

Reaganomics Starves Old People And Children

Once more the callous "let them eat cake" attitude of the corruption ridden Reagan administration has assaulted two defenseless groups. By September the elderly people and mothers with young children who line up each week to receive emergency supplemental food at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church at 3725 N.E. Gantenbien St. will find about \$20.00 of their supplies cut from the list. Mrs. Allie Kilpatrick, director of the food bank stated that the five pounds of cheese and a similar quantity of dried milk will not be available do to the slaughtering of the milk cows from whom these surplus commodities were derived. Flour, oatmeal, rice and honey also have been removed from those products previously distributed. No reason was given for that deletion. Someone wondered if the fields had been burned and the bees killed in the process. An abundance of these items has been diverted to foreign aid in addition to the tremendous sales made to Russia.

Mrs. Kilpatrick announced that the unavailability of these essential foods, especially high protein substances will mean that the 30 elderly people along with the 100 disabled persons and children who benefit each week from such emergency assistance will be relegated to a greater epidemic of starvation and malnutrition. She asserted that the large client population which her organization provides with emergency services is a reflection of the high unemployment rate among the indigents. Those affected are not transients. Most of them have lived in the Northeast community for more than 14 years. They earn less than \$5,000 per year, the minimal wage of \$3.65 per hour which most earn cannot imburse their weekly expenses. It was emphasized that the Food Bank is a temporary emergency program. Most users seldom repeat accept-

ing the supplement more than once or twice during the entire year. Certain elderly persons, although eligible, often do not take advantage of this source of emergency food because they do not want to become a burden for the community. The abuse rate is less than two percent because of the rigid checks and balances employed by the monitoring agencies.

A good amount of the first time crimes committed in the Northeast section of Portland can be attributed to poverty and hunger. The observation was made that there is a lot of malnutrition and starvation in this country which has emerged over the past eight years because of the conservative insensitivity of the Reagan administration which has attempted to control government spending by extracting huge cutbacks in many of the services that apply to poor people. The result of that policy has created a competitive survival of the fit for the very basic needs of the individual. The effect of such government irresponsibility toward poverty and starvation fomented the impetus for the French revolution. Everyone is at risk if we continue to permit the infrastructure which nominally protects the indigent to deteriorate further. A single stealth bomber, which remains to be tested under combat conditions, could probably feed all of the poor people of the United States for a year.

The result of the administration's policy is not limited to the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Food Bank. It affects all such emergency food programs in Oregon and the entire country. The food stamp program is a total disgrace, not because of abuses which again are less than two percent, but because of the intentional harassment engendered to discourage poor people from acquiring that service.

The Food Emergency Bill pro-

mulgated by the House of Representatives under HR 2023 and in the Senate under S4060 has not been referred out of committee and will not be passed in time to cover the shortfall. The voting public is urged to contact the lawmakers in Salem and in Washington to seek relief for this intractable problem.

Lay Organization of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal

The Lay Organization of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church is pleased to announce the appearance of Dr. Robert L. Green, PhD in a lecture and discussion on 'Issues Affecting the Black Community' on June 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the main sanctuary of the Church. Dr. Green, noted author and lecturer on the Urban Challenge in America has exceptional credentials to talk on topics such as race, poverty, education and child rearing and community. His lecture and informal discussion for our times will deal with issues concerning Black community unity, parenting, teenage problems, student achievement, drug and alcohol abuse, community networking and community building.

Dr. Green, author of the book "The Urban Challenge - Poverty and Race," is past president of the University of District of Columbia and former Dean of the School of Urban Affairs at Michigan State University, currently is a Professor at Case Western University, Cleveland, Ohio, and consultant to the Cuyahoga Community Colleges and the Cleveland Public Schools. He lectures, writes, and consults nationally and internationally on a range of social issues.

For further information, contact the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 5828 N.E. 8th Avenue, Portland, Oregon, Milton A. Green, Pastor.

Men's Day Program

Sunday, June 19th, at 3:00 p.m. — the Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church will present its very first Men's Day Program. The program will feature guest speaker, Mr. Useni Perkins, executive director of the Portland Chapter Urban League.

There will be men choruses from the Portland/Vancouver areas. A special appearance will be made by the Urban League Choir. This group is made up of members of the Urban League — coming from approximately 10 different churches.

Bring your fathers for a wonderful afternoon of worship. After the program, take your father to dinner. Give him and show to him — lots of love.

Rev. Curtis Kirkpatrick, pastor
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To praise what you thought nice.
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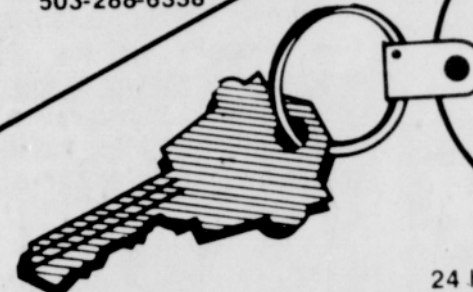
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Father's Day Memories
We Will Always Remember
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In Which You Gave Yourself
To Us And Others!
*We Will Always Love You,
Your Loving Family*
Mrs. William Pitre, Billy, Arnold,
Diane & The Six Grandchildren

Public Utilities And Affirmative Action

Continued from Page 1

was only through the efforts of Jack Vogel, Director of Communications and a board member of the Urban League, that Cathy Merritt, a media representative on his staff and Bruce Speidel, Director of Employee Relations supplied this writer with information PP&L should be very proud of.

The work force in the Portland area is only 1,100 but they serve almost one half-million people. Specific statistics are rather meager. At the managerial level minorities were represented by 4.5% in 1983 with that number growing to 7.8% in 1988. Furthermore, the company has established a Columbia division in the Northeast section of Portland. It is peopled by a staff of 138 of whom, 11% are minorities.

The company is very active in community service programs headed up by Horace G. Sanders, a Black PP&L executive. The purpose of Mr. Sander's group is to nurture the development of small businesses in Portland with professional and financial support at the Northeast Skidmore facility. Although he has been on loan to the group for less than a year, PP&L initiated the program in 1982. PP&L funds the program at the rate of \$100,000 per year in services and ancillary expenses. The first incubator, the Cascade Business Center Corporation opened in October in 1987. It operates in conjunction with Tektronix, The Portland Development Commission and Portland Community College.

The third interview was with Pacific Northwest Bell in their modest headquarters at 421 S.W. Oak Street in Portland. The numbers are superfluous with regard to their activity with affirmative

action. This unit is a division of the huge US West communications conglomerate. To be sure, Connie Brown, the Black EEO manager in Portland did not supply me with any specific statistics. She did acquaint me with a creative innovation to increase promotional opportunities for Black women employees. Fifty such candidates were selected from a group of Black women employees and placed on a special career tract. Richard McCormick, US West president and chief Operating officer created an Accelerated Development Program for Women of Color. The goal is to promote each of the employees selected from one to two levels over the next five years. This approach was made necessary after a Black employee organization demonstrated a disparity in promotional opportunities between white males and Black women. Black men in the organization climbed the career ladder faster than white women. The success of the Black male at US West is demonstrated by Ronald James, a Black man who is vice-president for the Large Business Market Unit.

Another success story of a Black male is that of Donnie Griffin, Director of Corporate Community Affairs and Communication with four other units reporting to him. I interviewed Greg Downing, Manager of Public Information and also with William D. Prows, Manager of Educational Programs in Mr. Griffin's office. Mr. Downing indicated that managerial personnel must take a mandatory one week course on the pluralist nature of our society. Pacific Northwest Bell's commitment to our society is mani-

fest by the fact that it employs a manager of educational programs unrelated to the company's business. One popular program, Will D. Prows promotes in the Portland Public Schools is called "Choices." It teaches ninth graders in the Northeast Portland schools the thinking that embodies the infrastructure of our pluralist society. The goal is to analyze the mechanisms which drive our economic system so as to provide a better access to the multitude of opportunities that exist. A second program, the "Registry" is one in which PP&L employees are matched in a mentorship with high school Juniors and Seniors where they complete a specialized developmental curriculum together. The mentor emphasizes reliability, teamwork, commitment and trust.

One can't help but marvel at the multitude of positive opportunities that are now available to minorities in Oregon with specific reference to the Portland area. It would appear that the perception of some minority groups which characterizes the industrial leader as an avaricious, racist demagogue lacking in compassion is not supported by the evidence. Those who have had other experiences are invited to come forward and to be heard.

NEXT WEEK: Affirmative Action In The Transportation Industry.

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