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Bogle/Clark Address Neighborhood Association

by Jerry Garner

"We are handcuffed in our attempts to make a more effective government by a system that creates delays . . . works at cross-purposes . . . duplicates work . . . and is wasteful."

The above statement came from Portland City Commissioner Dick Bogle. Bogle made these comments last Tuesday before a group of about 50 people during a Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods meeting at the King Facility.

Bogle was at the neighborhood association meeting promoting City Ballot Measure 51 and 52. The two measures, which will be before the voters in the November 4th general election, are designed to update the City's civil service system.

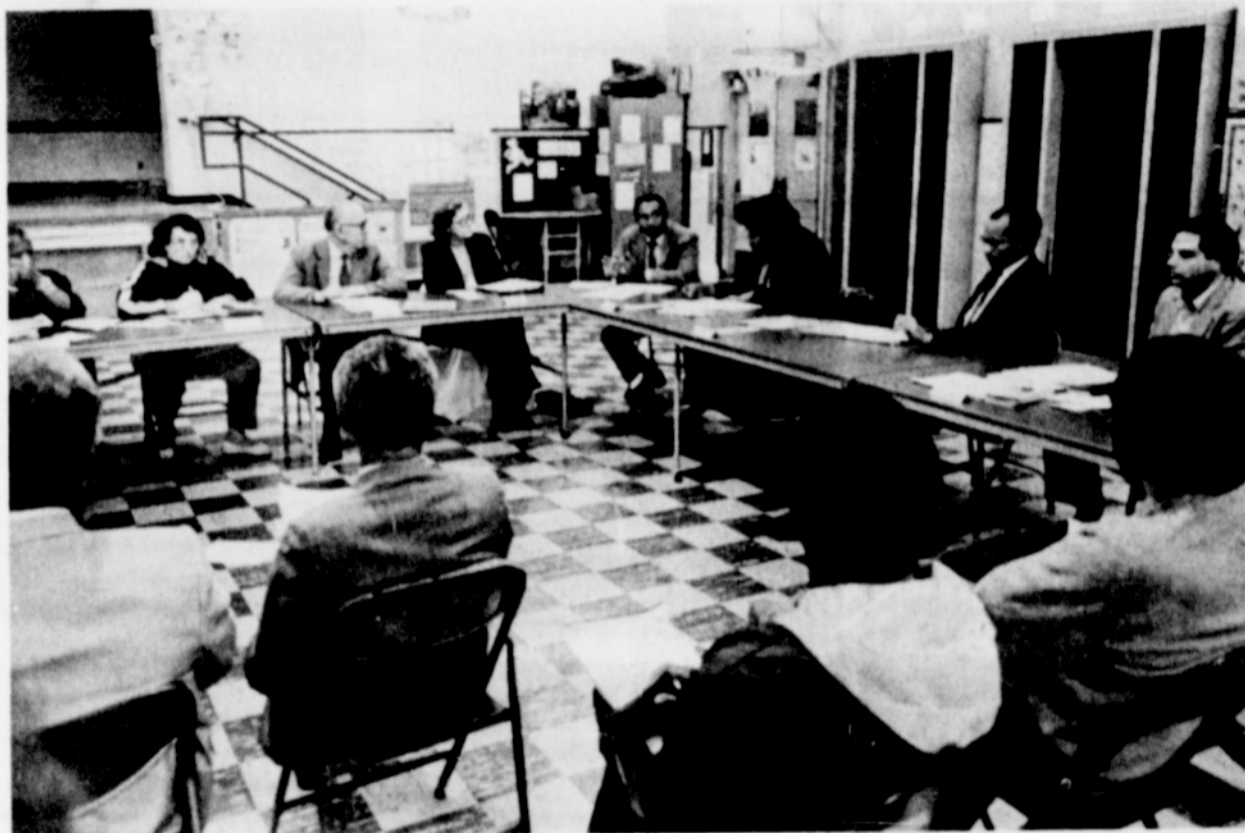
Measure 51 would concentrate personnel management in the Personnel Department. Measure 52 would exempt high-ranking city managers hired after December 31 from the civil service process.

Bogle said that reform is urgently needed to update the City's 83-year-old civil service system. "It is a system that is antiquated, cumbersome, ineffective, and unable to respond to the issues of the day. It is a system that is out of synch with society and a rapidly changing work environment."

Furthermore, he said the absence of centralized management in the City personnel system has caused problems. "Chief among them is the fact that the City cannot implement uniform personnel practices because of the complete separation of the functions of civil service from the functions of the personnel bureau."

Bogle said that the separation is further complicated by the commission form of government the City has, saying that under such a system, elected officials serve dual roles as both administrators and legislators.

During his ten-minute presentation, Bogle gave those in attendance a brief history lesson on the City's civil service system, telling them that the City of Portland's Civil Service Board and its opera-



tions are products of a government reform movement that took place during the early years of this century.

"Civil service reform was intended to eliminate the practice of political patronage and the so-called spoils system. To guard against this practice in the early 20th Century, the conventional approach was to place the authority for decisions on employee selection, promotion, and separation in independent commissions and boards," Bogle said.

Bogle said these boards and commissions were to be separate from the political body and municipal managers to prevent outside political pressures. This resulted in the creation of the Portland Civil Service System into the City Charter. The Civil Service Board was given the authority to: classify all offices and employment in the City service; hold competitive examinations; establish registers of qualified persons; and make public rules regard-

ing examinations, promotions, and removals.

"At the time it appeared like a good idea whose time had come. The problem is this is 1986. Many changes have taken place in public personnel management since the creation of the Portland Civil Service Board," said Bogle.

Bogle said the present civil service system results in delays in the most routine personnel matters such as testing, promotions, class

sifications, and reclassifications. "The result is a frequent use of temporary appointments and a loss of qualified applicants. This means a loss of not only time and efficiency, but taxpayer dollars."

Bogle told the audience Measures 51 and 52 would make City government efficient, responsible to the needs of citizens, accountable, effective, enhance the government's ability to attract and retain high quality employees, and will bring

the personnel system out of the dark ages and into the 20th Century.

Mayor Clark told the same audience that they should support Measure 26-19. "This measure would result in the approval of a \$65 million general obligation bond to construct the Oregon Convention and Trade Show Center. The bond will be financed through property taxes and through an increase of 6 to 9 percent room tax on hotels, and \$5 million assessed on area businesses."

Clark said passage of Ballot Measure 26-19 would immediately provide 900 construction jobs and 3,400 direct and indirect jobs once the center was in operation. He said, in the future, tourism will be one of the state's main providers of jobs.

"Due to the lack of an adequate convention center, Portland ranks last when comparing it to other west coast cities in convention bookings. Unless the convention center is built, we will continue to lose those convention dollars to Seattle, San Francisco, San Diego and other cities," Clark said.



Gladys McCoy, candidate, Multnomah County Chair.

Alcohol and Drugs: Going on the Offensive

Gladys McCoy, candidate for Multnomah County Chair, today presented highlights of her six-point program to deal with alcohol and drugs. "The domestic issue for the next decade will be the epidemic of chemical dependency that is sweeping the country," McCoy stated, adding that "every age group, social-economic class and institution is already experiencing broad and deep impact from this problem. Public concern will continue to grow, and disenchantment with current policies and strategies will mount."

McCoy continued, "Jail and prison overcrowding, and the breakdown of the criminal justice system are due largely to the increasing abuse of drugs and alcohol." She points to the prison population composed of 80% for crimes committed either while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or to gain resources to purchase the chemicals, or for commerce in illegal intoxicants.

McCoy's six-point program calls for action that she terms "reasonable to do under existing policy." McCoy's program will:

1. expand the alcohol and drug treatment system by doubling the public expenditure of funds. Multnomah County currently expends \$3.9 million annually, while the State of Oregon spends \$12 million.
2. Provide "no waiting" access to appropriate intervention, by accommodating the required variety and mix of services.
3. Provide for tourniquet sentencing on criminal charges for those who need treatment. Sentences will not be considered served until treatment has been successful.
4. Change the focus from "just the dependent person" to the entire family of the dependent.
5. Charge the Multnomah County Sheriff to protect the runaway/throw-away children throughout the County.
6. Charge the Multnomah County Alcohol and Drug Manager with developing strategies for coordinated drug enforcement, prevention education and employee and student assistance programs.

Looking to the future, McCoy foresees an explosion of base drug derivatives and new synthetic substances. This explosion will outpace our ability to classify and outlaw the possession of these substances. She anticipates that new entrepreneurs will enter into this substantial drug industry because of an expanding market, the relative ease of entering into the business, the minimal risk of the criminal justice sanctions, large profits and tax avoidance.

McCoy states that drugs are increasingly present and socially accepted as recreational tools in all age groups, including children in elementary school. "The long-term consequences from such a megatrend are alarming," McCoy observes, citing the fact that already substantial numbers of children, some as young as 10 years, are permanently outside of parental or state control and living on the streets, hustling to gain their supply of chemicals.

McCoy believes that it is likely that many of the new drugs will have greater addictive qualities. Such new drugs will pose new and acute health/life hazards and have dangerous behavioral and health side effects.

"As the new drug products come on line, and as the competition for sales increases, we can expect to see prices drop," McCoy warns, "which will lead to increased dosages and subsequently increased medical emergencies."

McCoy underlines the necessity to promote new policies and strategies to address this reality of American culture in a new age. "The research, theory construction and consensus building should start now," McCoy states, adding that "a national or state of Oregon commission should be established and funded to begin this critical task."

"I understand that some of this initiative calls for actions at other levels or branches of government, or with other elected officials," McCoy said. "That is the nature of our system, but not an excuse for lacking the leadership that stands accountable for results. I stand ready," McCoy continued, "to work with public officials at the several levels of government and with our citizens to mobilize ourselves to address this social and public health concern."

"I have said on many occasions that my opponent and I are very different on the issues. This is one issue where I believe my extensive experience in education and human resources, and my commitment to people spurs me to take on this issue. It needs to be done, and I am ready."

Bar Holds Reception

by Jerry Garner

The Oregon State Bar's Affirmative Action Committee and the Minority Scholarship Program, Inc., held a reception last Friday in the Willamette Center's conference rooms in honor of firms participating in the Bar's Summer Clerkship Program, Minority Scholarship Program contributors and recipients; new minority Bar admittees; and law students.

During 1986, seven minority law

students received scholarships through the Bar's Minority Scholarship Program. They are: Coleen Miller, Cynthia Pevehouse, Tony Alvarez, Roberto Reyes-Colon, Joseph Ochoa, and Robert Deveney.

The Scholarship Program provides academic scholarships to outstanding ethnic minority students who attend law school in Oregon. According to Lee Coleman, Direc-

tor of the Bar's Affirmative Action Program, scholarship awards are granted on the basis of academic performance, financial need and work experience. The amount of each award depends upon an evaluation of the student and the funds available each year.

The following foundations, corporations, and contributors were recognized for their contributions to the Minority Scholarship Program:

Portland General Electric; Association of Oregon Black Lawyers; Oregon Law Foundation; Charlie Harris; Pacific Northwest Bell; Bruce Posey; and Leonard B. Netzorg, Preston, Ellis & Holman.

Since the inception of the Bar's Affirmative Action Program in 1973, the Percentage of practicing minority attorneys has increased from .48% to 2.1% in 1986. This year 22 minorities were admitted to the Oregon State Bar.

Call-To-Action Leadership Conference Slated

by Jerry Garner

The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs has announced plans for its "Sixth Call-To-Action Leadership Conference" to be held on January 31, 1987, at the Chumaree Comfortel in Salem.

According to Calvin O.L. Henry, President of the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs, "The purpose of the conference is to bring together persons concerned with the political

development of Blacks throughout Oregon and to develop strategies for legislative action."

The first Call-To-Action Leadership Conference/Workshop was held on January 22, 1977, at Willamette University in Salem. Over fifty Blacks from around the state attended the conference for the purpose of scrutinizing the plight of Blacks in Oregon, to determine di-

rections which should be taken, and to decide a course of action that could be collectively implemented.

As a result of the 1977 conference, the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs was founded for the purpose of improving the political, educational, social, legal, and economic status of Blacks in Oregon.

During the 1987 conference, the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs

will also host a "Recognition Banquet" in celebration of its tenth-year anniversary and will use the banquet to recognize both present and potential leaders.

For more information and details, contact The Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs by writing to P.O. Box 12485, Salem, Oregon 97309.