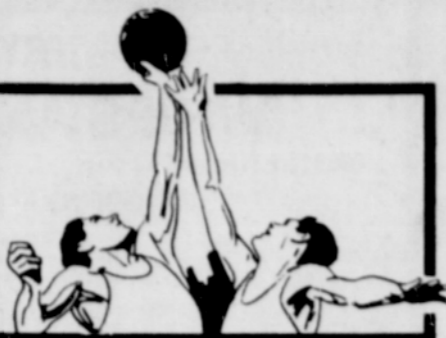


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Portland started the new year with a new City Council: (l-r) newly elected Commissioner Dick Bogle, Mike Lindberg, newly elected Mayor Bud Clark, Mildred Schwab and Margaret Strachan. (Photo: Dan Long)

Rev. Jackson to speak

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — Jesse Jackson, recent presidential candidate for the Democratic nomination, will be in our sister city — Seattle, Washington — January 16, 1985, at the Paramount Theatre.

Jackson will honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His appearance is at the invitation of the Pacific Northwest Bell Central City Community Relations Team. He is the featured speaker at the Central City C.R. Team's seventh annual Dr. King Birthday Celebration.

This year's program, "Renewing The Dream," will be held at 6:30 p.m. at 907 Pine St. Tickets are available at no charge by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: MLK Tickets, P.O. Box 2027, Seattle, Washington 98101.

"Rev. Jackson has done more to keep alive the dream of Dr. King," said Mary Moore, Central City C.R. chairperson. "We are honored that he has agreed to participate in our program."

Karen LeVasseur, also of PNW Bell, said, "We wanted to do something special, and there is nothing as special as listening to Rev. Jackson."

Jackson gained national prominence in 1966 when he and others founded Operation Breadbasket. He

served as national director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1966 to 1971. In 1971 he



JESSE JACKSON

founded Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity).

Most recently, Jackson assembled the Rainbow Coalition in his bid to win the Democratic presidential nomination.

Although he fell short of the nomination, Jackson remains a strong force in national politics. His speech at the Democratic Convention was considered to be the highlight of the year.

"Jackson has been instrumental in bringing many previously disenfranchised groups into the American political system," Moore said. "He has brought hope to those who had none."

Jews oppose apartheid

by Robert Lothian

A coalition of Jewish groups led the demonstration in front of the South African embassy in Washington, D.C., on Christmas Day.

Representatives of the groups said they wanted to affirm the close ties between Jews and Blacks in the struggle for justice and human rights, and to give Christians involved in the demonstrations a day off.

Some chanted Jewish prayers and carried menorahs (candle holders) marking the celebration of Hanukkah, an eight-day Jewish holiday.

The seven-week-old demonstrations have brought many arrests and are spreading across the country, but South African leaders appear as unmoved as ever.

One 61-year-old Jewish woman compared South Africa's leaders to Nazis. "Apartheid is precisely the same thing as the control of Jews in the ghettos of Europe by the Nazis," she said. "As a Jew, I know what discrimination and prejudice are all about. That's why I'm here."

Participating in the Washington demonstrations were the American Jewish Committee, the New Jewish

Agenda, the Jewish Labor Committee, and the Washington Association of Reformed Congregations. About 250 persons took part (Condensed from the L.A. Times-Washington Post Service).

Sandy Polishuk, board member of the New Jewish Agenda in Portland, said "a lot of our members are involved" in the local demonstrations.

The National group has endorsed the protests and the local group will discuss taking a stand in early January, said Polishuk. "I certainly would like us to be associated with it. I would be surprised if they didn't endorse it," she said.

She said her group received a piece of hate mail recently "from people calling themselves fascists," with a message that was anti-Jew, anti-Black, anti-gay and anti-communist.

The Christmas demonstration in Washington was in a long tradition of Jewish people volunteering on Christmas to give Christians the day off.

said Polishuk. New Jewish agenda members have been active in the Rainbow Coalition and in the Herb Hawthorne campaign, she added.



Attorney Beverly Stein, co-chair of the Democratic Socialists of America and Paquita L. Garatea, student employee in the Black Studies Department and history major at P.S.U., receive citations after being arrested for trespassing at the business office of Calvin Van Pelt, who is also the Honorary Consul to South Africa. Outside, about 50 people protested treatment by the minority white government of the country's Black majority under the system of apartheid. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

See related story "African and Black American connections" on Page 4.

New Right eyes anti-apartheid movement

by James Ridgeway

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Anti-apartheid demonstrations have by now become a permanent feature of the Washington landscape. South Africa has also been the focus of events which are much less visible but may be far more significant.

This city still has not recovered from the sharply critical letter sent the South African ambassador by 35 conservative House members, followed soon thereafter by President Reagan's own critical comments. Ever since, conservatives have been arguing among themselves about the correct policy toward South Africa.

Conservatives now dominate the political scene here, but liberals have not disappeared. Michigan Democrat John Conyers, an influential member of the Black Caucus, has charged that current policies of "constructive engagement" toward South Africa are, in effect, a cover for actions that encourage repression by the ruling white minority.

In their letter, the 35 Republicans, many of them "New Rightists," threatened to support economic sanctions against South Africa unless there was an immediate end to the current violence and "willingness to move more progressively and aggressively towards real human rights reforms."

The letter originated in the Conservative Opportunity Society, a group of 15 New Right House members, and was drafted by Robert Walker of Pennsylvania, who consulted with Black Caucus members before releasing it. The action upstaged later efforts by main-line Re-

publicans like Senators Richard Lugar and Nancy Kassebaum who wrote the President privately urging greater diplomatic efforts but staying well clear of a call for sanctions.

On the most obvious level, Walker's letter is part of a parliamentary guerrilla war being waged successfully by Newt Gingrich and other COS members. They want to project an unconventional "firebrand" image to build a far broader political base than conservatives have ever imagined. Blacks are viewed as potential allies of this new campaign.

Some conservatives also reason, more narrowly, that opposing apartheid is politically advantageous because it deflects criticism that the Right is racist. In foreign policy, the argument goes, such a position frees the New Right to vigorously back anti-communist forces in such places as Mozambique, Angola and Namibia. And at home, it may provide some political cover against liberal criticisms that efforts to cut social spending hurt minorities.

All in all, the COS letter probably represents a drift toward pragmatism by people who now see themselves on the threshold of greater political power. Certainly, the President felt prodded to follow. "We feel a moral responsibility to speak out on this matter," he said on International Human Rights Day, "to emphasize our concerns and our grief over the human and spiritual costs of apartheid." He went on to say that sometimes "quiet diplomacy is not enough."

Conyers' charges followed hard on the President's speech. He says the State Department is ignoring a 1977

arms embargo, which the United States has signed, and that the administration has also permitted South Africa to import equipment which can only be used for internal repression.

But whether challenges come from liberals or conservatives, there is considerable question as to whether economic ties between South Africa and the United States can be changed.

Opposition to the new right initiative, for example, came not from liberals but from corporations long linked to the region. By mid-December, ad hoc meetings were being held in Washington involving representatives from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Assn. of Manufacturers, as well as corporations like Mobil, Dresser Ind. and Caterpillar. The executives quickly agreed to lobby as a group against proposals banning new investment, or bank loans, or imposing any restrictions on U.S. firms in South Africa.

Perhaps the most important economic relationship between the two countries is in the area of minerals, which conservatives here have long argued are vital to our defense.

For example, the Soviet Union and South Africa are the world's largest producers of manganese, essential in the manufacture of steel, and chrome, needed for the stainless steel so vital to armaments and aircraft. Shutting off South Africa, the argument goes, would leave the west to the mercies of the Soviets.

South Africa is the world's third largest producer of uranium, and, again along with the USSR, the larg-

est producer of platinum — used in catalytic converters and upgrading gasoline, both essential in U.S. efforts to curb air pollution from automobiles.

But on examination, the case is not so strong. Manganese is found elsewhere — in Brazil and even hard-to-find chrome exists in large if declining deposits in Zimbabwe and in small low-grade deposits in Turkey, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Actually, U.S. dependence on South Africa has grown not because of its mineral deposits but because U.S. firms have established refining operations there. Under the current setup, even if platinum were mined in Utah it would have to be sent to South Africa for refining.

Beyond this is a much larger question — the little-noticed rise of South Africa's business as an independent element. Its mining companies have considerable global influence — the Anglo-American Corp., for instance, owns the U.S.-based Engelhardt Minerals Co., world's largest precious metals firm. And South Africa's third largest corporation, the Rothman/Rembrandt Group, accounts for one in 12 cigarettes sold in the non-communist world.

In the past, the new conservatives have not been unwilling to rally rhetorically against the "eastern business establishment," yet when push came to shove they lined up as loyal supporters of big business interests in Congress. But with the apartheid issue commanding so much attention, some observers wonder if the game will have to be played according to new rules this time.