

**LABOR and MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY**

JANUARY 20, 1992



University of Oregon Erb Memorial Union  
13th and University Streets

- 9:45-11:00 a.m. Panel organized by Labor Education and Research Center:  
"The Labor Movement and the Civil Rights Movement-The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr."
- 11:15-12:30 Panel including:  
Norman Hill, head of A. Philip Randolph Foundation, African-American Labor Coalition  
Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, activist-co-worker with MLK; Nikki Giovanni, poet
- 2:15 p.m. March from U.O. Erb to Hilton Hotel-Eugene Conference Center  
(Labor union contingent led by Norm Hill-join us at 13th and University and bring your union signs, hats, jackets, banners)
- 3:00 p.m. Rally at Hilton-Comments by Norm Hill and others

*"All progress is precarious and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem."*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

**HUD's community commitment . . . .  
It's working in your neighborhood.**



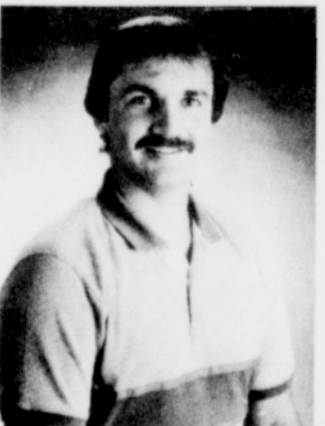
Calvin Jackson's HUD jobs helped his contractor business grow enough to add a fifth employee. "HUD handles repair bids fairly, and their equal opportunity policy really works," says Calvin.



As a real estate sales agent and broker, Danielle Tranlong has helped several area families buy their first home through HUD. "I've always found the HUD people to be extremely cooperative, and all of my clients have received their bid decisions within five days."



"We weren't looking for a home because we didn't think we had enough money saved to buy the size of home we wanted," says Cynthia and Francisco Dominguez. "A friend told us about a HUD home she knew of in the neighborhood. We called a real estate agent, submitted an offer, and in just eight weeks we were moved in."



Construction worker Roger Crow has purchased HUD properties to supplement his current income and to provide for his retirement. "Fixing up HUD homes for rental property or eventual resale is definitely a good, long-term investment. I've talked to a number of people who have done it, and they've never regretted it."



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The people at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development salute the history of minority achievement and support the future of equal opportunity in all of life's endeavors.



**A. Philip Randolph Institute**



**Martin Luther King On Labor Unions**

*Excerpts from King's last book "Where Do We Go From Here," 1967, submitted by Jamie Partridge and Donna J. Hammond.*

Within the ranks of organized labor there are nearly two million Negroes. Not only are they found in large numbers as workers, but they are concentrated in key industries. In the truck transportation, steel, auto and food industries which are the backbone of the nation's economic life, Negroes make up nearly 20 percent of the organized work force, although they are only 10 percent of the general population. This potential strength is magnified further by the fact of their unity with millions of white workers in these occupations. As co-workers there is a basic community of interest that transcends many of the ugly divisive elements of traditional prejudice. There are undeniable points of friction, for example, in certain housing and education questions. But the severity of the abrasions is minimized by the more commanding need for cohesion in union organizations.

If manifestations of race prejudice were to erupt within an organized plant, it would set into motion many corrective forces. It would not flourish as it does in a neighborhood with nothing to inhibit it but morbid observers looking for thrills. In the shop the union officials from highest to lowest levels would be immediately involved, for internal discord is no academic matter; it weakens the union in its contests with the employers. Therefore an important self-interest motivates harmonious race relations. Here Negroes have a substantial weight to bring to bear on all measures of social concern.

The labor movement, especially in

its earlier days, was one of the few great institutions where a degree of hospitality and mobility was available to Negroes. When the rest of the nation accepted rank discrimination and prejudice as ordinary and usual--like the rain, to be deplored but accepted as part of nature--trade unions, particularly the CIO, leveled all barriers to equal membership. In a number of instances Negroes rose to influential national office.

Today the union record in relation to Negro workers is exceedingly uneven, but the potentiality for influencing union decisions still exists. In many of the larger unions the white leadership contains some men of ideals and many more who are pragmatists. Both groups find they are benefited by a constructive relationship to their Negro membership. For those compelling reasons, Negroes, who are almost wholly a working people, cannot be casual toward the union movement. This is true even though some unions remain incontestably hostile.

In days to come, organized labor will increase its importance in the destinies of Negroes. Automation is imperceptibly but inexorably producing dislocations, skimming off unskilled labor from the industrial force. The displaced are flowing into proliferating service occupations. These enterprises are traditionally unorganized and provide low wage scales with longer hours. The Negroes pressed into these services need union protection, and the union movement needs their membership to maintain its relative strength in the whole society. On this new frontier Negroes may well become the pioneers that they were in the early organizing days of the thirties...

The emergence of social initiatives by a revitalized labor movement would be taking place as Negroes are placing economic issues on the highest agenda. The coalition of an energized section of labor, Negroes, unemployed and welfare recipients may be the source of power that reshapes economic relationships and ushers in a breakthrough to a new level of social reform. The total elimination of poverty, now a practical possibility, the reality of equality in race relations and other profound structural changes in society may well begin here.

To play our role fully as Negroes we will have to strive for enhanced representation and influence in the labor movement. Our young people need to think of union careers as earnestly as they do of business careers and professions. They could do worse than emulate A. Philip Randolph, who rose to the executive council of the AFL-CIO, and became a symbol of the courage, compassion, and integrity of an enlightened labor leader. Indeed, the question may be asked why we have produced only one Randolph in nearly half a century. Discrimination is not the whole answer. We allowed ourselves to accept middle-class prejudices toward the labor movement. Yet this is one of those fields in which higher education is not a requirement for high office. In shunning it, we have lost an opportunity. Let us try to regain it now, at a time when the joint forces of Negro and labor may be facing an historic task of social reform.

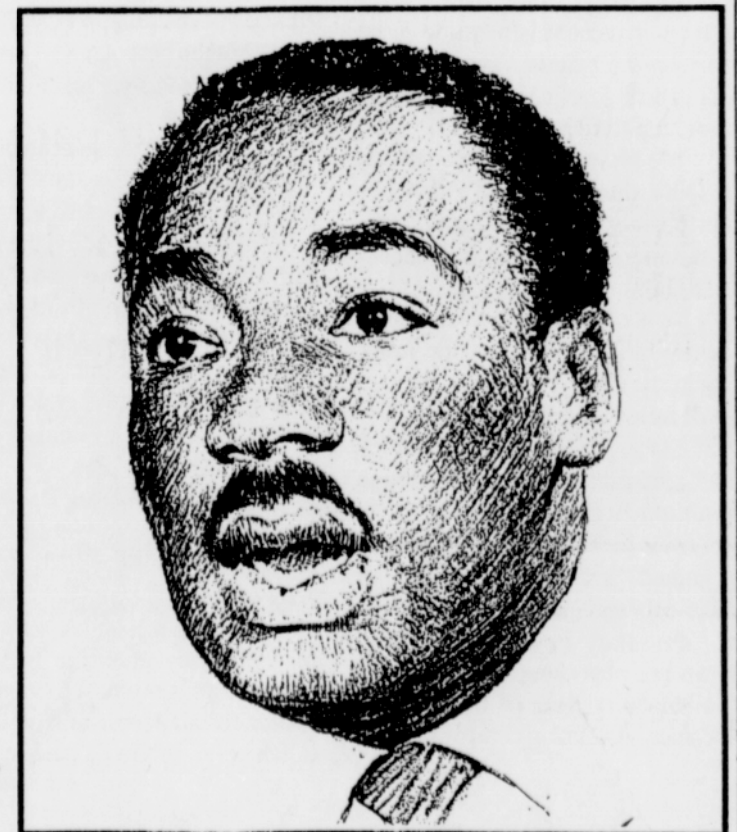
*The Portland Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1125 S.E. Madison, suite 103A. Questions? Call 235-9444. Guests are welcomed.*

**The Port of Portland honors  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

by celebrating our cultural history in recognition of King's struggle for civil rights for all people.

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