



Thomas Vickers leads the second meeting of the Portland Chapter of Assault on Illiteracy, at which officers were elected.

Photo by Richard J. Brown

A.O.I.P. Elects Officers

Robert E. Phillips was elected Sunday, January 11th, as President of the Assault on Illiteracy—Portland Chapter. Other officers elected were: Mrs. Lauretta Slaughter, Vice-President; Ms. Marta Arambula, Secretary; Mr.

Charles Sanders, Acting Treasurer; Ms. Faye Mack, Professional Education; Rev. Amos Massey, Black Church Support & Involvement; Ms. Margaret Isaacs, Nominating Committee; Ms. Marian Jacobs, Public Education

Committee; Ms. Charles M. Person, Parental Support & Involvement; Mr. Charles Sanders, Long Range Planning & Resource Identification; Mr. James P. Varner, ByLaws & Constitution.

The above are all committees and the public is welcome to participate on any committee of your choice. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 8th at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple, 116 N.E. Russell St. at 5:00 p.m.

Free Information Clinic

A free information clinic for women on preventing breast cancer will be held at Meridian Park Hospital, Tualatin, on Tuesday, February 10, from 9-10 a.m. Recognizing that early detection and prevention can actually reduce the rate of breast cancer, the clinic is designed to provide women with the skills and confidence to perform routine breast self examination. Information will also be available on mammography, a low dose x-ray examination, as an effective means of detecting early breast cancers.

For additional information contact the community education department at the hospital, 692-2656.

For Backs Only

"Here's to Your Back" is the title of a senior community health education program to be offered Thursday, February 12, 12:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Senior Center.

Presented by Pat Quintana, Physical Therapist on staff at Meridian Park Hospital, the presentation is part of the hospital's "Healthwise for Seniors" education program series. There is no charge.

The program is coordinated by E. Ricky Appleman, R.N., MPH Community Development and Consulting Services, who also oversees hospital's ongoing health screenings at Washington County senior centers in Tigard, Sherwood, Durham/Tualatin.

For information about the program or health screening, contact the senior center or community department at the Tualatin hospital.

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End of an Era?

Part One of a Two-Part Series

by Leon Harris

The election of Ronald Reagan as President of the United States signaled more than the ouster of Democrats as the political power base in America. It brought into focus the idealism of the ultra-right wing Conservatives, which, having lurked in the shadows over the years, seized the opportunity to emerge as a force to be reckoned with after the Republican landslide in 1980.

The political ideology of the ultra-right was made clear and simple during the Nixon Presidency—supporting the candidacy of elected officials and election hopefuls who embraced their conservative philosophy, and advocating the defeat of those who opposed them. This well-conceived blueprint for action, long on the drawing boards, was tabled only after massive political blunders, first by Nixon through Watergate, and subsequently by Gerald Ford's pardoning of the former President.

The aforementioned blueprint proposed counter measures to the acceptance by most Americans that federal subsidy of social and self-help programs did offer alternatives to a life of continued poverty-related cycles. As an example, they view community action-type programs as a "breeding ground for those radicals that would overthrow the government with a Communist-inspired agenda." The truth of the matter is, community action agencies were "breeding grounds" for a special segment of today's society, as witnessed by the many minorities, especially Blacks and Hispanics, who launched careers as businessmen, business women, and key professionals in some of this country's leading corporations. Not mentioned are the politicians and other elected officials who have been "targeted", since, as policy makers; they are of special concern.

Actually, in labeling such programs as havens for Communist activities, the ultra-right exposes its ultimate goal: it seeks to be embraced by those who share its views and who also would discredit minorities.

The Conservative Right has made significant gains in its efforts to recruit new members and solicit contributions for expansion of its philosophy. As a self-appointed watch dog of the Federal Budget, it has effectively lobbied conservative members of Congress to reduce or eliminate programs designed to help this nation's hungry, homeless and elderly. And they are able to accomplish this while strongly advocating quite successfully high increases in our military budget. But, in order to ensure that this preconceived strategy would continue and be ongoing, the group knew that a strong and well-respected leader was needed—one that was trustworthy, as well.

Ronald Reagan's campaign promises and conservative philosophy as Governor of California appeared to fit the criteria—thus, the landslide victory of the conservative slate.

The election of President Reagan proved a bonanza for the ultra-right wing. His proposals to reduce or eliminate most federally subsidized programs conformed perfectly to its preconceived strategy. Reduction in Headstart, Medicare, Medicaid, Welfare, Small Business Administration, Veterans and countless other programs beneficial to the poor were announced; but Nancy Reagan, Congress, public opinion and the media forced the President to exclude Headstart. His record defense budget was developed under the "smoke screen" of shoring up this country's defenses against an expanding Communist threat.

He sought to dismantle all Affirmative Action programs and, though rebuffed in part by the courts, did indeed succeed (because of his adamant opposition to Affirmative Action) in forcing many businesses and learning institutions to re-think their Equal Opportunity policies.

He showed businesses how to break the unions, creating an air of hysteria within the ranks of labor. He reduced taxes as promised during his campaign and public opinion polls showed him to be one of the most popular Presidents in history. Ronald Reagan was a hero. The Conservative Right had its leader. What they thought they had in Richard Nixon, had hoped for in Gerald Ford, they found in Ronald Reagan.

Their ship had come in. And with Ronald Reagan at the helm, they began to complete their encirclement of the American dream, with hopes of creating a new American way of life. They even gave it a name: "Reaganomics".

But, like most ships built with less than a solid foundation, problems began to surface.

Reaganomics, designed to stem the flow of economic and social development of minorities, proved to have more far-reaching effects. The farmer in the cornbelt, which embraced Reaganomics with all its conservatism, soon found it necessary to embrace welfare, food stamps and Unemployment Compensation as a matter of survival.

Reaganomics—the brainchild of an administration bent on bringing a nation together—was emerging, instead, as a thrust, bringing about the disintegration of the American family.

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