

SEATTLE'S MODEL CITY NEWS REPORT

Model Cities leaders will be featured at dinner

Tickets will be available soon to a special dinner honoring Municipal Court Judge Charles Johnson and the Black media, announced Joseph White, East Branch citizen participation coordinator.

White said the dinner will be held on Friday evening, March 2, in the Yesler Facility, 17th and East

Yesler. It will start at 6 p.m.

Awards will be presented at dinner. The dinner will be followed by no-host cocktails, dancing and a reception at the Heritage House.

In addition to Judge Johnson, past chairman of the East Branch Advisory Council, several other citizens in the East Branch Citizen

Advisory Council also will be honored, said White.

Names of the honorees will be announced at a later date.

Cost of the dinner is \$8 per couple and \$5 per person. Reservations may be made by calling Mr. White at 583-5710, or by Model Cities East Branch 1700 East Cherry Street.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Three persons who have featured prominently in the Seattle Model City Program were highlighted recently in Seattle's Metropolitan daily newspapers.

WALT HUNDLEY



Walter Hundley, executive director of SMCP, spoke at the weekend conference in the Heritage House sponsored by the Northwest branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In theory, revenue sharing would turn back federally collected taxes in a lump sum to local governments. As reported in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Clarence Mitchell, Washington, D. C. bureau director of NAACP, told the meeting:

"So far, the states, cities and other political subdivisions receiving monies under revenue sharing programs are planning to spend such funds for purposes that do not help the general welfare."

Hundley added: "What kind of influence can we

wield on the local government? What kind of assurance do we have that present programs will be continued?"

He said that minority groups "should bury the hatchet on rivalries and competition," and work to decide which programs affected by revenue sharing should continue to be funded.

"If we can unite as a total community, then we can confront the city government," said Hundley. "After years of taling about 'getting together,' the time has come to implement the kind of lip service we've been giving."

ELMIRA HUNTER

Elmira Hunter, one of 14 women organizing Saturday's Black Women's Forum at the University of Washington Ethnic Cultural Center dropped by the Seattle Times to talk about her own experiences as a black woman.

She earned a college degree in architecture with high honors nearly 13 years ago. But the only jobs she could find in architectural offices paid less than the office secretaries were making.

She doesn't claim flatly that it was because she is black and a woman. But she doesn't think her race and sex helped any.

Now Elmira is a second year law student at the U of W. Armed with a law degree, she hopes to make the system work better for herself and her sisters.

"I worked with Model Cities for a while and was involved in 235 (low income

housing) programs," she told The Times. "It made me ill to see how many real-estate people took advantage of low-income people, especially women."

"If a woman has never owned a house, anything looks great to her--until she's lived in it for a while and the wiring and plumbing go bad. She would have been better off renting."

"That's the kind of thing that angers me to the point where I wanted to go to law school and get some of those guys...."

Elmira is a widow with two sons. David, her husband who died last June of a brain tumor, also had been employed by Model Cities. Mrs. Hunter entered law school at the urging of her late husband.

When federal funding for some Model Cities programs expires here in June, the curtain may close on one of the area's premiere stages for boosting minority - group youths into the communications field, reports The Times.

The only alternative then remaining for Oscar Productions, says its director, Nate Long, will be "to somehow make it on our own."

Oscar, which is geared to training young professionals, boasts of more than 100 graduates.

Oscar has made its mark in Seattle through the successful "Action: Inner City," television program Sunday afternoons on KOMO-TV. With the help of his students, Long has molded the program into a vehicle which propounds his basic philosophy of communications: to inform whites about blacks, and blacks about themselves.

"When we first began the action series, it wasn't expected to last beyond six weeks," Long told The Times.

It is now entering its 80th week, featuring interviews black figures of local and national prominence.

Long said Oscar could, in effect, become a "house organ" for Seattle's black community -- promoting Seattle's blacks to Seattle's whites. He added:

"Basically, we are all visually oriented. And if we see positive images in communications, then we can think positively."

OPINION..



By: Dr. Richard C. Hunter, Central Region Administrator

REVENUE SHARING IS NOT NEW

Throughout the nation mayors, governors, congressmen, and senators have been decrying recent proposed Federal budget cuts. Specifically, they are agonizing over an apparent redirection of national priorities. The budget speaks to severe cutbacks in social and education service areas including Model Cities, O.E.O., schools, and others. This is being advanced under the guise of "revenue sharing."

Revenue sharing as a concept is not new. It outdates President Nixon's tenure in office and cannot be accurately labeled his brainchild. However, credit for its passage through Congress can be directly attributed to him. What is the concept, and what will be its effect?

Theoretically speaking, it stipulates the Federal government would distribute back to local governmental agencies (cities, states, and counties) a specific sum to be used to meet locally defined needs. Restrictions may or may not be placed on the use of these funds; however, the intent is to allow local governmental agencies greater latitude as to how the money may be spent.

There are two types of revenue sharing, general and special. General revenue-sharing allocations have already been approved by Congress. In fact, local governmental agencies have received their first checks and have incorporated the sums into next year's budgets. There are no restrictions on how general revenue-sharing money can be spent. This has caused great national concern on the part of many minorities. They feel an apparent misuse of revenue sharing may take place. County and state legislatures tend to be dominated by a rural mentality. Big cities have historically been underrepresented in state governments. The Federal government has in past years attempted to compensate with direct grants to big urban centers.

Another concern is the heavy reliance of minority communities on the Federal categorical grants that grew out of Great Society programs. Locally, some 2,700 people rely on Model Cities and O.E.O. for employment. In Central Region schools 38 percent of the overall budget relates directly to Federal/State grants. Approximately 200 employees are working because of these funds. If these programs are cut, will the rural dominated state legislature use revenue-sharing funds as replacement? Most feel a major sensitizing is necessary for few minorities hold state, county, or local offices.

Recently, mayors of big cities have expressed dissatisfaction with grant amounts and the reliance of revenue-sharing as replacement for previous categorical grants. These grants are extremely crucial to cities. Mayor Lindsey of New York, recently expressed concern that President Nixon may have violated agreements made to mayors who supported revenue sharing in congressional testimony. "Tricky Dick" may have triumphed again.

Special revenue sharing has not passed Congress yet. It would identify special areas such as social services and education as eligible for funds. These monies would be distributed to local entities in the same manner as general revenue-sharing funds. The difference is they must meet local needs in the special areas.

The question, "Why revenue sharing?" is interesting. It is easy to understand why mayors, governors, etc., were excited over the prospect of getting what they thought was new money. But why President Nixon and Congress have offered to relinquish previous decision-making autonomy over billions of dollars is hard to understand. One possibility is the apparent concern Nixon has voiced over high taxes and governmental spending. Congress has in recent years advocated increased spending for social services and education programs. The President's concern has lead him to impound (refuse to spend) congressional appropriations. Maybe he sees revenue sharing as a means of checking Congress and reducing local taxes as well.

Black people must be concerned over revenue sharing a la President Nixon. We must direct our energies at sensitizing all governmental units that minority problems must be solved. In addition, we must exert continued pressure on Congress, for they have a job to do on the President of the United States.

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