsement, because she studied the issues and presented them in an honest, open way. She kept her ego out of the staff's way, listening to them and following their advice when she agreed.

While Carter made new friends, she kept dealing with the old ones. If notes were compared, many would say they got a call from Margaret Carter, but not just to "touch bases." She called for information, for suggestions. Carter's campaign was so well done that she received more votes than her two opponents put

together! Enough said.

Margaret Carter's victory is a victory for this community—all elements of it. As an individual, she is the symbol of our unity; "the best example."

The community effort began with the District 18 Leadership Forum. The organization of an opportunity for people to listen to and evaluate the candidates early was the first step. More than 20 organizations sent representatives to the first meeting. Everyone agreed and was ready to move forward.

After the Forum, people in our community joined the campaign. The money stayed here to help the cause. Special interest outside the district could see that this time we meant business and that Margaret Carter might win. They put their money on the best odds.

Some worked on the Jesse Jackson campaign, registering voters, passing out literature, holding rallies and mentioning Margaret Carter every chance they got.

Then we went to vote. And we went in impressive numbers! Carter won! Jesse Jackson got 12% of the vote! Bud Clark got a much needed boost. And Frank Ivancie can now do what he's said he's always wanted to do—"go fishing."

"With unity, there is nothing we can't get accomplished," Ron Herndon said. "Black people have only made progress when they got behind a cause and stood together. We're getting better and better at it."

Letters to the Editor

Do homework

To the Editor:

In reading your recent editorial "Break Cycle Not Dancing" I was amazed to learn that your paper believes that "Portland Public School administrators are afraid to tackle educational problems aggressively or creatively because their hands are tied by the unions." Additionally you make the point that "administrators need to break free from the handcuffs of unions which discourage merit pay and creative teaching."

You exposed your absolute ignorance of the positions the Association has taken to support educational equity and excellence in Portland and the proposals we continually advocate before the Portland Board of Education which would improve the academic achievement of all students.

It is time for you to complete your homework. The assignment is to regularly cover Board of Education meetings and contact me, the union president, to learn our positions. From an informed base, you may be less inclined to mislead your readers on the condition of Portland's educational program.

C. Leonard Anderson
President
Portland Association of Teachers

Animal thanks

To the Editor:

On behalf of the staff and many volunteers of Metro's Washington

Park Zoo, I want to thank the community for supporting the Zoo levy at Tuesday's Primary election.

We are grateful for the opportunity to continue improving your Zoo. It's an educational and recreational facility of which we can all be proud.

And, the animals thank you, too.

Rick Gustafson
Executive Officer
MSD

Reaffirm unity

To the Editor:

Now that the May Primary is over, and Margaret Carter has won the Democratic nomination to run against the Republican nominee, Chad Debnam, who is also Black, we are assured that District 18 will be represented by a Black person.

I want to congratulate Ms. Carter on her victory and to thank each person who went out and voted.

While I am pleased at Ms. Carter's victory, I am saddened by the division that was brought on by the campaign. Things were said that should not have been said. Accusations were made that were unfounded; that may have damaged the character and reputation of some of our finest leaders and ministers.

I hope the things that have been done and said will not destroy the unity that has existed, between the community and the ministers over the past six years.

We who are Christian, must extend the first hand to see that the damage is not made permanent by

our pride and ego.

What happened is exactly what the white system in this city hoped would happen: a lot of mud slinging, so they could look at the leadership of the community and see how they could destroy the unity that we had.

We can't afford to be separated, not even for one day! There are too many things holding us back to quarrel with each other.

Remember, together we stand, divided we fall. God bless.

Vesia Dewese-Loving

The Observer welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters should be short, and must contain the writer's name and address (addresses are not printed). The Observer reserves the right to edit for length.



WE'RE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE
American Heart Association
in Oregon

Concerns raised about PIC plan

(Continued from page 1, column 6)

jobs and good opportunities come along, they will go to the new unemployed or the new poor."

There is also a charge that welfare recipients will be participating in the program for free. The plan currently reads, "No participant will receive this type of assistance (\$50.00 a week) while receiving wages, unemployment compensation or public assistance."

"There is no incentive if you are disadvantaged or low income. No

child care, bus fare or money for meals."

The unclear language of how one million dollars will be spent on youth, the question of a Northeast office and lack of community input in formulating the plan and its revisions, were also attacked.

Ronnie Herndon, from the Black United Front, said, "The current plan is full of holes for people who really need the services. Holes that welfare recipients, minority youth

and Black males will fall through."

Cole said, if the current plan is not approved, the entire JTPA program is jeopardized. "The state has informed us that it is unlikely that we will be able to begin our program."

Our source said, "The real option is that the state will give the money back to the City. There will be a program regardless of whether the current plan is approved."

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