

# Happy Holidays from the Portland Observer



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Two Sections

## Resolutions from National Rainbow Coalition Conference

Statement by the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Chairman.

This press conference brings to an end the National Rainbow Coalition conference. The Rainbow campaign of '84 has been in transition to becoming an organization in '85, and will emerge as a fullfledged national progressive political organization in 1986. We have just completed two days of working sessions on "how to" establish a state-by-state national organization.

We have also laid out our philosophy and our program. The National Rainbow Coalition is a grass-roots progressive political organization with a philosophy of humane priorities at home and human rights abroad. We will fight and organize for equal protection under the law at home and to measure human rights by one yardstick abroad.

Programmatically, this conference passed the following resolutions:

1. We resolve to study the Democratic National Committee and Democratic state organizations. Just as when we put our money in a bank we want to know what our return is, so too those of us who have invested our votes in the Democratic Party want to know what our return is in the Democratic National Committee and state Democratic organizations. We want to know their employment patterns, where they bank, to whom are their contacts for goods and services let, whether its slatemaking process reflects those who vote for the ticket, etc. In short, we want to know if we are getting a fair return on our investment.
2. We resolved to convene lawyers from across the country on Jan. 14 to map a strategy for a massive national legal assault on violations of the Voting Rights Act; and on Jan. 15, the first official national celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, to engage in direct action against the Reagan Justice Department for its sins of omission and commission.
3. We resolved to demand that the Justice Department, currently under the control of Republicans, enforce

the law relative to violations of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

4. We resolved to demand that the Democratic Party: (a) investigate the lack of enforcement of the Voting Rights Act by the Justice Department; and (b) live up to its pledge in the San Francisco Platform to conduct a serious study on impediments to voting rights.

5. We resolved: (a) to urge the Fairness Commission of the Democratic Party to adopt the principle of "proportional representation" or "one person, one vote" as the only definition for fairness; and (b) that the National Rainbow Coalition will establish its own Fairness Commission.

6. We resolved to congratulate Governor Tony Anaya of New Mexico for successfully leading the fight for disinvestment in South Africa in his state, and for appointing a Black as Secretary of State.

7. We resolved to convene a Mid-Term Convention in Washington, DC in April of 1986 to continue the process of organizing the National Rainbow Coalition; to project issues of concern; and to project our political involvement in certain of the 36 gubernatorial, 34 U.S. Senate and 435 U.S. Representative races to be held in 1986.

8. We resolved to make the plight of family farmers and farm families a major organizing priority of the National Rainbow Coalition.

9. We resolved to intensify our opposition to South African apartheid by calling for a stoppage of the loading and unloading of ships going to and from South Africa, a cutoff of oil shipments to South Africa, and a severing of all trade ties.

10. We resolved to urge that the struggles currently raging in Central America be resolved through negotiations; that the current U.S. Military buildup and threats of invasion cease; and that we support the current international peace march in Central America—which we will join before its conclusion.

11. We resolved, in the face of the dramatic increase in the number of poor people in America, to call again for a national War on Poverty.

## Rep. Wyden seeks more federal narcotics agents for Oregon

"Drug abuse is one of the leading factors contributing to the increase in Portland's crime rate." This statement was made by Ron Wyden, D-OR, last Saturday at a news conference at Maranatha Church. Wyden said he will request an increase in the number of federal drug agents to combat the problem of drug trafficking in Oregon.

According to Wyden, he had statistics showing increases in assaults, robberies, arson, burglaries, and auto thefts in Portland. "People with drug habits commit some of these crimes to support their habits,"

he said Wyden said that in 1979 Portland had 12 federal drug enforcement agents, compared to only eight today. He blames the reduction on 1981 federal budget cuts.

Rev. John Garlington, pastor of Maranatha, who joined Wyden at the news conference, said Wyden's action would bring a "ray of hope" to Northeast Portland. Wyden said that drug trafficking was more prevalent in Northeast Portland than anywhere else in the community. Wyden said that he will ask for the agents next month.



Addie Jean Haynes, President of LINKS, presents a check to Richard Menefee for the Boise/Eliot School Band. LINKS also presented the school with instruments, all to help the school have a marching band. Looking on are (left to

right) Freddy Prophete; Glenn Ludtke, Band Director; Betty Campbell, Principal; Jeanne Hartzog; Mildred Reynolds; Yvonne Williams; and Lydia Roy. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Government blamed for increase in homeless

by Jerry Garner

The number of homeless in America has been estimated anywhere from two to three million, the most since the Great Depression.

Some 2.5 million low-income people lose their homes yearly due to evictions or other reasons.

Many of today's homeless are women and children (in 1985, three out of four people who became homeless were children), families, alcoholics, the unemployed and the chronic mentally ill. Homeless among the mentally ill has reached unprecedented magnitude and complexity.

Mentally ill individuals can be seen wandering through Old Town Portland and other cities throughout the country. Many sleep on sidewalks, under bridges, or in condemned dwellings. In the Burnside area, more than 60 percent of the homeless are alcoholics, while the mentally ill are the second largest group of homeless.

Some in the social service field blame the domestic politics of the Reagan administration for the increase in the number of homeless people across the nation. Last year the American Psychiatric Association recommended that President Reagan issue an executive order simplifying federal regulations that hinder the homeless. The report by the Psychiatric Association was dismissed as incomplete by administration officials who testified last year before a congressional subcommittee, holding hearings on the homeless problem.

"The Reagan administration has utterly repudiated programs designed to create housing for the poor," said Robert M. Hayes, founder of the New York-based National Coalition for the Homeless. Hayes made this statement during a conference on the homeless that was sponsored by the Ecumenical Ministries Commission of Oregon.

Last year the Department of Housing and Urban Development announced there were at most 350,000 homeless people in the United States. Organizations serving the homeless denounced this figure, saying it was a misleading "political statistic" designed to justify cuts in federal funds to aid the homeless.

There is no disputing the administration is spending less on low-

income housing for the poor. Federal assistance for low-income housing has decreased from \$26.6 billion in 1980 to \$500 million in 1984.

The citizens' Commission on Civil Rights accused the Reagan administration of actively trying to undo some of the progress that has been made in fair housing since the Civil Rights Act of 1968 was passed.

Recently the President announced

he plans to require local and state governments to pay half of the administrative cost of the main federal program providing rental assistance to low-income families. Presently, they do not pay any administrative costs.

Recently, the President announced he was planning on selling the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to private bidders and cut housing sub-

sidies in 1987 fiscal year. The FHA has provided mortgage insurance to 51 million Americans since 1934.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), Chairman of the House Governmental Operations subcommittee on Housing and Unemployment, called Reagan's proposal appalling but not surprising. Frank said that he doubts if Congress would approve Reagan's plan.



Tears of success—Dalya Hasan sheds tears of success after being crowned Miss Tan 1985-86 Sunday at the

Cosmopolitan Hotel. See additional picture on page 6. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)