

## Rights commission slaps ORS

The U. S. Commission on Civil Rights has issued a report highly critical of the civil rights enforcement job the Office of Revenue Sharing has been doing.

The ORS, a part of the Treasury Department, is supposed to make sure that federal revenue sharing money does not go to local governments that will use it in a discriminatory way, such as by spending it only on projects that benefit whites or by hiring only whites or male employees on projects funded with the money.

The Civil Rights Commission said, "Abundant evidence indicates that discrimination in the employment practices and in the delivery of benefits of state and local government programs is far-reaching, often extending to activities funded by general revenue sharing. Nonetheless, ORS has one of the most poorly staffed and funded civil rights compliance programs in the federal government.

"Moreover, ORS has not taken the few actions possible within the constraints of its resources which would have made its civil rights compliance effort maximally effective," the Commission said.

Among its recommendations, the Commission urged that where ORS finds that general revenue sharing money is being used in a program which violates, ORS should stop sending any more revenue sharing money to that local government.

Evidence of job discrimination against minorities and women by local governments comes from the results of a survey by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It reports that minorities and women are concentrated in low-paid jobs, and that even when minorities or women hold jobs and functions similar to their white or male counterparts, salaries are less for the minorities and women.

The ORS has acted in a case involving indirect use of revenue sharing money for the benefit of a school system that still has largely segregated schools.

It has asked the Justice Department to file suit against the state of Michigan because that state used some of its revenue sharing money for the state public school employees' retirement system, while one of the school districts in the state whose employees benefit from the fund was operating a segregated school in violation of federal law.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare cut off education grants to the offending school system, as it has done in other cases, but this is apparently the first time ORS has moved against the discriminatory use of revenue sharing money by school systems. Even in this case, ORS did not cut off funds, as it has authority to do, but instead asked the Justice Department to begin the long, tedious process of filing suit.

## Afro-Jewish relations on upgrade

A story in The New York Times concluded that the relationships between black Americans and the Jewish community, which have been strained over the past few years, have solidified in recent months. There are many reasons for the improved ties between blacks and Jews, but certainly one important factor is the realization that the oil pricing policies of the Arab nations have done severe damage to the economies of developing black African nations.

A recent article in The Sunday Nation, a Kenyan newspaper, details some of the problems between black Africa and the Arabs. I have excerpted sections of this article because I felt it would be informative for black Americans to hear the opinion of an African on the issue of Arab-African "solidarity."

"The honeymoon between Africans and Arabs seems almost over. The jubilant chants of solidarity which accompanied the dramatic breaks in diplomatic ties between African nations and Israel during the October Middle East War have now been replaced by cries of frustration and bitterness from African nations whose economies face collapse as a result of the astronomical increases in the price of oil products.

"Four years ago, the Arab members of the OAU had tried to rally support from African nations with little success. In October, 1973, African nations were falling over themselves declaring solidarity with the Arabs against Israel, but the haste with which they were breaking relations with Israel did not hide the fact that they were doing so as much out of consideration of

future oil price concessions from the Arab oil-producing nations as out of their commitment to the Palestinian cause.

"What the Arab oil-producing nations have failed to see is that equally high prices for all nations are in fact preferential, for while their effects on the economies of developed nations may be painful, they are tolerable, whereas the economies of a number of developing nations may collapse as a result of the increased prices of oil and oil products.

"While the standards of living Western nations may fail somewhat as a result of increases in fuel prices, the very survival of developing nations may be at stake if nothing is done to shield these nations from the repercussions of the energy crisis.

"And what has to be done must be more than the miserable gestures which the Arab nations are making through their development funds. The money which the Arab nations have invested in the African Development Bank, for instance, is no more than what the oil-producing nations will get back from East Africa, alone, during the next year-and-a-half, from increased crude oil prices, and is far less than the total revenue which oil-producing countries will get from Kenya alone during this coming year. In other words, the money we are being loaned is infinitesimal as compared with the sums we are being asked to spend on increased oil prices.

In fact, the Arabs are doing what the bad old imperialists have been doing all along, giving aid so as to finance the purchase of products from the donor nations. The only difference is that there was a much closer relationship between the aid given by Western nations and the volume of trade between them and developing countries.

"It is difficult, in these circumstances, to square the concepts of friendship which the Arabs and the Africans have to each other. Certainly it is a strange friend, indeed, who persists in a policy which spells the collapse of the economy of a friendly State, especially when the intended victim pleads for his survival as eloquently as the African nations have done.

"Perhaps it is at times like this that Africans ought to review the depth of their friendship with the Arab nations. In the past twelve months, for instance, the Sahelian region of the continent has been suffering from one of the worst droughts in man's history. Millions of livestock have died; hundreds of people have lost their lives. It is true that there is much that African nations could have done for themselves before and during the droughts, but there is also much which the rest of the world could have done to assist the drought-stricken areas.

"There has been much criticism of Western nations for not having responded promptly and with substantial aid, but what of the Arab oil-producing nations--our friends? Our Third World comrades? Our allies? Their assistance to the Sahelian States has been conspicuous by its paltriness.

"Couldn't the Arab oil-producing nations, who profess to be the friends of Africans, have spared a few million out of their billions, which they earn weekly from oil revenue, to extend a helping hand to the starving and dying in the drought-stricken areas?

"So what are African nations to do about this whole state of affairs? Obviously they cannot force the Arab nations to sell their oil at a concessionary price to them. They cannot force the Arab nations to sink more meaningful sums into development projects in Africa.

"But neither should African nations adopt a stance which gives the impression that we are going down on our knees over the oil issues. The times ahead may be difficult, but we have stated our case to our Arab friends the best way we know how; it would not help for us to forfeit our pride in the bargain.

"For one thing, we can restore some of the psychological balance in this situation if those African nations who had no direct quarrel with Israel were to reopen diplomatic relations with Israel.

"A great many African nations broke diplomatic relations because they thought that by doing so they would be placed on the most favored list when the Arab oil-producing nations offered oil price concessions. These concessions have not been forthcoming, and there is no reason for these African nations to continue their break in relations with Israel."

## CCCC '75 Graduates

Clark County Community College will graduate its class of 1975 on Thursday, May 22, at 7 PM. in the Gold Room of the Convention Center.

On the same day a luncheon will be held for the graduating class at the Desert Inn. Dr. Charles R. Donnelly, President of the Community College Division, University of Nevada System, will address the graduates.

At the evening graduation exercises at the Convention Center, Dr. R. Stephen Nicholson, Executive Vice-President, will preside.

Students graduating are as follows: Associate Degree in General Studies, David A. Ackley, Donald E. Adams, Jr., Louise M. Barton, Robert L. Bobbett, Jr., Kayton Lewis Boradway, Margaret A. Dennehy, Bruce M. Dustin, Donna Gosnell, Thomas, Paul Kadlic, Jerrina Joanne McKinney, Marquetta I. McKinney, Paul Sheldon Parrish, Frank J. Perez, David Warren Prehm, Clarence D. Scott, Gloria J.B. Shelby, and Lawrence Walter Skinner; Associate in Arts, Robert G. Abel, Gregory Joel Adamour, Romelle Baker, Inga-Britt Barnes, John M. Barton, William Richard Belcher, Glen R. Bleak, Lenard Collins, Catherine C. Cross, Deborah Diane Dice, Donna DeVoe Roldan, Thomas M. Rosenberger, Daniel W. Ruff, Clarence D. Scott, Robert D. Seno, Edward D. Short, Codis Simmons, Stanley J. Sobezak, John L. Sullivan, Karen H. Taylor, Dana Charles Tomlinson, Roosevelt Toston, Donald W. Walker, and Harold R. Williams.

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