

*This morning 10-29-70
at Hall*

Equen. Co. by Dr. Boggs

CIC Director, Marjorie... Press...

PRESS RELEASE

As individuals and organizations involved in last week's Racism Symposium; representatives from community groups and organizations; and concerned students and citizens, we feel the real issues behind the controversy surrounding the Symposium have been suppressed. Our purpose this morning is to talk about those issues.

[The Racism Symposium was one of the first University programs relevant to the majority of people in the community.] Educationally, thousands learned how racism is used to maintain the existing order, and oppress people of color. Materially, the money paid participants will be used locally and elsewhere to further the struggle oppressed people are waging for survival and liberation.

There was no "financial mismanagement," "unauthorized allocation of funds" or "disregard for the decision making process" as the A.S.U.O. charges. These are [merely excuses used to obscure the real issues: Who controls the resources of the university and how will they be used?] When those resources are used to perpetuate the established order hardly a cry is raised. Note the spending of \$230,000 for Astro-Turf at Autzen Stadium. Yet when \$17,000 is spent on a Racism Symposium, charges of "fiscal irresponsibility" are levelled. What kind of insane priorities are these? Especially when compared with the needs of the Soledad Brothers Defense Fund, Free Medical Clinics and Breakfasts for Children, a Wood and Fuel Cooperative, the Los Siete Defense, and many others.

What is evident is that when the resources of the University are used to serve the people, then the club of repression is lowered. The A.S.U.O. in attempting to discredit the Symposium and eliminate those responsible for it, is responding to pressures from above--Johnson Hall, or perhaps the State Board of Higher Education who have said: "Don't let it happen again, or else."

As citizens and students working to abolish the conditions of racism, war, poverty from this community and society we will continue to struggle to make the University responsive to the needs of the people in this community. Along this line we demand:

- (1) No change in personnel in the Cultural Issues Center.
- (2) Representatives of the community and oppressed students be brought into the decision-making process concerning the use of A.S.U.O. funds.
- (3) The A.S.U.O. and the University make available adequate funds for future programs.
- (4) A public meeting with A.S.U.O. officials concerning the Cultural Issues Center.

In the stand they have taken the A.S.U.O. has aligned itself with the Robert Clark's, Tom McCall's and Richard Nixon's who rule this oppressive system. In attempting to purge those working to meet the needs of the people the A.S.U.O. has resorted to the same tactics used by those in power in this country: individuals being singled-out, slandered, and used as scapegoats. Another method is opportunism--making decisions, then changing them as conditions change.

Finally, we say that the past practice of the Cultural Issues Center shows it as responsive to the needs of oppressed people. We consider an attack on it, is an attack on us.