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PORTLAND OBSERVER

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Volume XVIII, Number 3

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

December 2, 1987

Lobbyist Charged With Making False Statements

1987 has been a devastating year for the American voter. Across the country, the carcasses of fallen politicians are piling up faster than they can be buried: Bork, Ginsberg, Biden and Hart, to name a few.

Among Black Oregonians, there is a growing feeling that, in Oregon and in other parts of the country, some politicians have become culturally offensive, partial to political carelessness, and dangerously out-of-touch with the average American voter. And many of these Black voters believe that former Oregon Senate Presidents Jason Boe and John Burns fit these descriptions well. Boe and Burns have charged Robert Parker, former Committee Administrator to Senator Jim Hill (D-Salem), with political misconduct.

State Senator Jim Hill has denounced the allegations as improper, unfair, disturbing and potentially harmful to Oregon's political process. "The conduct of Robert Parker has almost been the entire focus of this matter, and his conduct should be fully investigated. However, the most important issue is the integrity of the legislative process. We cannot allow it to be compromised by those who are un-



State Senator Jim Hill

Photo by: Richard J. Brown

scrupulous enough to make false statements to get their way," he said.

On November 24, Senator Hill filed a complaint with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission. The complaint asks the Commission to determine if Boe and Burns are in violation of Oregon Revised Statute 171.756(4) which states: "No lobbyist shall knowingly or willfully make any false statements or misrepresentation to any legislative or executive official, or knowing a document to contain a false statement, cause a copy of such document to be received by a legislative or executive official without notifying such official in writing of the truth."

Senator Hill explains: "Based on the best information that has been given to me by Senator President John Kitzhaber, Jason Boe and John Burns made false statements about my former Committee Administrator, Robert Parker. They did so in an attempt to undermine the work of the Senate Committee on Business, Housing and Finance in order to sabotage the impending passage of Senate Bill 664, also known as the Gasoline Dealers Bill of Rights.

"Specifically, it was alleged by Boe and Burns, who represent petroleum industry clients, that: (1) Parker used a credit card belonging to a lobbyist who represented the Oregon Gasoline Dealers; (2) that Parker negotiated favorable treatment of City of Salem-supported legislation in exchange for the City's favorable disposition of his overdue parking tickets; and (3) that Parker offered favorable treatment of legislation in exchange for money from other members of the lobby.

"After six months of thorough investigation by the Attorney General's office, the Marion County District Attorney and Grand Jury, Parker was not charged for any crime even related to the principle allegations."

Even before Senator Hill filed the complaint, Black Oregonians were starting to question the political conduct and wisdom of Boe and Burns. Why, they asked, would two former Senate Presidents make such damaging allegations without evidence to back them up? Why didn't Boe and Burns seek out the political input of Black Oregonians before they went about designing the allegations against Parker?

Didn't they realize the potential harm to Parker and his career even if the allegations weren't true? Or did they care?

These questions have not been answered by Boe and Burns. According to Senator Hill, "While the Ethics Commission has yet to make a determination on ethics charges relating to this matter, my conversations with the Commission's investigator indicates there is no substance to allegations (1) and (2). Indeed, none of the investigations have even suggested that there was any validity to allegations (1) and (2)."

In the meantime, tarnished and choiceless, Robert Parker resigned from his job and has since disappeared from the Oregon political scene. Boe and Burns, unmoved by it all, continue to walk the halls of the State Capitol.

Said one angry Black Oregonian: "If Boe and Burns are in violation of an Oregon Revised Statute, I hope the Oregon Government Ethics Commission throws the book at 'em. Surely Boe and Burns must know that what goes around comes back around."

Kenyan Editor Visits Observer

by Nyewusi Askari

For Africa, the 17th to 20th centuries were devastating. In addition to losing well-over 100-million Africans to slavery, she was also attacked and robbed of her monuments, artifacts, history, treasures, land, and in some cases, her cultural identity. Consequently, Africa found herself divided into colonies and ruled from afar by greedy, brutal European nations.

With the ending of slavery, Africa began to regain her strength and a new leadership emerged. It demanded that Africa be returned to her rightful owners, the Africans. Thus began a movement for liberation that mirrored the Civil Rights Movement in America.



"I came to the United States to observe the culture, the elections, the people and to promote friendship. And I am very delighted and honored to be a guest today in Portland's black community. Very honored indeed."

When the African liberation movement took root in Kenya, it spread like wildfire. The country was returned to the control of Kenyans; and so was a small newspaper called "The Standard."

In the beginning (1902), The Standard was owned and operated

by the ruling colonists as a way of keeping themselves informed of each other's activities. The newspaper didn't consider the Kenyans to be newsworthy, and it certainly didn't think they were capable or willing to fight to regain their liberation.



"To the level to which they've been pushed, I am convinced that black South Africans are ready to do whatever is necessary to achieve their freedom."

Since gaining its liberation, The Standard has forged an African readership of 50,000. One of its bureau chiefs, Mr. Amos Marenya, visited the office of the Portland Observer last Wednesday while on a fact-finding tour of Portland. In addition to sharing an abundance of information about Kenya, its people, its children and its culture, Mr. Marenya brought forth the idea of an international news exchange between

Photos by Richard J. Brown

ween The Standard and the Portland Observer. The proposal was



"In Kenya, we record our cultural history. Every week there is a given program at a theatre, a community gathering, etc. Here, we are reminded on a daily basis of what our cultural heritage is and what is expected of us. At our public ceremonies, Kenyans are expected to display their heritage and culture."

accepted. This means that beginning early next year, Mr. Marenya will be featured in the Observer as a columnist. It also means that the Observer will send local news to Kenya on a daily basis.

This historical agreement comes as the Observer prepares to celebrate its 18th year of publication. Mr. Marenya's visit and commitment to bridge the gap between Kenya and Portland's Black community will be remembered as one of the most memorable moments in the Observer's young history.

Meeting Scheduled

The Oregon Commission on Black Affairs will hold its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, December 9, 1987, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Room 354 of the State Capitol Building in Salem, Oregon. The meeting is open to the public and all interested persons are welcome.

Sharon Mitchell Becomes Co-Host at KGW-TV



Sharon Mitchell, Channel 8 News reporter

Channel 8 News reporter Sharon Mitchell will become co-anchor for News 8 at Sunrise, announced KGW-TV News Director Reagan Ramsey Friday. Viewers can look forward to seeing her in the morning beginning December 7th.

Mitchell joined the news team at Channel 8 as general assignment reporter in April, 1984.

Before coming to KGW-TV, Mitchell spent three years as a radio reporter and anchor for KGW Radio. Her coverage of the area's news earned her an Associated Press Spot News Award. She also had four years of television experience at KPTV in Portland, where she functioned as news production aide, weather reporter and staff announcer.

Mitchell also hosts Northwest Faces, a public affairs show broadcast Sunday mornings on Channel 8. The program, which highlights ethnic diversity and contemporary cultural issues, received a 1987 award of recognition from the American Association for Affirmative Action.

Nancy Francis co-anchors News 8 at Sunrise, Carl Click is sports anchor and Jim Keiter is producer.

Being in front of an audience, whether on the air or in person, is a familiar experience for Mitchell. While a student at Jefferson High School she excelled as a performer in musical theatre, and her love of singing and acting motivated her to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, N.Y.

DMAC to Meet

The next meeting of the Desegregation Monitoring Advisory Committee (DMAC) will be held on Wednesday, December 9, 1987, at Cleveland High School, 3400 SW 26th, Portland, OR 97202, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.