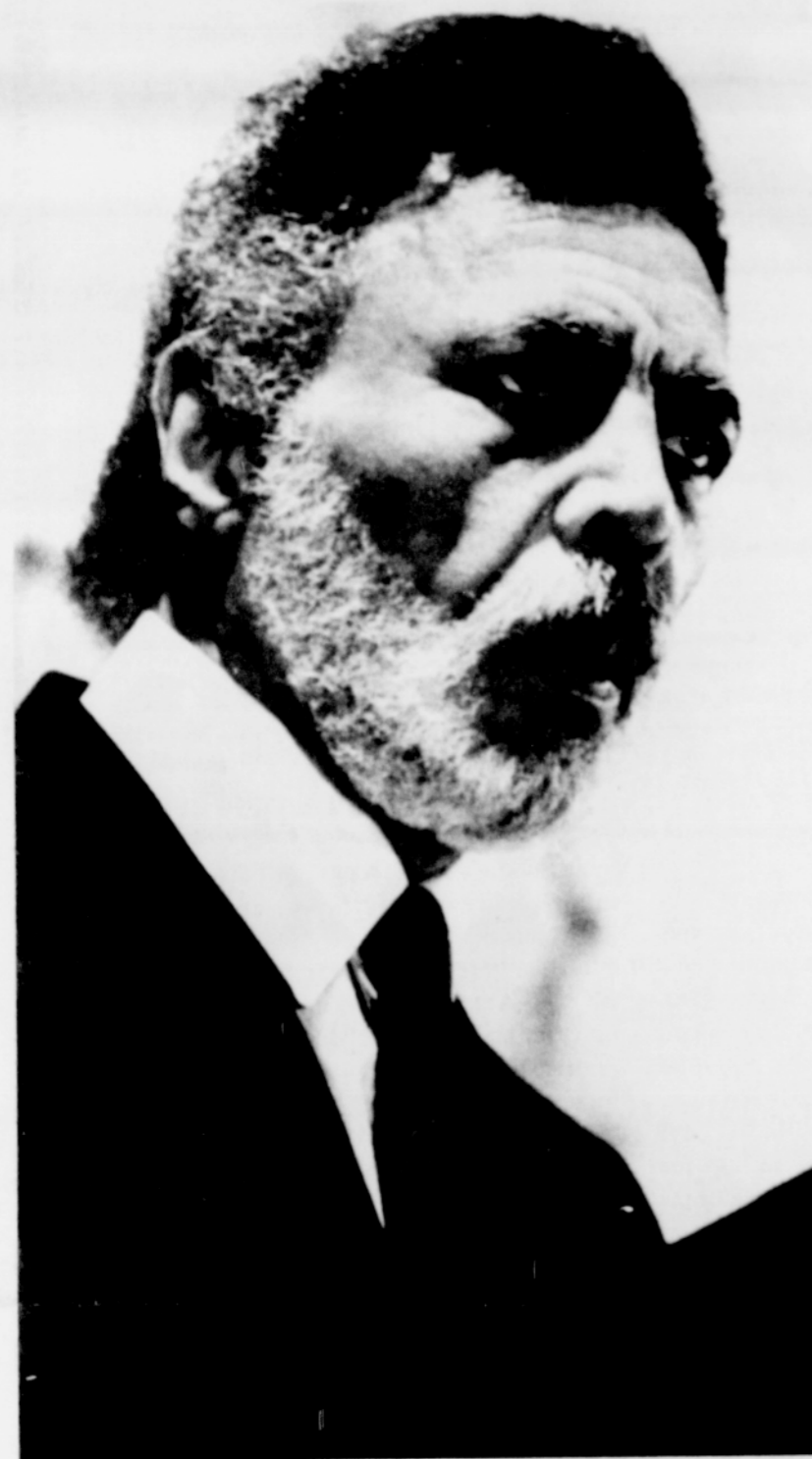


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Dellums Criticizes U.S. Domestic Policies



Congressman Ronald V. Dellums, Democrat from California on Gramm-Rudman legislation — "mindless, compassionless and an approach to the budget that lacks totally accountability."

Photo Richard J. Brown

"The U.S. Government has abandoned its policy of caring for the poor, the elderly, children, and providing quality education and health care for the needy." Under the Reagan Administration, the United States has taken the policy of more guns and less butter. These statements were made by U.S. Representative Ronald V. Dellums, D. California.

Dellums was in Portland as the keynote speaker at the closing of a three-day Region X Blacks in Government (BIG) training conference at the Marriott Hotel. Dellums asked the crowd of 600, "what do you think of a nation whose priorities are the production of nuclear weapons, instead of providing programs to fight hunger, poverty, illiteracy and unemployment." "National security means not only military expenditure," said Dellums. "It must be expanded to include the economic well-being, the intellectual well-being of our people."

Dellums has represented California's 8th Congressional District, comprised of parts of Contra Costa County and Alameda County in the East Bay area, since his initial election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1970. In the 99th Congress he continues to serve as chair of the House Armed Services Committee on Military Installations and Facilities and as a senior member of its Research and Development Subcommittee.

In 1979 he was first elected Chair of the House Committee of the District of Columbia. As such, he became the first member of the House Class of 1970 to be elected Chair of a full committee in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Dellums said under the Reagan administration, this nation has experienced the biggest military build up in time of peace in history. He said such a build up is dangerous and unnecessary.

Dellums said, "I have been in the U.S. Congress for 16 years and each year I have been hearing the Russians are coming." "They haven't come yet, because they know if they attack the U.S., there will be an all out nuclear holocaust."

Dellums said that the present administration in Washington is spending more to find a home for the MX missile than to find homes for the millions of homeless in America.

Dellums also reminded the predominantly Black audience about the misery afflicting millions of Blacks living in poverty. "As I speak to you tonight,

there are 10 million Blacks living in poverty, 47 percent of all Black children live in a state of poverty, more than half of all Black families headed by women live in poverty."

Dellums said since Reagan took office in 1980, the number of Blacks attending college has decreased from 49 percent to 28 percent. Dellums urged the audience to join in developing a new national set of "human priorities."

The California Congressman criticized the Gramm-Rudman Bill which calls for automatic across the table budget cuts for programs in trimming the federal budget. Dellums called the Gramm-Rudman Bill "mindless compassionless and an approach to the budget that lacks total accountability." "If Gramm-Rudman goes into effect in fiscal year 1987, it will bring chaos beyond our ability to comprehend." Dellums compared the Gramm-Rudman approach to a computer. "How can you make a computer accountable," he asked the crowd.

The objective of the Region X BIG Conference is to implement national objectives in the most effective and efficient manner. These objectives are:

- To be an advocate of equal opportunity for Blacks In Government.
- To eliminate practices of racism against Blacks In Government.
- To promote professionalism among Blacks In Government.
- To enhance the promotion of ethnic pride and socio-economic, civic and cultural programs and fellowship which will serve to bind Blacks together.
- To develop programs and training that enhances the sense of well-being for Blacks In Government.
- To establish a mechanism for the compilation, synthesis, dissemination and coordination and information for Blacks In Government, thereby continually upgrading communications among Black employees across government, with the objective of attaining strength through shared knowledge and organizational unity.
- To provide a non-partisan platform on major issues of local and national significance so that our members may better know and express their individual minds on matters which may affect them.

The Region X Conference was hosted by the Columbia River Chapter of Blacks In Government. Participants came from Idaho, Washington, Alaska and Oregon.



Photo by Richard J. Brown

Groups Organize to Support Penny

by Bob Lothian

Two ad hoc groups have formed to organize support for former police chief Penny Harrington.

"Portland Thanks Penny," a group spearheaded by Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives Vera Katz and Rep. Margaret Carter, had tentatively scheduled a public event for the morning of Saturday, June 21.

The event has been endorsed by the Urban League of Portland and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, and will "probably take place in a church," but an exact location remains to be decided, said group spokeswoman Julie Williamson.

"We were trying to think of a way to let everyone be involved who wants to say thanks," said Williamson, a Portland consultant. "There are a lot of people who feel that the things she was doing at the police department were right . . . and that her policies were having some effect in how the community wants the department to change." Meanwhile, another group, "People for Penny," met at City Hall last Thursday to map out a campaign of support.

The group discussed drafting a press statement and holding a public rally, "Reviewing the review process," and contacting national women's organizations and the television program "60 Minutes."

"Clearly, we need to pack City Hall," said Beverly Stein, former aide to City Commissioner Margaret Strachan. Stein suggested that the group reserve a place on the agenda for an upcoming City Council meeting.

Spokeswoman Mary Zinkin said "People for Penny" will coordinate its efforts with "Portland Thanks Penny."

Her group may organize a public rally of its own later, however, Zinkin said.

One woman present at the City Hall meeting expressed concern about the need to move fast before the issue fades. "The silence is deafening," she said.

Many women spoke of a sense of personal loss after Harrington resigned.

"Can't we just get together and show some support for her," said one woman.

Others acknowledged the difficulty of fighting the entrenched power of conservative elements in the Police Bureau and union.

"I feel that the culprit in the whole thing is (police union president) Stan Peters," said Carmen Orso, a program chairwoman with American Friends Service Committee. "Something has got to be done to investigate that man."

"Sexist and racist" is how Cathy Siemens described Harrington's treatment by the Special Review Commission and by her subordinates in the Police Bureau.

The former chief's troubles began, Siemens said, when she banned the sleeper hold and fired the officers who sold "Don't Choke 'Em, Smoke 'Em" T-shirts. Rank and file officers were unwilling to follow Harrington because she was a woman, and also because she was willing to communicate with black leaders, Siemens said.

May DuBois, 85, who described herself as an "outraged woman," criticized Mayor Clark.

"I think Clark threw her to the wolves," DuBois said. "I think he should have stood up for her."

"Even the mafia shows loyalty," said another woman.

Harrington's Conflicts With Bureau Was Inevitable

by Jerry Garner

Former Portland Police Chief Penny E. Harrington's conflicts with the Police Bureau and the Police Union were inevitable from the first day Mayor Bud Clark appointed her to that position back in January of 1985.

There were several reasons why the former Chief experienced difficulties in running the Bureau. She inherited a Bureau that was sexist, racist unaccountable to public scrutiny, lacking discipline, and years behind in organizational efficiency. The Bureau also has been rocked with scandals involving officers committing criminal and racist acts.

It was not surprising that Harrington's management style and overall leadership skills were attacked by members of the Bureau before the Lezak Commission. Harrington was attempting to reform the Portland Police Bureau. She was trying to make the Bureau accountable to the public, to make individual officers responsible for their actions, and to put emphasis on education and prevention in addition to enforcement.

Such were not the goals of some upper-management personnel and the Portland Police Union. Their position to policing and crime fighting is to bust heads, lock 'em up, and throw away the key.

Furthermore, during Harrington's 22 years on the Bureau she was attacked, harassed, and retaliated against for filing 42 civil rights complaints against the Bureau. In 1975, she was a defendant in a suit along with the National Black Police Association against the now defunct Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). The suit challenged the awarding of federal funds to police bureaus who were guilty of racial and sexual discrimination. Such actions were bound to make Harrington unpopular with the White male dominated police bureau. As Harrington put it, "you can't do those things without getting some mud thrown at you."

Of all the actions in which Harrington took as Chief, none angered those in the Bureau more than the Chief's attempts to discipline officers who engaged in behavior detrimental to the image of the Bureau and her meeting with citizens (especially Black citizens) to discuss legitimate issues regarding the police and the community.

For instance, when Harrington ordered Stan Peters to return to work after it was revealed that he was drawing half a patrolman's salary for four years without performing any work, Peters stated that Harrington and her sister, Captain Roberta Webber, who is the

Bureau's personnel Division Director, were retaliating against him.

When Portland Mayor Bud Clark, on the recommendation of Chief Harrington, fired the two officers who sold the infamous "Don't Choke 'Em, Smoke 'Em T-Shirts", Peters claimed the two were "dismissed for political reasons," and that Harrington and Clark were "too quick to follow recommendations made by leaders of the Black community."

This was not the case. When Harrington ordered Peters to work for his city's paycheck, she was only doing her job as a good administrator. As for Peters claims that Harrington and Clark were too quick to follow the recommendations of the Black community, it was Peters way of saying that the Chief shouldn't listen to the legitimate complaints of Black Portlanders.

Harrington responded to Peters criticism by saying "some police want the Chief to come out 100 percent for the Police Bureau; saying that the Police Bureau is 100 percent right and you guys (the public) to get off their backs." "You cannot always defend the Bureau." "We are going to make mistakes, and I just don't think it accomplishes anything to take that stonewall approach and just tell the community to go fly a kite."

Such openness by Harrington made her a constant target by members of the Bureau. This is because historically the Bureau (like most departments) operates in a "cult of secrecy." It is this cult of secrecy among the police, which is the main reason police administrators have trouble trying to control police behavior. How can they control what their policemen do when it is so hard to find out what they do?

Finally, Harrington's relations with Black citizens of Portland was a strike against her. "Relations between the Black community and the Police Bureau improved during Harrington's administration. Her sensitivity to legitimate concerns of the Black community was one of the reasons why she experienced conflicts with the Police Union," said Robert Phillips. Phillips is Director of Multnomah County Affirmative Action and Chairman of the Greater Northeast Police Advisory Council.

Given the animosity directed at Harrington during her tenure with the Bureau, it was predictable that she would be a victim of dirty politics, lies, and prosecution by officers in the Bureau who believe that a woman isn't capable of leading a police department.

Harrington Disagrees with Commission Findings

by Jerry Garner

Former Portland Police Chief Penny E. Harrington disagreed strongly with the findings of the Lezak Commission Report. Harrington said that when the Commission was established, she was told that "its purpose was to determine whether her reorganization of the Drug and Vice Division had caused an increase in narcotics activity in the city and to review the Internal Investigation

of Officer Bruce Gary Harrington." The former Chief said her entire presentation before the Lezak Commission was geared to provide them information on the Drug and Vice reorganization.

"Never, at any time, was I informed that this was to be a review of my management style, my overall leadership skills, or my capabilities as Chief of Police." "I would have presented a much broader range of information and witnesses if I had been informed that was the charge to the Commission."

Harrington said for that reason, she believes the report is flawed. "There are so many inaccuracies in the report, it appears that the Commission overlooked factual information that I presented and was unduly influenced by emotional allegations by witnesses supplied by the Police Union.

In addition to the factual inaccuracies, there are major errors in the general finding." Harrington said allegations accusing her of failing to consult with commanders before making

important decisions, and failing to plan and coordinate the training of units to prepare them for changes was untrue. Harrington said that when she was Chief, she took several steps to ensure input to decisions. "For the first time in the history of the Portland Police Bureau, there are employee input groups in every unit," said Harrington.

Harrington also said that the Lezak Commission failed to show that her reorganization of the Bureau's Drug and Vice Division caused an increase in

drug trafficking in Portland. "The Bureau's narcotics arrests are up 32 percent and some of the biggest arrests in the Bureau's history have been made in the past few months."

"The question that needs to be answered is, to whom is the Chief of Police accountable?" said Harrington. "Is the Chief accountable to the Mayor and the citizens of Portland or the Police Union and other individuals within the Police Bureau and the criminal justice system," Harrington said.

Many Black Portlanders whom the Observer contacted expressed sorrow in the resignation of Harrington. "Although there were problems in her administration, it was no more than former Chiefs." "It appeared to me that the criticism against her was intentional on the part of the Police Union and some upper-level managers within the Bureau," said Jean Vessup. Vessup is an investigator with the State of Oregon Civil Rights Division and Vice Chairman of the Police Internal Investigation Audit Committee (PIIAC).

Vessup gave the former Chief credit

for opening up dialogue between the Police Bureau, Black citizens of Portland, and City Hall. Vessup said by Harrington being a woman was also a main reason why she experienced difficulties during her tenure as Chief.

Robert Phillips, Chairman of the Greater Northeast Police Advisory Council, said that Harrington was only Chief to address the Council in its 11-year history. "Former Chief Ron Still refused to attend any of our meetings." "He told me that he didn't believe in citizen involvement in police work," said Phillips.

Phillips said that he hopes the new Chief will continue to be sensitive and responsible to the legitimate concerns of the Black community. "I think that the new Chief must continue the dialogue with the Black community, while at the same time lead the Bureau." "In addition, he/she must receive full support from the Mayor and city commissioners in carrying out his/her tasks." Phillips said Harrington didn't have full support from the city government body.

People contemplating a move should think about finding a good home for their money.