

ASIAN FAMILY & AFFAIR

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WHY IS THIS MAN SMILING?

See pages six and seven

Interview:

with John D. Spellman

(Editor's Note: John D. Spellman is the King County Executive. Elected in 1969, he is the first County Executive under a new home rule charter. Spellman has a long record of government and community service. He is one of the people who are pushing to have Seattle's domed stadium built on the King Street Station site.)

AFA: Was there any input from the Asian community in regards to the domed stadium site?

SPELLMAN: No, the choice was made by six people. Two were appointed by the city of Seattle, two were County Council, two were appointed by the Governor.

AFA: What about the effects on Asians living in the area?

SPELLMAN: I don't think there will be any adverse effects at all.

AFA: No adverse effects at all?

SPELLMAN: no, in fact there might be some good ones.

AFA: Are there any plans to remodel Chinatown?

SPELLMAN: No, absolutely none. The way that any potential problem that might exist should be handled is by a strong city zoning restriction on the area, to allow it to be what the area wants to be, prohibiting parking, restaurants, anything it wants. There is no code to date. I think there will be changes in the quality of that area's housing. Some attempt to put federal city funds to do a better job. I don't think anybody will oppose that. But in terms of running people out, no. I guess it could be guaranteed that the same mix of housing and community development could exist.

AFA: Do you think these safeguards will be put into effect?

SPELLMAN: I don't think there is any likelihood that guarantees won't be put into effect.

AFA: What, in your capacity as King County Executive, have you done for the Asian community?

SPELLMAN: Well, I suppose I've done for the Asian community essentially what I've done for everyone else. I've put a number of Asians in fairly responsible positions. We have consulted on community problems and police problems. I've spent a good deal of time down there meeting with people the last three years. In terms of



"I want to see it (Domed Stadium) built at this point (King Street Station site) ...It's the only place it can be built."

county programs, we have the strongest governmental program, state and local, in terms of affirmative action to assure that we have equal opportunity on any project or anybody we buy from.

I'm sure ours is, by far, the strongest in the state of Washington. We have affirmative action programs in terms of hiring people in King County government. The King County government has a traditionally bad history and we have not been able to overturn it in three years time, although we've made some pretty good changes.

AFA: Is hiring at the King County office level proportionate to the Asian community?

SPELLMAN: I think it's pretty close.

AFA: What's the highest position held by an Asian?

SPELLMAN: A fellow who is director of transportation in the Public Works department.

AFA: How many Asians have you appointed?

SPELLMAN: To boards and commissions, I appointed a great many.

AF: How many?
 SPELLMAN: I would guess, I've had one on the Economic Development Program, Hostal Board, one; Board of Appeals, one; on the task force on the Stadium, one.
 AF: Are these paid positions?
 SPELLMAN: Board of Appeals is paid.
 AF: But the rest aren't?
 SPELLMAN: No, the rest aren't; the rest are citizen involvement groups. I can't pick out any more, but there are more.
 AF: Have you funded any Asian program?
 SPELLMAN: No. I'd say no because we have limited opportunity to do so. We have funded programs that affect Asians; food and health programs. But in specific aid for them, no.
 AF: Do you personally approve the King street site for the Domed Stadium?
 SPELLMAN: I want to see it at this point. It's the only place it can be built.

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In spite of Judge Soukup's dismissal, and Spellman's belief, there may still be hope. There are currently three petitions being circulated to delay the stadium's construction. One deals with the actual site of the stadium; one deals with whether money from the City of Seattle should be allocated to supplement the County stadium project, and the third deals with off-street parking.

The parking petitions are very important because if there are no parking facilities for cars and buses, there can be no stadium. There is a city ordinance requiring "x" number of parking spaces for each "x" number of people that can occupy the public facility. And if the capacity of the stadium is 60,000, then there will have to be a lot of parking places nearby. And we all know what is nearby....the International District.

The petitions can be found at:

The UW EOP Office

3047 - 63rd S.W.
937 - 3047

2410 E. Cherry
EA 2 - 7100

107 S. Main
MA 3 - 1483

4534-1/2 Univ. Way NE
ME 2 - 6157

Stadium Battle Continues

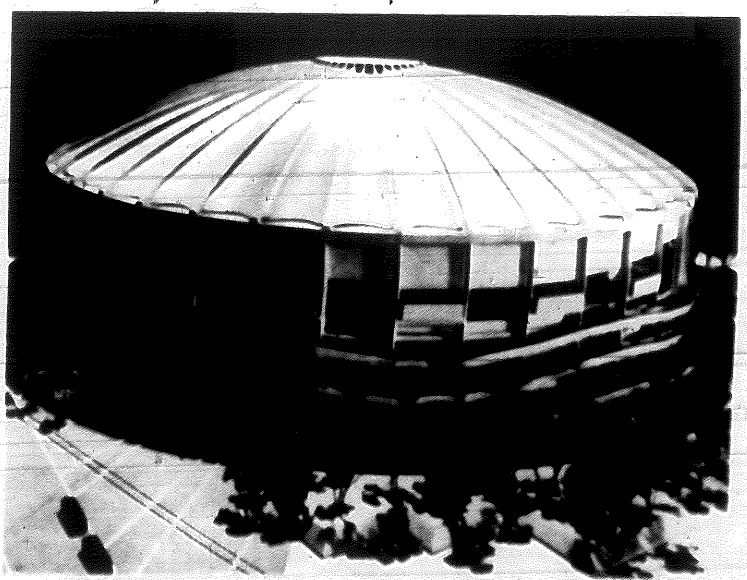
The battle still rages to save the International District from the domed stadium. People are using the weapons of lawsuits and petitions to halt the construction of the stadium.

In August, representatives of the "Concerned Filipino Residents of the International District" filed a suit in King County Superior Court against King County. The plaintiffs charged that the county had not complied with the State Environmental Policy Act in its choice of a site for the stadium.

Suit Dismissed

Superior Court Judge David Soukup dismissed the suit on Friday, September 15. He ruled that the county did, in fact, comply with the Act. Judge Soukup went on to say that the Legislature should rewrite the Act, because it's nothing more than a public relations gesture on the part of business projects.

When the Filipino residents filed this suit, other interested groups announced plans to file separate actions seeking to delay work on the stadium. However, County Executive John Spellman was quoted as saying that he believed that Judge Soukup's ruling would end any chance of further court tests on environmental issues regarding the stadium.



Architect's model on the proposed domed stadium.