

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

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"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
 Economic Development Program, Hos-
 ta Board, one; Board of Appeals, one;
 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 pro-
 gram?
 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 whe-
 ther 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 stadi-
 um. There is a city ordinance requir-
 ing a certain number of parking spaces for each
 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 In-
 ternational 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 In-
 ternational District from the domed stadi-
 um. People are using the weapons of law-
 suits and petitions to halt the construc-
 tion of the stadium.

In August, representatives of the "Con-
 cerned Filipino Residents of the Interna-
 tional District" filed a suit in King
 County Superior Court against King Coun-
 ty. The plaintiffs charged that the coun-
 ty had not complied with the State Envi-
 ronmental Policy Act in its choice of a
 site for the stadium.

Suit Dismissed

Superior Court Judge David Soukup dis-
 missed 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, Coun-
 ty Executive John Spellman was quoted as
 saying that he believed that Judge Soukup's
 ruling would end any chance of fur-
 ther court tests on environmental issues
 regarding the stadium.



Architect's model on the proposed domed stadium.