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Horace Johnson, Northeast Portland Businessman

Photo by Richard J. Brown

Northeast Businessman Receives Award

by Jerry Garner

Horace Johnson, a Northeast Portland businessman, was honored recently in San Francisco by the United States Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency as Regional Minority Retail Firm of the Year.

Johnson, the owner of Parkrose Liquor Store, Agency 120 and Ja'Bell's Beauty & Barber Supplies, was honored for his exemplary achievements in various fields of business. He was also one of the five finalists for National Minority Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Johnson's selection as Regional Minority Retail Firm of the Year was in conjunction with Minority Enterprise Development

Week. For the past three years, President Reagan has designated the first full week in October as Minority Enterprise Development Week in honor of the nation's minority business owners and their contribution to the national economy.

Johnson said that it was an honor to be recognized by the U.S. Department of Commerce for his achievements as an entrepreneur. "By being selected as Regional Minority Retail Firm of the Year, it lets me know that I am making the proper business decisions. Furthermore, most importantly, my selection can show young people that they can do anything they want by working hard and believing in themselves."

Gary Urges Defeat of Measure 6

by Jerry Garner

Bobby L. Gary, president of the Portland Chapter of the National Black Women's Health Project (NBWHP), said that Oregonians should vote down Ballot Measure 6 in the upcoming elections.

"This ballot measure is restrictive and wrong. It especially discriminates against low-income, young, and minority women. Proponents of this measure are the same individuals who are anti-pro-choice. We (NBWHP) respect the value of potential human life; we do not take the question of abortion lightly. While we do not advocate abortion, we oppose legislation designed to limit the exercise of moral choice or restricts access to abortion services," said Gary.

Presently the State of Oregon provides for medically necessary abortions as part of the total health care services available to women eligible for public assistance. The state does not pay for an abortion for every woman who asks. Only those dependent on the state for their health care are eligible for state-financed abortions. Ballot Measure 6, if passed, would amend our state constitution to prohibit the use of state funds for abortions. The only exception is the prevent the death of the mother. Gary said this is another reason why NBWHP



Bobbi Gary, Black Women's Health Project.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

is opposed to Measure 6.

"This measure makes no exception if a woman is raped, is a victim of incest, or for the endangerment of the mother's health. Besides this, Measure 6, if passed, would increase the cost to Oregon's taxpayers by some \$100,000 in pregnancy-related costs alone."

Gary also accused some of the backers of Measure 6 of hypocrisy. "Some of the so-called pro-lifers, who are trying to shove their particular religious doctrine on abortion on others, are the same people who are against funding social programs that are needed by millions of children living in poverty."

The National Black Women's Health Project is a special educational program that addresses the key health issues facing Black American women. The goal of the NBWHP is to demystify medicine and health care, to empower Black women to take charge of their lives, and to provide necessary health care information and self-help skills to assist them in actively working to improve their health.

The scooter was invented by a 15-year-old London schoolboy, Walter Lines, in 1897. But he didn't take out a patent. His father didn't think it would catch on.

A Checklist For Election '86

Next month, Americans around the nation will go to the polls to elect members to the House, Senate and state houses. It is a critical election. For Americans will be doing more than merely casting a vote for one candidate or another. They will, in most cases, be faced with a clear choice between two opposing political philosophies. On the one hand, certain candidates embrace a philosophy that falls under the general rubric of "Reaganism," an ideology that absolves government of its traditional role as overseer of the general welfare and has led to economic hardship for millions of working men and women. Others advocate a philosophy that engenders social responsibility and a belief that government has an obligation to ensure social and economic justice for all it governs.

In many of these key races, the black vote will be critical in determining the final outcome. Blacks, who have been disproportionately hurt by "Reaganisms'" ill-conceived social and economic policies, have a real stake in the future composition of the House and Senate, and can play a pivotal role in changing this nation's political course.

The following checklist provides a summary of critical issues blacks and other voters may use to gauge a potential effectiveness of a candidate.

- Where does the candidate stand on U.S. industrial policy? Since black economic and social progress is inextricably linked to the overall performance of the national economy, a viable candidate must be committed to protecting and expanding basic industries, many of which have been decimated by Reagan economic and trade policies. The government must make it a top priority to save beleaguered goods-producing and manufacturing sectors from unfair competition by adopting fair trade policies, while discouraging businesses from relocating abroad.

- Where does a candidate stand on education and federal vocational and job training programs? Blacks and other workers face an increasingly specialized and competitive job market. The government must play an active role in easing the transition of workers displaced by structural changes in the economy, cybernation and other technological advances, and in developing a more highly skilled workforce better able to compete in the international marketplace.

- Does the candidate have a comprehensive strategy for reducing poverty and easing the suffering of the underclass? Clearly, there must be a renewed commitment to social spending for the poor and ill trained to help break the hopeless cycle of joblessness, poverty, family dissolution and social pathology that threatens future generations of young people.

- Is the candidate firmly committed to safeguarding civil rights and anti-discrimination laws and regulations? In the decades following the landmark legislative victories of the mid-1960's, the government has passed legislation indispensable to social advancement for blacks, women and other minorities. One fundamental tenet of "Reaganism" appears to be the rolling back of those gains through an assault on affirmative action and other programs. The government needs to once again reclaim its role as a guarantor of social justice for all.

- Is the candidate committed to the advancement of democracy and human rights around the globe? Our government must be prepared to support the growth of democracy around the globe, be it in South African, Poland, Chile or elsewhere in the Third World. The Reagan policy of "constructive engagement" in South Africa has been an unmitigated failure, and the government must make more of an effort to use its resources to help the growth of democracy and the abolition of apartheid in South Africa.

As the election draws near, candidates will once again come courting the black vote. We must be prepared to use this checklist to determine whether a candidate's agenda and philosophy merit our support.