



RELIGION

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Religion Editor, Portland Observer
P.O. Box 3137
Portland OR 97208

Pendleton Attacks Set-Aside Program

by Jerry Garner

Clarence M. Pendleton, Jr., Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, said the Set-Aside program which reserves money or contracts for businesses owned by Blacks, Hispanics, and women should be suspended for one year.

Pendleton said the minority Set-Aside program has not been effective and has been marked by "rampant corruption and fraud". He said the program has benefited only wealthy minority contractors.

The federal Set-Aside program is carried out under laws passed by Congress and under Executive orders of three Presidents. Last year \$5 billion was awarded to minority businesses under the program. The program helps minority business procure federal contracts.

Pendleton said at least 26 percent of the minority businesses are "front organizations" or "sham firms", which benefit larger White-owned businesses. Pendleton's view is shared by the Associated General Contractor (AGC), a Washington based highway construction lobby group.

AGC claims the Set-Aside program to minority businesses has increased the cost of government; has bankrupt many White-owned businesses; and discriminates against smaller White sub-

contractors.

Although President Reagan's record is considered by many to be insensitive to minorities in areas of civil rights, the President through the White House has reaffirmed his support for the minority Set-Aside program.

The merit of the program was also defended by Ralph C. Thomas III, Executive Director of the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC).

Thomas said on the McNeil/Lehr News Hour that the federal program has been a boom in getting minority and women contractors in the mainstream of the American marketplace.

Thomas agreed with Pendleton that there is a problem with front or sham businesses in the program, but he disagreed with Pendleton's assertion that 26 percent of those minority-owned businesses in the Set-Aside program are front or sham. Thomas said suspending the program for a year isn't the way to address the program.

"The Defense Department wastes billions of dollars each year in fraud. But no one has recommended suspending the Defense program for a year," said Thomas. Thoms said suspending the program would "send the wrong signal to cities and states starting their own minority business enterprise programs."

Annual Usher's Program

The Usher Department of the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church will present its first annual Usher's Program, Sunday, April 20, 1986, 5:00 p.m. The Rev. John Sims, Coordinator for Computer Field Services and Professor of Electronics, Portland Community College, Cascade, will be the guest speaker.

The theme for the occasion is "Ushers: God's Faithful Doorkeepers." Services will be officiated by the Union Ushers.

The Public is most welcome to attend. Rev. Sims is also a member of the Mt. Olivet church which is located at: 116 NE Schuyler, NE First and Schuyler off of Broadway. Contact: Cleavon Jackson, phone 287-6136.

Red Cross Babysitting Classes Scheduled

Boys and girls 11 years and older have an opportunity to develop their knowledge and chances for babysitting jobs in a Red Cross Babysitting course. This four-session course is being offered in three locations:

Mt. Scott Community Center, 5530 SE 72nd, Portland, Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 29, May 1, 6, and 8, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Oak Grove School, 1901 SE Oak Grove Blvd., Milwaukie, Tuesdays, April 29 and May 6, 13, and 20, 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

American Red Cross Headquarters, 3131 N Vancouver Ave., Portland, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

These sessions are presented as a community service by Red Cross volunteer Babysitting instructors. They

will explain the responsibilities of watching small children, elementary first aid, how to deal with emergencies, how to interview for a job, what to expect of parents who hire you and what parents expect from the sitter.

The class size is limited. The charge is \$10 per student. Please call 284-1234, ext. 175, to pre-register.

Free Clinic

A free Sports Medicine Clinic will be held Sat., April 26, from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Portland Naturopathic Clinic. A free screening history and physical exam will be followed by fitness evaluations. Available will be workshops on "Nutrition and the Athlete" and "Naturopathic First Aid." For an appointment please call 255-7355.

City Council Reaffirms PIIAC

Subpoena Powers

by Jerry Garner

By a 4-1 vote, the Portland City Council agreed with the Police Internal Investigations Auditing Committee (PIIAC), that the voter approved committee has the authority to issue subpoenas to Portland police officers.

The Council vote now paves the way for City Attorney Jeffrey Rogers to enforce subpoenas issued by PIIAC against three policemen who have refused since last October to testify before the Audit Committee.

Outgoing Commissioner Mildred Schwab, was the only commissioner to vote no on the subpoena issue. The 4-1 vote was a surprise to many who follow PIIAC. Before last Wednesday's vote, some thought that the Council would affirm PIIAC's subpoena power by a 3-2 vote. This is because, in the past, Commissioner Dick Bogle had voted against making the officers testify.

Bogel is Chairman of the Council Committee which oversees PIIAC, along with Commissioners Mike Lindberg and Margaret Strachan.

Commissioner Bogel was asked why did he change his mind? He replied, that after carefully reviewing the ordinance which led to the creation of PIIAC he believed that the law provides

PIIAC the power to subpoena witnesses, including police officers.

"I believe that PIIAC should have no greater nor lesser powers than granted to it by law," said Bogel. Commissioner Bogel said that his aim is to insure that all of us follow precisely the provisions of the City code previously adopted by Council and affirmed by the voters in the general referendum.

The ruling was a bitter defeat for Chief Penny Harrington and the Portland Police Association. Both the Chief and the Association argue that PIIAC was over stepping their authority in issuing the subpoenas of the officers. Mayor Bud Clark voted yes, although the Chief recommended that he vote against the subpoena enforcement.

In other related PIIAC news, Commissioner Bogel appointed R. Billy R. Flowers to the Audit Committee. Dr. Flowers is a practitioner of Chiropractic Medicine and an active member of Portland's Maranatha Church. According to Commissioner Bogel, Dr. Flowers was highly recommended by church leaders. Dr. Flowers fills the vacancy created by the tragic and untimely death of Reverend John Garlington. Garlington and his wife were killed in a traffic accident last January in Florida.

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the Bible says... Follow peace with all men, & holiness without which no man shall see the Lord

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