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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Former House Postmaster Pleads guilty To Embezzlement

Robert Rota, former postmaster of the House Post Office, pleaded guilty to two charges involving embezzlement. The development is expected to advance the investigation of two or three members of

Congress in connection with allegations that money was improperly obtained from the House Post office. As part of his guilty plea Rota has agreed to provide truthful testimony and to cooperate fully in the on going investigation.

See related story on page A4

Drinking Water For Flood Victims

Two tanker trucks each holding 4,500 gallons of drinking water the tankers are the first elements of aid that the water purification company is providing to Iowa's capital city where damage to a waste treatment plan has left 250,000 people without drinking water.

See related story on page B4

White Supremists Target Rodney King To Start War

The FBI said six reputed white supremists "skinheads" were arrested to prevent them from blowing up a rabbi attaching a prominent black church with machine guns and assassinating Rodney King. On display were an arsenal of weapons, Nazi flags and uniforms and pictures of Adolf Hitler confiscated during the arrests.

See related story on B2

Clinton Picks New FBI Director

President Clinton has picked U.S. District Judge Louis Freeh of New York, a former FBI agent and federal prosecutor as director of the FBI. Speaking briefly, Freeh said, "If confirmed by the Senate, I pledge to a total commitment to the FBI whose only beacon is the rule of law."

See related story on B2

Protesters March Against Gay Compromise

About 500 protesters marched in west Hollywood, CA to demonstrate against President Clinton's compromise policy on homosexuals in the military. The protesters were angered by the compromise.

See related story on page B2

Mexico Deports Chinese Refugees

Mexico completed the deportation of 661 Chinese refugees who landed in Baja California after the U.S. Coast Guard blocked their efforts to enter the United States in Mehree fishing boats. The Chinese, attempting to enter the U.S. illegally, were intercepted by the Coast Guard in international waters under a new U.S. policy.

See related story on A3

Seems Like Summer, Almost



Youngsters On King Elementary Playground enjoy our skies last Saturday (July 17). Apparently, they really are enjoying themselves. Along with the rest of us, they are looking forward to several more sunny days of what has turned out to be an Indian summer

We awakened this morning,
Not having much to say,
Except, "We wonder what to do today".

Peeking through our various shades,
We were delighted to see,
That the sunshine was looking back as we,
Shielded our eyes with utter joy,
and great ado,
expressed, Oh Boy!

As we hurried to catch the sunshine rays,
We joined others going our way,
Who wanted a chance in the sun to play.

We were happy to repeat,
Rain, Rain, go away,
Rain, Rain, go today,
Rain, Rain, do not stay,
Rain, Rain, try some other day.

So here we are, all in our places,
With sun beams gracing our smiling faces!

NAMCO Tri-Met Injunction

Over use Of "Front" Disadvantage Business.

James L. Posey

The National Association of Minority Contractors of Oregon (NAMCO) is embroiled in probably the most significant legal action brought against a public agency since the landmark Croson decision; which struck down utilization of minority business goals on local public work contracts. On June 25, 1993 NAMCO filed a complaint on behalf of its members in circuit court seeking a preliminary injunction against Tri-Met, Frontier Kemper/Traylor Bros. and Mendez Excavation on the Light Rail Tunnel project. But in contrast to the Croson case, which was basically some disgruntled white contractors trying to recapture 100% of the contracting pie instead of 90%, the NAMCO action is a rare African-American and minority contractor offensive.

The legal action not only represents a significant change in thrust for local minority contractors, but signals that minority contractors are no longer willing to sit back and be starved into extinction. And while these same contractors have not abandoned the tactics of picketing, marching and demonstrating, they have added the legal tactic to their arsenal.

It has always been a struggle to get a fair piece of work, but Tri-Met was successful in aggravating the already raw nerves of minority contractors who for more than a decade, barely prevailed against impossible odds during the Reagan/Bush administration. In simple terms, Tri-Met agreed to be party to a sham contracting business arrangement, exploiting and undermining the integrity of the disadvantage business programs. They in fact approved a contract that would have allowed a fraudulent disadvantage business to satisfy the federal requirement to use disadvantage businesses. They agreed that the successful bidder could use the hispanic firm out Colorado who is not qualified to perform the proposed work. This all would occur at the expense of legitimate local minority contractors who bidded above board and tried to play by the rules.

While Tri-Met's attempts to foster minority participation through the use of its Oregon Opportunities Advisory Committee may not have been intentionally deceptive, it certainly represents a perceived Trojan Horse in the battle to obtain long sought after genuine minority participation. Even Tri-Met would not argue that the award of this first contract represent a total failure to included local minority contractors. Tri-Met must accept responsibility for creating false expectations and deepening the mistrust and alienation toward the public agency.

The bright side of these events is the fact it has drawn together groups and interest that would not ordinarily interact. There appears to be a broad spectrum of support for the principles espoused by the NAMCO legal action. NAMCO has gained momentum in its attempt to engage the broader community around equity in contracting. And now they are asking everyone who can understand and appreciated the significant of their actions to rally and support their efforts.

NAMCO is requesting that everyone attend the series of hearings beginning Wednesday, July 21, 9:30am, room 544 in the Multnomah Courthouse. The community can also send contributions to help defer legal expense to the "NAMCO Legal Fund for the Light Rail project" in care of Bill Harden, Secretary/Treasurer, 4837 NE Martin Luther King Blvd., zip 97211.

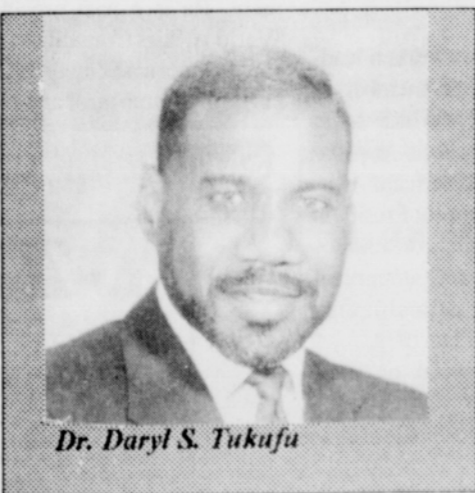
National Urban League Selects Portland Affiliate

And CEO AS Race Relations Award Finalist

The National Urban League has selected the Urban League of Portland and its President Dr. Daryl S. Tukufu as one of three finalists for the first annual Whitney, Young, Jr. Leadership Award in Race Relations. The award will be presented each year to the local Urban League affiliate and president who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in race relations in their community.

The winning affiliated and CEO will be named at the National Urban League Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. on August 4, 1993. The award includes a \$10,000 award to the affiliate and \$1,000 award to the affiliate's chief executive officer.

The announcement was made by Mildred Love, National Urban League vice president for affiliate services.



Dr. Daryl S. Tukufu

OLCC Hearing Recommendation On Gabi's

A recommendation on the renewal of the liquor license for Gabi's Restaurant and Lounge located at 5700 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Portland, was released today by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. OLCC hearings examiner David Slansky, who heard the case, found there was a history of serious and persistent problems at Gabi's, but said the owners, Cordell and Etta Blockson, had taken steps to overcome these problems.

Slansky recommended that the Blocksons be granted a renewal of their license with restrictions include employing a security guard to patrol the business, maintaining a daily incident log, maintaining a list of persons barred from the premises and checking customers at the hearings examiner's recommendation as the second step in the internal process. Earlier, OLCC regulatory staff proposed that Gabi's license not be renewed because of serious problems such as fights, altercation and stabbings at the lounge.

The licensee requested a hearing to contest the initial decision not to renew the license. Slansky, the OLCC hearings examiner who served as the fact-finder in the contested case hearing, has written a report based on the testimony. His recommendation will go to the citizen board of liquor commissioners, who will make the final decision on the matter. The earliest the commissioners will hear the case is at their August 16 meeting, according to Lyons.

"Right now we are still involved in an internal decision-making process," Lyons said. "The commissioners have several options when the case comes before them.

They could decide to accept, modify or reject the hearings examiner's recommendation. The commissioners will consider the issues, weigh the facts in the case and reach their own decision," she said.

Lee Moore, OLCC director of Hearings, said that to some, the decision-making process may seem confusing, but it is all a part of a licensee's right to due process under the law.

In his proposed order, Slansky found that the licensees did not prove that the OLCC discriminated against the licensee because of race. He also found that the licensee was not treated inconsistently or in an arbitrary fashion by the commission. The licensee had argued that imposing certain restrictions departed from normal procedures and were based on racism.

Slansky said in his written order that "...The record shows that in its case against Licensees, the Regulatory staff focused upon the problems involving physical harm or the threat of physical harm to Licensees' patrons. These are problems of legitimate concern to people of all races. The record does not show that the Regulatory staff ignored similar complaints about the promises that were white owned."

In regard to the licensees' charge that requiring the lounge to check patrons for weapons was discriminatory, Slansky wrote: "...given the past problems with patrons using or threatening to use weapons at Gabi's, the Hearings Examiner concludes that the searching for weapons restriction is reasonable."

OLCC Regulatory staff and the licensees have 15 days to file exceptions to the order.

Metro Page

"I Have A Dream"

Eighth graders go to Whitman College for three weeks. And they enjoy a variety of classes.

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Arts & Entertainment

John T. Samples, 95

Cuts First Album At Age 95
"He's still got it."

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Editorial

Activists Say Clinton Has Abandoned Blacks

After pledging support for African American communities during the campaign last year, President Clinton has failed to deliver on those promises.

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Automotive

Prepare For A Disaster With your camping gear.

The same first aid kit you throw into the car before going on a trip, you should stock it for home emergencies.

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