

PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XVII, Number 20
March 25, 1987

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"Goldschmidt Insensitive" Says Urban League President

Citing Governor Neil Goldschmidt's comments that most people in this state feel that "somebody ought to squash" a Portland Black leader who has been critical of the governor, Urban League President Herb Cawthorne called Goldschmidt "insensitive, irresponsible, and demeaning to the office he holds, and has contributed to a worsening racial climate in Oregon."

Cawthorne's remarks came at a press conference called by the Urban League, the Albina Ministerial Alliance and the Portland Chapter of the NAACP.

The Urban League chief claimed that the Governor, in his effort to hush honest criticism, sent three negative impressions to the people of this state. "First, he encouraged the small, mentally-ill segment among us who will interpret his 'squash him' comment literally as license to exercise a vengeance on the black people they already hate. Second, and very unfortunately, his ill-chosen comments damage the efforts to advance the cause of blacks, Hispanics and women by suggesting that hiring them, appointing them to commissions and boards, and aggressively seeking their counsel reduces the 'Oregon Comeback' to mediocrity. And, third, he hammered another divisive wedge between those struggling in the metropolitan area and those struggling in other parts of the state."

The remarks made by the Governor before a meeting with the Oregonian editorial board has prompted a rash of criticism from the public and state lawmakers alike.

Goldschmidt later apologized for the statement, stating what he had meant to say is that "we have whole towns like Coos Bay that are in (economic) pain and they do not understand why this has to be characterized as a racial issue. Poverty isn't purely a racial issue," said Goldschmidt, explaining that his chief task was to improve the economic standings of all Oregonians.

The Governor's office informed the Observer that the inci-



Rev. John Jackson, Herb Cawthorne, and George Hendrix protest

Gov. Goldschmidt's insensitivity during a press conference at the Urban League Friday. Photo by Richard J. Brown

dent was regrettable and that they were working on setting up meetings with leaders from Portland's Black community.

"The Governor can apologize for what he calls 'a slip of the tongue,' but a 'slip of the tongue' may reveal what is truly in

his heart. What is important now is how the Governor demonstrates that he understands the damage he has done and how quickly and sincerely he moves to remedy it," Cawthorne stated.

Dr. Ogbuobiri Conducts Engineer Seminar at Howard University



(L-R) Dr. M. Lucius Walker, Dean of the School of Engineering; Dr. James Momoh, Assoc. Professor of Electrical Engineering, head of

Energy Systems Network Laboratory; Dr. E.C. Oguobiri; Dr. Tepper Gill, Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

by Jerry Garner

Dr. E.C. Oguobiri, a consulting engineer and systems scientist from Portland, just returned from Howard University in Washington, D.C., after conducting seminars on varied topics related to electrical engineering education, in general, and new horizons in energy systems research, in particular, at the University School of Engineering.

During the two-day seminar at Howard, Dr. Oguobiri gave lectures on

power system II class and discussed the following topics: new algorithm in economic dispatch, stability studies, and structured programming. He also gave presentations and discussions on a variety of topics to undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty from the School of Engineering.

Dr. Oguobiri stated that Dr. M. Lucius Walker, Dean of the Howard School of Engineering, "vowed his commitment to making the Howard University

Engineering School a citadel of not only meritorious research, but also of quality education and techniques."

Dr. Oguobiri was invited to the seminar by Dr. James Momoh, Associate Graduate Professor of Electrical Engineering at Howard. Recently, Howard and the University of California at Berkeley shared the coveted spotlight as recipients of the 1987 Presidential Young Investigator Award for research contributions in electrical power systems engineering.

The award carries substantial monetary support by the National Science Foundation over a 5-year period. Dr. Momoh, who is a consultant to the U.S. Department of Energy and Bonneville Power Administration, heads the program. Typically there are only two awards made each year in the electrical power engineering field. These programs aim at theoretical developments, modeling, and implementation of strategies to aid planners and operators, and for efficient, reliable and safe delivery of electrical energy.

Dr. Oguobiri praised Bonneville for giving Howard and other predominantly Black colleges an opportunity to do research for them. "Such research contracts provide indirect support for quality education for students," he said.

Dr. Oguobiri holds a Ph.D. degree from Cornell University College of Engineering, is a former high school teacher, a former systems consultant to the City of Portland, a co-founder and former systems consultant for Nero and Associates, Inc., and a former adjunct professor of system science and engineering at Portland State University and the University of Portland.

He has pioneered numerous applications of system techniques to technological and human organizational problems. His early application of social area analysis and computer mapping was the basis for the U.S. Dept. of HUD sponsored workshops.

Dr. Oguobiri is a senior engineer for the United States Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration. He is also a system consultant for EZAK Associates, Ltd., a Portland based computer consulting firm and manufacturer. Dr. Oguobiri developed EZAK Dataguard, a registered trademark of EZAK. This device protects computers and similar equipment from the vagaries of electric power supplies.

Series Begins

This week begins Part One of a three-part series on the book "Capitol Hill in Black and White" by Robert Parker, former maitre 'd in the Senate dining room. See Page 3.

Copies of the book will be available at Talking Drum Book Store, 1634 N.E. Alberta St., 282-9465, April 10, 1987.