

SE UPLIFT'S ORIGIN—1968

The Story According to Oregonian Articles

In 1968, community activists asked the Portland City Council to create a community revitalization organization for SE Portland similar to the Model Cities Program in northeast Portland. Of course, the process included some controversy. While, the initial proposal to include SE Portland as part of the federal Model Cities Program was not adopted, the Portland City Council did approve the creation of a separate “comprehensive improvement program” for SE Portland.

Portland Mayor Terry Schrunk said he hoped the SE Uplift office would become “‘a little city hall,’ where residents could bring ideas and receive information.” The initial plan called for the SE Uplift office to be open in the evenings to “accommodate the public.”

Southeast Uplift’s first office, staffed by the Portland Development Commission (now Prosper Portland), opened in September 1968 at 4316 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

The attached articles tell some of the story:

- February 6, 1968: “Southeast Group Shuns Local ‘Uplift’ Proposal”
- February 8, 1968: “Council to Go Ahead With Model Cities Program Despite Protests”
- February 16, 1968: “SE Plan Rejected by Council”
- February 16, 1968: “Bowes Praises Case Offered by SE Group”
- April 3, 1968: “SE ‘Uplift’ Project Officially Launched”
- May 5, 1968: “Mayor Picks Uplift Group”
- May 22, 1968: “SE Portland Group, City Clash Over Agency Request”
- July 11, 1968: “City Official Scores OEA”
- Sept. 7, 1968: “Group Slates Open House”

Southeast Group Shuns Local 'Uplift' Proposal

By ANDREW MERSHON
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

Southeast Portland is not interested in social and physical renewal unless it comes under the federal Model Cities program, a Legal Aid Society attorney indicated Monday night.

Ted E. Runstein, representing the Southeast Model Cities Participation Committee, told The Oregonian that Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie's plan for a "Southeast Uplift," to be largely locally financed and staffed, "is totally unacceptable."

Runstein said his committee wants a hearing, "and that's all we have ever wanted." He added the committee will continue to do everything for inclusion in Model Cities, "short of killing the program itself."

Thirteen persons not including four city staff members and the press, attended a meeting Monday night in the Planning Commission offices. Runstein was one, two live in Northeast Portland and several others are paid staff in various Office of Economic Opportunity programs.

Plan Presented

Ivancie had promised committee Chairman Harol Slater a report on the results of his Washington, D.C., talks with the Department of Housing and Urban Development last week. He said he tried to sell HUD on including Southeast Portland in the Model Cities area and had presented the committee's own report to Undersecretary H. Ralph Taylor.

Taylor's judgment, that a one-year minimum delay would result from any inclusion or substitution involving

a new area, was based on examination of that report. His letter was reported last Friday.

Ivancie and City Planning Director Lloyd Keefe laid out the proposed Southeast Uplift program for the group and explained various facets of renewal and rehabilitation that could be employed.

Both stressed the need for preliminary studies, however, to determine where and what kind of help is needed.

Using Irvington as an example, Keefe pointed out that 22 areas of needed improvement have been identified to save and rehabilitate the residential neighborhood.

"We don't know what the poverty program is even going to look like in two years . . . we don't know if there will even be a Model Cities (program) next year. The byword in Washington is retrench, cut back on these social welfare programs."

He said Southeast has an opportunity, however, to evince the same kind of interest that inspired the Irvington studies and which resulted in a small part of Irvington being included in the Model Cities area. The rest of the plan will be accomplished by city action and with limited federal funding, he indicated.

Divisive Effect Claimed

Runstein released a letter sent to the Oregon congressional delegation after the meeting.

In that letter, he said "one of the most fundamental weaknesses (in the present Model Cities program) is the inevitable divisive effect of the present boundaries on the poor of Portland."

Runstein stressed that the committee wanted a "fair hearing." He repeated the phrase after the meeting, but did not specify whether this meant a hearing before the council or before HUD.

The letter closes with, "It is our understanding that city officials and representatives of HUD are going to meet in San Francisco on Feb. 8 . . . to study Portland's proposal. On Feb. 2, we wrote to HUD requesting that we be allowed to appear in San Francisco to state our case for holding a fair hearing in Portland. To date, no response has been received. We request your assistance in assuring that a hearing is obtained on this matter."

Budget Lists Legal Fees

Maywood Park Eyes Road Fight

MAYWOOD PARK (Special) — The Maywood Park budget committee Monday approved a \$4,762 budget for the current fiscal year, including \$1,500 for legal fees which might be incurred in an attempt to block construction of I-205 through the town.

Mayor Werner Zeller said the budget money would come from franchise fees and cigarette and alcohol tax allocations by the state and require no property tax.

Anticipated expenditures include operating materials and supplies, \$650; contractual services, \$1,200; special expenditures, including the amount budgeted for legal expenses for litigation in connection with the proposed highway, \$1,850; contingency, \$500, and unappropriated, \$562.

Another fund, which would be financed by an anticipated \$4,425 in state gasoline tax allocations for street improvement and repair, and approved by the committee.

Zeller announced he has written to the state attorney general for an opinion whether the council can use the funds from the gasoline tax for legal costs of fighting the freeway.

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Council To Go Ahead With Model Cities Program Despite Protests

By ANDREW MERSHON
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

Portland City Council vowed to go ahead with its Model Cities Program application Wednesday after a flurry of telegrams and telephone conferences with Washington and San Francisco.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, responding to a request from a group known as Portland Action Committee Together, operating in Southeast Portland, asked the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to hold up approval of Portland's application.

In a telegram sent Tuesday, Hatfield told the HUD offices in both Washington and San Francisco, "that as all groups have not had an opportunity adequately to present their views regarding the . . . proposal . . . I therefore respectfully ask if it would be possible for HUD to postpone its decision on the Portland proposal until all views have been fully and fairly heard."

Hatfield Warned

Hatfield drew an immediate response from the City Council, which drafted a long warning him against "any further dissension and delay in bringing this program to fruition."

The council said Model Cities in Portland is in "dire jeopardy as it presently stands and any unfortunate action in Washington could result in its total defeat."

The council also explained that the application would be formally considered by the council Feb. 15 in an open public meeting where testimony from all quarters would be encouraged.

The council instructed Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie, who coordinates Office of Economic Opportunity and HUD projects for the city,

to notify PACT of the Feb. 15 meeting. Ivancie made it clear that the council would consider the finalized application at that time and hear any objections to it. If the council feels the objections are valid, it could work toward resubmission of another application to HUD at some other time.

Prior to the Feb. 15 meeting, the council will meet in conference to be briefed on the program by Model Cities Planning Director Paul Schulze and members of the city staff.

In its telegram, the council placed blame for the Model Cities warfare on "the confusion and struggles between OEO (Office of Economic Opportunity) and HUD. We would hate to see a worthwhile program sacrificed for all further political expediency on the

part of federal officials." PACT's main dissension with the city is that four so-called "poverty pockets" in Southeast Portland were excluded from the Model Cities application.

The boundaries of the Model Cities area were determined in large part, by a three-year Community Renewal Program study, financed by federal funds, which found the area centering on Albina to be the section of greatest need.

Mayor Terry D. Schrunk, who did not attend regular council meetings this week, but did come in for the conference on the telegram, pointed out that "Model Cities was never intended to solve all the problems of all the areas of the city. We certainly recognize that other problems exist in other areas and we will do all we can to meet them."

Schrunk said part of the trouble over the Model Cities boundaries apparently stems from "many OEO people who feel they are going to be renewed program to be called Southeast Uplift.

Runstein said this was "totally unacceptable." He also promised to do everything possible to fight the city's application, "short of killing the program itself."

Runstein wrote the letter to Hatfield and other members of the Oregon congressional delegation which inspired the telegram to HUD.

In that letter, he accused the city of trying to divide the poor and said OEO-financed Community Action Programs had labored long and hard to build a cohesive political unit out of the disadvantaged areas.

The letter also charged the boundaries had been drawn without adequate citizen participation and without "fair hearing."

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Bowes Praises Case Offered By SE Group

See Story on Page One Aiso
At the City Council Model Cities application hearing Thursday, City Commissioner William A. Bowes, who had hours of testimony, spoke up after Mayor Terry D. Schruck cut it off at 8:15 p.m.
He praised the Southeast Citizens Committee headed by Harold Slater, for "the best presentation I have seen before this council in a long while."
He agreed with the South-

east that Irvington and Woodlawn should be cut out of the program and at least "a token" area of the Southeast included.
Bowes asked for a "week to 10 days to study the areas and come up with a further report . . . some proposal to include part of the Southeast."

Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie agreed with both Southeast and Bowes and that the need was definitely there. "I've said it all along, that this area (Southeast) needs help, but we've worked with this thing for a year now and our decision has been made. Now if you want to take it over, that's fine with me."

Mechanics Explained
Bowes considered a minute, walked over to Mayor Schruck, then said, "Well, if that's the way you feel, Mr. Mayor, I'll vote for it."

Ivancie and the city staff, along with Model Cities Planning Director Paul Schulze, opened the hearing by explaining mechanics of the application revisions, including the work flow chart that later brought howls of protest from the Albina contingent.

That presentation took about an hour. Then the Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League seized the floor, endorsed Ivancie's Southeast Uplift, and withdrew.

Slater then took over for the next three hours with a parade of testimony from various agencies and citizens' committees working in Southeast, presenting their case for inclusion.

A few were rough in Ivancie, blaming him entirely for leaving them out of the program. One woman, representing mothers receiving Aid to Dependent Children welfare, said Ivancie's attitude was "the hell with the poor people."

Homes Compared
The Southeast proposal also included a "magic lantern" show, with projections of photographs comparing some homes in their area with those in Irvington which had been included in the program.

Commissioner Stanley W. Earl, who later briefly joined Bowes in seeking a 10-day delay for further study, asked if the Irvington pictures were representative of that part of the district included in the Model Cities area.

Planner Lloyd Keefe admitted they probably were, but stressed that one important phase of Model Cities is preservation of existing neighborhoods. "Once, some of those pictures you saw of Southeast, some of those homes looked like those in Irvington," he told Earl.

Southeast's case was summed up by Dr. Oscar Kurren, Portland State College, who said he realized, "the die is cast. I don't think it likely that (Southeast) will be included."

200 in Chambers
He went on to say he was "delighted" with the Southeast Uplift planning study area, "and I would hope it is not approached in an episodic or half-hearted manner."

The meeting started out with about 200 persons crowded into council chambers, but the number dwindled to about 50 by 6:30 p.m. and leveled off there until adjournment at 9:30.

Albina representatives, who earlier tried to convince the council it should turn over all control and all grant funds to their committee, were unhappy with the work flow chart.

Lahey called the citizen's planning board "a rubber stamp," for Schulze and claimed it had no power to act.

After an hour's debate on that question, the document was amended to clarify it to read, the CPB has final say over action program recommendations forwarded to the council.

All five members of the council assured him that was the original intent, but Lahey asked, "Could we have that in writing, please?"

Schulze also assured Lahey and his co-chairman, Al Batisse, that the CPB would be consulted on the hiring of all nonprofessional help in the planning year.

Fire Reaches 3 Buildings

Picture on Page One

A two-alarm fire slapped at three buildings and caused an estimated \$16,700 damage Thursday night in the 1300 block of SW Broadway between Columbia and Jefferson Streets, across from The Oregonian.

In less than an hour the 75 firemen and their 17 pieces of equipment had controlled the fire from the narrow alleys separating the three buildings. There were no injuries.

The blaze apparently started at the rear of 1329 SW Broadway, tenanted by seven Portland State College coeds. Susan Mackie, 25, smelled the fire from her second floor bedroom and woke Sally Parhan, 21, the building's only other occupant at the time. Both girls escaped via a metal chain home escape ladder.

Ladder Credited

A fire bureau official credited the ladder with saving the girls' lives, and added: "We always recommend that there be two ways out of every bedroom."

Damage to that building was \$5,000, plus \$2,000 to the contents.

Adjacent historic Ladd Carriage House, 715 SW Columbia St. — executive offices for the owner, Eric Hoffman Const. — suffered \$7,500 damage.

The third structure involved, the small apartment house at 1321 SW Broadway sustained approximately \$2,000 damage, \$200 to contents. Two of the five male students who live in the apartments were home at the time, and both quickly escaped.

Both apartment buildings are owned by First Christian Church. Cause of the fire is under investigation.

New College Has Impact

GRESHAM (Special) — Mt. Hood Community College will have an economic impact exceeding \$5 million on the East Multnomah County area during the current academic year according to a study recently conducted by the school.

College President Earl Klapstein said he believed that for every local dollar spent on the college about six dollars are brought into the area through student and staff expenditures and college construction and purchases.

Klapstein said regular students at the college are spending more than \$113,400 a month in the area for clothing, car expenses, recreation, food and rent. This totals \$1,130,000 for the academic year.

The college's 92 full-time staff members are spending more than \$17,800 per month for groceries, clothing and gasoline, according to the study.

Each year, the staff buys about \$140,825 in groceries, \$50,000 in clothing and \$24,000 in gas. Staff members are also paying over \$36,000 in property taxes the study showed.

Klapstein said college personnel have accounted for \$893,000 in home purchases, \$109,000 in automobiles and \$50,000 in appliances and other major purchases.

The college, itself, buys about \$163,000 worth of supplies and equipment each year, much of it from within the district, Klapstein said.

College construction has brought over \$2 million in

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Inside Sanct

SE Plan Rejected By Council Firm No Clo

No Change Made In Model Cities Area Boundary

By ANDREW MERSHON
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

Portland City Council hesitated on the brink of passing the Model Cities application revisions Thursday night, then plummeted over with all five members aboard.

Commissioner William A. Bowes pulled one of the last ditch oratorical maneuvers he uses on occasion, in an attempt to get token inclusion of Southeast Portland in the demonstration area. Then he suddenly withdrew and voted for the boundaries as written.

The revisions of an earlier approved application now will go to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for final review. Then the city begins a year of planning Model Cities action programs.

No Changes Made

There were no important changes written into the application in seven hours of hearing, but the Albina Citizens' Committee, headed by Chairman Larry Lakey, reached an understanding with the council and succeeded in spelling out responsibilities of the Citizens' Planning Board.

Although Southeast technically lost, the Southeast Model Cities Citizens' Participation Committee, headed by Chairman Harold Slater, seemed satisfied at the outcome.

Uplift Program Pushed

Slater said later his group "is definitely going to move ahead" with the Southeast Uplift program suggested earlier by Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie.

Slater said there was no bitterness on the part of his people and added he felt they were better equipped to deal with the city, having once had the experience.

"We've learned an awful lot from this," he told the council, "and I want to emphasize that Commissioner Ivancie has talked just as straight tonight as he has with me all along."

Additional details on page 29.

Rule Pend

By STAN
Staff Writ

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SE 'Uplift' Project Officially Launched

Southeast Uplift, the do-it-yourself Model Cities program, became a reality Tuesday and the Portland Development Commission is in the market for a central office in the area.

Mayor Terry D. Schruink said he hoped the Uplift office would become "a little city hall," where residents could bring ideas and receive information. Plans call for the office to remain open evenings to accommodate the public.

Uplift was born out of the Albina Model Cities project, when Southeast Portland residents objected to being left out of the conservation and rehabilitation effort.

The idea was conceived and carried to fruition by Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie with the assistance of the planning commission and Portland Development Commission staffs, which counseled the City Council in its move to launch the program.

Ivancie and Ira Keller, chairman of PDC, emphasized Tuesday in informal council conference that they are going into Uplift "with no preconceived ideas."

Approach Low-Key

Keller outlined what Ivancie called "a low-key approach" to the area's problems and said PDC will "simply feel our way."

Keller said the area is not in crisis and this presents a unique opportunity to find practical, workable solutions to "a very spotty problem. You have a block that's very good, then around the corner you can have some poor structures.

"This is not a crisis situation. Maybe in Portland we can come up with a quite satisfactory do-it-ourselves program."

Ivancie said he feels the city, working with local resi-

dents, "can do it strictly within our local resources. By taking this approach, we can have enough latitude to really do a job in this area."

Plans call for immediate formation of an interim citizens advisory committee with representation from the primary poverty areas as well as appointed members of the community-at-large.

Keller said he was looking forward to undertaking Uplift and said the project could be a model for the entire country. He also was critical of federal agency deadlines and guidelines which he said, often force unnecessary expense on the city.

"It's very difficult," he

said, "to get the federal agencies to do the things Congress has ordered them to do."

most of the work within local revenues, but using federal money when necessary and when it can be utilized without stringent regulation.

The goal of Uplift is to do

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REGATTA COURT PICKED

ASTORIA (Special) — Five young women who will constitute the court of the 1968 Astoria Regatta were named at a weekend dance at Astoria High School. They were chosen by students and faculty of area high schools.

The five are Christine Gerritz, Linda Fornas, Sandra May, all of Astoria High School; Sally Hope, Star of the Sea High School, and Dolla Minkoff, Knappa High School.

One will be selected as queen of the regatta, to be held August 22-25 this year.

Mayor Picks Uplift Group

Mayor Terry D. Schrunk Friday named the 12 members of the Southeast Uplift Advisory Committee.

Southeast Uplift is a locally conceived and operated program patterned after model cities and aimed at the social and economic ills of so-called "poverty pockets" in Southeast Portland.

Committee members nominated by social action groups in the area include:

Mrs. Barbara Evans, 1530 SE 32nd Ave.; Florence Murray, 2038 SE 11th Ave.; Mrs. Pat Crocker, 1730 SE Taylor St. and Mrs. William B. Cate, 248 SE 44th Ave.

In addition, Schrunk appointed seven members of the committee from the city-at-large. These included:

The Rev. Francis X. Diskin, St. Philip Neri Church 2411 SE Tamarack Ave., Richard Priestley, 3449 SE Hawthorne Blvd.; William Rush, 135 SE 94th Ave.; Mrs. Burton Lundahl, 525 SE 65th Ave.; Mrs. Betty Mayer, 6115 SE 13th Ave.; Dent Thomas, 8028 SE 13th Ave., and Jack V. Bronleewe, 4138 SE Woodstock Blvd.

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SE Portland Group, City Clash Over Agency Request

Ira C. Keller, chairman of the Portland Development Commission, described application by Southeast Portland residents for a federally financed planning agency in Portland as a "first class double-cross" Monday night and said flatly that special efforts by the city would be halted in the area if it is established.

Keller took this position at the initial meeting of the Southeast Uplift Committee, a group formed to develop comprehensive improvement program after an attempt to include that area in the Model Cities project failed.

The meeting was attended by Mayor Terry D. Schrunk, who took a less extreme stance, but voiced serious misgivings about the prospect of doing business with a federal planner.

The issue came to a head last week when the Metropolitan Steering Committee, the agency charged with coordinating the War on Poverty in Portland, approved an application to the Office of Economic Opportunity for \$85,000 to establish an Advocate Planner in Portland.

As outlined at that meeting, the Advocate Planner would conduct specialized urban studies and represent the interests of neighborhood residents in dealing with the city council and other elements of officialdom.

Keller said the Advocate Planner concept is a "controversial" idea which "will create dissension." Later, he declared that the Advocate Planner program was the result of "competition between OEO and HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development)."

Embittered by the assumption by HUD of OEO functions in the Model Cities program, according to Keller, the Advocate Planner is pushing the Advocate Planner to regain lost ground.

Several members of the committee inquired whether the federal planner and his staff could not be incorporated usefully into the improvement program but received no encouragement from Keller, Schrupk or City Commissioner Frank Ivancie. One member, Mrs. Pat Crocker, agreed with Keller's assertion that the two federal agencies are in competition but declared that Portland should take advantage of it.

"If OEO is trying to get back in our good graces, why not take it (the grant)?" she asked.

Ivancie noted that Mayor

Sol Borhood improvement methods already available to the city—the Concentrated Employment Program, the National Association of Businessmen's job training program, rent subsidy—Mayor Schrupk asserted: "I don't propose to see Portland become a battleground for the war between the Poverty Program and HUD, as has happened in other cities." He predicted an eventual takeover of the Poverty Program by HUD and said this would improve matters.

Mrs. Florence Murray, a member of the uplift committee, asked Keller directly: "If we get the grant (for the Advocate Planner) we won't as it's constructive."

Schrunk followed this exchange with assurance that the city will help but said "I am pleading for you not to involve the city" in what he saw as a battle between federal agencies.

All city officials present at the meeting repeatedly denied the ailments the Advocate Planner concept is designed to remedy exist in Portland.

"Fighting city hall is all right," said Schrupk, "as long as it's constructive."

Schrunk requested the Metropolitan Steering Committee to postpone action on the Advocate Planner application until it could be studied by the city and county planning commissions. He described a number of neighborhood improvement methods already available to the city—the Concentrated Employment Program, the National Association of Businessmen's job training program, rent subsidy—Mayor Schrupk asserted: "I don't propose to see Portland become a battleground for the war between the Poverty Program and HUD, as has happened in other cities." He predicted an eventual takeover of the Poverty Program by HUD and said this would improve matters.

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BY HENRI ARNOID AND BOB LEE

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City Official Scores OEA

Local, Federal Plans Conflict

Ira Keller, chairman of the Portland Development Commission, Wednesday renewed his angry attack against asserted "competition" and "interference" of the Office of Economic Opportunity in plans for stricken areas of southeast Portland.

Getting behind the chairman's stand, members of the PDC Wednesday officially halted any further expenditure of commission money for Southeast Portland Uplift (announced in April as a "do-it-yourself model cities program") until the course of the federal government becomes clear in this area.

One exception is a budgeted expenditure of \$180 per month on a two-year lease for a Southeast Uplift office at 4316 SE Hawthorne Blvd. This item was approved at Wednesday's brisk meeting.

Area Omitted

"Uplift" was conceived by Commissioner Francis Ivancie when the depressed southeast area was left out of the Model Cities program. It was announced April 2 with glowing proposals for what might be accomplished by the PDC, the City Hall and a citizens committee working in tandem with no federal funds. The local office was to serve as a "little city hall."

As Keller outlined the problem Wednesday the OEO got into the act with a substantial grant of Title II funds and sent personnel out from Washington to survey needs and make plans.

The men from Washington, conceived their function was to combat plans and programs proposed by the Development Commission and presented to City Hall.

"These Washington men have authority under their grant to supersede or take over from Lloyd Keefe (Portland City Planning Consultant) the Port of Portland or any of the other local planning agencies."

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Power Play Feared

Keller said he saw the local manifestations as part of a larger power plan in Washington in which OEO opposes the expanding HUD (Housing and Urban Development).

"They have the authority for 100 per cent duplication" of these efforts, Keller said of the Washington OEO men.

In other PDC business Wednesday, the commission:

— Gave tentative approval to a \$2 million parking, retail and office complex proposed by developer Melvin Mark, construction of an interim parking facility to begin immediately.

— Moved to institute legal action to compel the operator of "Zircon Jim's Restaurant" to remove a nonconforming sign from the new Labor Temple.

— Authorized sale of Block 127 in the South Auditorium Urban Renewal Area for a parking facility.

Report Received

— Received a progress report on the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Project. Salient features of the report:

Seventy-five total parcels acquired to date; of which 34 have been allocated for the Albina Neighborhood Park; leaving 41 parcels for disposition and development. The report said the remaining parcels contain 37 buildable lots.

— Received a status demolition report on the Albina Project. This report states 77 buildings have been demolished, leaving none to be torn down under present plans; and 19 buildings still to be acquired under the project.

— Passed a resolution authorizing condemnation proceedings on nine parcels of property in the Portland State College Project and including the property of the Temple Beth Israel and Robison Home for the Aged at 1903-05 SW 10th Ave.

— Approved the annual budget for the commission which was previously passed by the Multnomah County Tax Conservation and Supervision Committee. In the budget, the total urban redevelopment fund from all sources is listed at \$10,146,400.

• 30% to 50% off & more
China, M&F Downtown Only, 8th Floor

housewares

- floor samples • one-of-a-kind
- "as is" items • cookware • plastics
- bathroom items • fireplace items
- laundry • cleaning aids • gadgets
- assorted hardware
- all 30% to 50% off

Housewares, M&F Downtown Only, 8th Floor

electricals

- toasters • irons • frypans
- percolators • electric knives
- hair dryers • floor samples
- table samples • reconditioned items
- some like new
- all 30% to 50% off

Electricals, M&F Downtown Only, 8th Floor

gift shop

- folding tables and chairs
- "as is" ceramics • giftware
- serving pieces • decorative accessories

50% 75%

Group Slates Open House

Southeast Uplift, Portland's home-grown model cities project, officially gets under way Saturday with an open house in the agency's office at 4316 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for 1 p.m. Portland Mayor Terry Schrunk will participate, along with Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie, who conceived the project several months ago.

Staffing of the office will be paid for by various city departments and the Portland Development Commission.

The uplift project area is bounded on the north by the Banfield Freeway, on the south by the city limits, west by the Willamette River and east by the city limits.