

Our 'new leadership'

Throughout the Presidential campaign, people could be sure of only one thing about Jimmy Carter: he wanted to be President very, very badly.

Today Carter's great ambition will be realized. He was elected for having seen that so long as he didn't say anything he couldn't offend anybody. In 18 months of campaigning he perfected his Presidential style without troubling the voters with political substance.

People are still wondering exactly what it is that Jimmy Carter stands for. The transition period has given us the first glimpses into what we can expect for the next four years.

The transition period was universally described as having proceeded smoothly. Smiling Republicans shook hands with grinning Democrats. The abundance of good feelings as the government changed faces was almost eerie.

Maybe the reason there was so little argument between the old administration and the new is that the Democrats intend to run the government in essentially the same manner the Republicans have for eight years. Maybe the government is changing in form more than in substance.

Carter's own actions tend to confirm the suspicion that his policies will represent no great departure from the past. During the campaign Carter promised to cut the defense budget by seven billion dollars. After the election Carter learned that even that modest a reduction was unrealistic. And now he emerges from meetings with the Joint Chiefs of Staff convinced that the U.S. must expand militarily to maintain parity with the Soviet Union. It's starting to look like the B-1 Bomber would have been built no matter who had won the election.

Carter avoided making promises during the campaign, but he certainly gave the impression that he would act in some way to reduce unemployment. In their televised debates Carter claimed Ford should be ashamed of the fact that 10 million Americans were unemployed. Now it seems Carter has resigned himself to being ashamed in Ford's place, saying we should not expect a substantial reduction in unemployment in the next year or so.

The new President's commitment to women and minorities has also been postponed. Tokenism was the word of the day in Carter's cabinet and adviser appointments. His promise of new leadership sounds hollow after the highly dramatized process of selection that installed recycled Great Society and New Frontier pols and bureaucrats in the highest executive positions.

Inauguration day may seem a bit early for a new President to be making excuses, but Carter already owes us some good ones. The massive apparatus of government can't be transformed in a day, but the voters who elected Carter expect and deserve a decent effort toward progressive reform.

Iran: fascism and revolution

About three weeks ago the Shah's regime in Iran executed eight revolutionary patriots, and arrested another 11 whose fate, judging from past experiences, would either be execution or long sentences with torture.

Perhaps such news would surprise those who have not witnessed oppressive governments. But to 34-million Iranians who have experienced the fascism of the Shah's regime in the last 23 years, such a news item would not seem surprising at all.

How can we be surprised when, as estimated by the London Economist and the Sunday Times of London, over 40,000 of our brothers and sisters are jailed for political reasons in medieval-type dungeons and are awaiting an unknown fate?

How can we be surprised when torture is routinely practiced by SAVAK, the Shah's secret police resembling Hitler's German Gestapo?

How can we be surprised when the political climate of the entire country is dominated by an unprecedented degree of political oppression and police terror, and when any form of opposition to the Shah's rule would be severely punished?

The Shah's systematic utilization of fascist tactics against the Iranian people is no accident and should by no means be regarded as a mistake on his part. Any unpopular regime in the Third World, imposed on the people by imperialist powers, would behave in a similar fashion.

To the American press and the media it is no longer a "mystery" that the Shah's fascist regime emerged as a result of a coup d'etat engineered by the CIA and financed by giant American and European oil companies in August of 1953.

This coup, which was the first to be engineered by the CIA, was able to overthrow the progressive and popularly-elected government of Dr. Mossadegh, who had led the movement which culminated in the nationalization of the Iranian oil industry and in putting an end to the colonial influence of the British in Iran. For example, this was admitted by CBS's evening news and 60 Minutes, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Newsweek, and so forth. The inception of the coup marked the turning point in the political life of Iran, since it brought unprecedented oppression, police terror and the Shah's rule through SAVAK.

Petroleum happens to be the most important single commodity in the economic life of the western industrialized countries, and needless to say, the Gulf region of the Mid-east happens to contain about 60 per cent of the world's known reserves.

To guarantee the flow of the Mid-Eastern oil to the western world, all the national liberation movements in the area, which by their very nature would oppose any colonial dependency, are being contained and political stability is being imposed.

Led by the American ruling class, world capitalism, especially as the result of the Indo-Chinese conflict, has come to realize that another direct involvement of their forces would mean disaster. This is precisely why Kissinger

has over and over again prescribed the use of the indigenous population, (and of course, money), to contain any national liberation movement in the Third World which would jeopardize the interest of the world capitalist system.

In other words, in certain areas of the world where the interests of imperialism are at stake, it is necessary to create imperialist outposts. Iran, having the longest border with the Gulf, being the most populated country in the region and certainly a rich one, possessing the most desirable economic infrastructure and the greatest number of needed technocrats among the countries close to the Gulf, and certainly having one of the most pro-western puppet regimes in the region, is the most logical and the most desirable choice to safeguard the interests of the world capitalist system in that part of the world.

It is no wonder that Iran, in the last few years, has become the biggest purchaser of arms in history. In essence, the Iranian working people and the poor, who are receiving no benefits from the oil, are subsidizing multinational corporations in general, and the American arms industry in particular. No person in his or her right mind can justify the Shah's purchase of billions of dollars of the most sophisticated arms, especially because the arms purchased have been used to consolidate one of the most oppressive regimes in history, and to invade, on behalf of western monopoly capitalism, Oman, which is going through a Vietnamese-type revolution.

It is to overthrow such a puppet regime and to create a society conducive to social justice and freedom that the Organization of the Iranian People's Fedaei Guerrillas began armed struggle in February of 1970. To them, armed struggle is the only road to the emancipation of Iran, since the prevalence of monarcho-fascism of the Shah (and many other reasons, of course) has not left any other avenues open. The correctness of their analysis was proven when it became known that other underground revolutionary organizations, such as the People's Mojahedins, had independently reached the same conclusion.

These revolutionary organizations are very determined in their struggle to liberate Iran from the yokes of international as well as local reaction. As such, in the last few years, hundreds of their members have given their lives, and hundreds are being tortured savagely in SAVAK jails.

It is to commemorate the beginning of the armed struggle, and to present a thorough analysis of the political and socio-economic situation in Iran that we are having a week of activities in Eugene, Corvallis and Portland, the culmination of which would be the Night of Solidarity With the Iranian Revolutionaries.

The Solidarity Night will take place on Saturday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the Wesley Center in Eugene. The activities will include a speech, a film, a revolutionary theatre, a slide show, and dinner. The participation of anyone interested in those events in the week would be appreciated.

Submitted by
the Iranian Student Association

Letter

Stop the killing

Why is there so much ado over one person being killed by the death penalty when over a million innocent unborn children were killed by abortion last year in the U.S.? This January 22nd is the anniversary of the fateful Supreme Court decision which gave the mother, for any reason, the power and the right to destroy her unborn child, and the decision of the same court last July which denied the father any right to try to change or have a voice in the mother's decision. What gives a mother the sole right to decide life or death of another?

Biologically, life begins at conception when the sperm and ovum are fused. If the unborn child weren't alive the violent act of abortion would obviously not be needed. Because of abortion I get the feeling that there is no value or reason for human existence. What happened to that unalienable right of ours, that of life? People express outrage at the use of the death penalty but are quiet about or in support of the use of abortion. Where is the consistency?

One way to change this dreadful situation in our country and further the cause of life is to write your Congressman and let him know that you favor a Human Life Amendment to the

U.S. Constitution which will stop the killing. This is the only practical way to annul the Supreme Court decision of January 22nd as it was with the Dred Scott case. Human life must be held as a sacred gift, to be respected and not destroyed.

Edward J. Marihart
Senior
Business and Geography

I HAVE
TURNED
IN MY
TIN CAN.



I HAVE
TURNED
IN MY
SPOT
WELDED
BODY.



I HAVE
TURNED
IN MY
DETENTE
T-SHIRT.



I HAVE
TURNED
IN MY
CIA
DECENCY
MEDAL.



I HAVE TURNED IN
MY "STOP FORCED
EQUALITY"
BUTTON.



I HAVE PLOWED
UNDER MY
WIN GARDEN.



I AM
YOUR
LAST
FORD
CARTOON.

