

FLATLANDS Attacked at School Board Meeting

Photos: Harawitz-Weir



Board Member Munck and Supt. Phillips



Joan Sparks: "...the boycott... is not to blame...."

The School board meeting of October 29, the first meeting following the boycott, lasted three hours and forty minutes. At 5 p.m. the board moved into Hunter hall to admit the large number present — the hall was filled to capacity.

The board listened to specific announcements dealing with the riots and boycott. Over 20 people made presentations to the board, half of them attacking the boycott and associating it with the riot, the other half, not in simple support but stating the problems that exist in Oakland, and the need to begin work on these problems. The announcement that the three days cost the schools \$40,000, including fire damage, substi-

tutes, overtime, window damage and miscellaneous repairs.

The board had received 82 letters in support of the board and of education in Oakland. Only one letter had been written stating that a woman could not support the apathy of the board.

The presentations had a wide range. Some tied the boycott and the rioting as one thing. Their feelings were that law and order had been broken, and that those who had broken it must be made to pay. Payment would be legal prosecution. COBE (Citizens on Better Education) stated that the board should commit itself to full prosecution of anyone encouraging the illegal conspiracy of the boycott: "Does the help and encouragement of the FLATLANDS in promoting this boycott constitute conspiracy? If so, every editor and sponsor (several organizations were mentioned — most have nothing to do with the FLATLANDS) of the publication should be prosecuted."

A teacher from Castlemont High school, Mariella Lenahan, presented a petition signed by 50 teachers, "We want uniformed police there so we don't have to run around calling them. Girls are worse than boys. Not one day since I've been in Castlemont for three years have I not been insulted, cursed, and called obscene names." She went on to explain that this did not happen in the classroom but in the hall. "As administration you can't sit in an ivory tower and think of us as statistics. We are people."

Corporation of the Poor.

Chance for Unity

by Pauline Goetz

"Unity of the Community" was the theme of the first Fraining Conference put on by the Corporation of the Poor. How did it go? This is best answered by the words of those at the conference.

"There is something going on here. . . this seems to be where the action is. I didn't know so many people were honestly and intelligently interested in the problems that surround us in Oakland. They aren't talking crap, they are here to learn — and teach. The ideas that have hit me here are ideas that look like they're going to work and they make me want to work."

"I want my neighborhood organized so that we can give hell to School Boards and City Councils, and I'm learning how it's done here."

Others wrote:

"Aside from the pleasant company, the campfire singing and the dancing, the workshops and parliamentary procedure course was just what was needed. It's a great pity that always at these sessions only the same group shows up. Those on the Advisory Committee that need a new insight on the poor are always absent."

In a lighter vein, Nat Everett wrote: "I enjoyed the retreat. I didn't go to bed till late, but I couldn't sleep anyway because Erben Dennis snored so loud. I never stayed in a place where they had so many men sleeping together and the women sleeping together. . . . the get-together and the dance was fun for the poor."

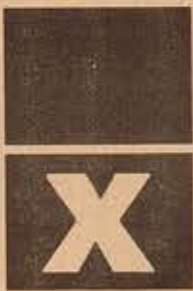
Another person had this to say: "The kind of training and opportunity for expression at this



Mr. Everett, Mrs. Goetz, Mrs. Bumcrot, Mr. Goetz, Mrs. Woods.

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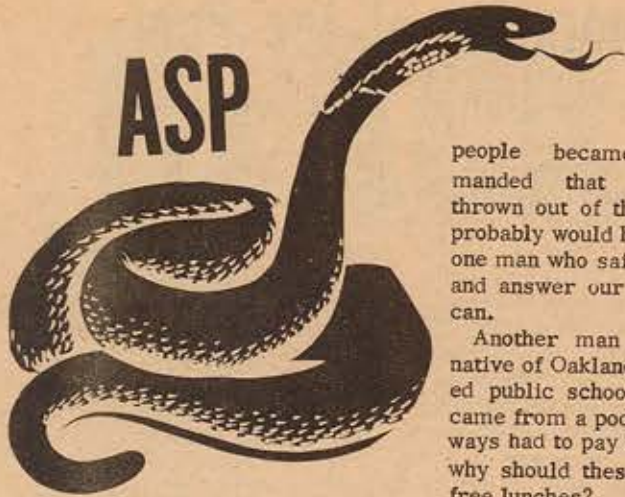
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MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY
15 th DISTRICT



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Lives in East Oakland

Charles D. Morley is a director of the Marketeers Advisory Council, a non-profit trade association of small businessmen. He is currently helping men from the hard-core unemployed gain good jobs or go into business for themselves.

We can count on Charles Morley to work hard for us.



On Thursday night, October 20, 1966, ASP (Associated Students Parents) held their second meeting. Attendance was smaller than at the first meeting. The discussion centered around the school boycott.

Virginia Foster got up and explained that she is a member of Ad Hoc and had taught in a freedom school; she announced she was at the meeting to explain or answer any questions people might have on the boycott or Ad Hoc's position. Many of the

people became angry and demanded that Mrs. Foster be thrown out of the meeting. She probably would have been but for one man who said no, let her stay and answer our questions if she can.

Another man said he was a native of Oakland and had attended public schools here; that he came from a poor family and always had to pay for his meals so why should these poor kids have free lunches?

Mrs. Foster tried to explain the budget for welfare recipients and a woman shouted that if the free-loaders on welfare would quit boozing the welfare checks they would have lunch money for their kids. Another woman tried to explain that she had been on welfare and never had money for the kids, much less for booze. The first woman said, "You must be an exception; all the ones I know on welfare drink their checks up."

The audience refused to be

reasonable or sympathetic toward Mrs. Foster, so she became upset and left. A few others left at this point.

Later all people there with no children in Fremont were asked to stand and leave the meeting. A Catholic priest who had come to observe and some others stood, but one person in the audience said the priest was not included since he was the spiritual advisor for some of the people there from his church.

There was an awful feeling of hate in the meeting from some of the people in the group. Hate breeds violence, and it is apparent that this is what ASP is striving to create. Many people there had this impression.

Since these meetings are held in a public building the school board should make it clear to them that they cannot close the meeting to any interested citizen wanting to attend. Some Negro parents that tried to attend were turned away — which makes people wonder if there is any sincerity within this group.

Corporation of the Poor

Continued from Page 7

C.O.P. Conference is making it possible for Oakland's poor people and minorities to have a real voice in the decisions that affect our lives. We must immediately put into practice the things we have learned."

This reporter would like to add a few remarks of her own. Sometimes you go to a party and for the first little while you don't know if it's going to "turn out" and then something "clicks" and the whole thing is a big success. Well, that's the way this first attempt by the C.O.P. came off.

Although the conference was directed at Oakland's Target Area Advisory Committees, there were many people from many organizations wanting "change," and there were even some people not involved in anything at all who got caught up in the spirit of the conference and made decisions to get on Advisory Boards and work for the community.

As usual, the Advisory Committee members stayed away in droves — a big disappointment to us all. But for those of us who were there, the talk given by Nat Shaffer on neighborhood organizing was the best I've heard. He met us head on where we stand today—didn't go into a lot of the usual irrelevancies indulged in by C.A.P. seminarians. He knew and respected his audience and gave us the straight stuff.

The other educational highlight of the conference was Paul Cobb's easy and appealing way of showing just what strength lies in using the Power Structure's tools of parliamentary procedure—OEDC meetings ought to be an interesting experience after this. The workshop presided over by Bryce Young on "Where Oakland stands in the Political Picture" drew a number of enthusiastic comments.

One of the beautiful things was the complete acceptance of one another at whatever level of

growth and awareness. It was also integration at its finest and a spirit of unity and comradeship prevailed. The food, the weather, the big redwood forest, the dancing, card games and other recreation just added ingredients to the weekend success story.

Last, may I make an Onions and Roses observation:

Roses: some of the money that went into the operating expenses of putting this conference on actually fell into the pockets of the poor for a change — for baby-sitting and transportation expenses, and for those who helped in the planning stage.

Onions: Where were all the Advisory Committee members? This conference was especially for them! Some of us were saying maybe the "stay-aways" don't really want to represent us on the committees. Maybe they, like the establishment, think they know what's good for us and don't need any training?



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FLATLANDS SAYS

The Election:

The FLATLANDS does not, as a matter of policy, endorse any candidates for any office. We urge Flatlands residents to vote, to make themselves heard. The old motto will serve: he who is silent consents.

The Boycott and the trouble:

There wasn't much difference among the different newspapers last week. The Berkeley Post ("Sheer Folly" they said) sounded pretty much like the Oakland Tribune — the Examiner headlines linked the boycott and the riots in big bold type. None of them talked about the conditions in the Oakland schools that led the Ad Hoc Committee to call a boycott.

They all wrote how "responsible" leaders wouldn't act this way; "responsible" leaders saved the day, and so on and on and on. It all depends on who you're responsible to.

The "responsible" heads of the Neighborhood Service Centers closed their doors at the last minute, forcing kids out on the street.

Some "responsible" churches—not all—closed their doors too.

The District Attorney and School Board showed how responsible they were by announcing at the last minute that teachers participating in the boycott would be charged—something no teacher can afford.

The people who worked night and day for weeks so that students and parents could show, in an orderly way, that they felt things were terribly wrong in the Oakland schools, the neighborhood leaders who went into troubled areas to calm things down are all, according to this sort of thinking, irresponsible "outside agitators."

We suggest a new phrase: "outside experts." The newspaper editors and well-paid governors of the programs set up to help the poor; those who advise waiting and more waiting, who have the figures to show that things aren't as bad as they really are, who want change so gradual that no one can notice it. These "outside experts" should take a closer look at Oakland and find out just who is truly responding to the needs of the community.

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