

opinion

Chilean imports fortify fascist regime

How much influence should Eugonians have in determining domestic policies of foreign countries?

The actions of Georgia-Pacific Corp. — which has decided to import logs from Chile, despite the political and human rights problems which continue there — have again made this question a viable one for Oregonians to consider.

By all news accounts allowed (or smuggled) out, the military dictatorship of Gen. Augusto

from Chile's political scene entirely.

The cargo is being unloaded this week at Coos Bay, but protestors have already frustrated G-P's efforts. They delayed a similar shipment of logs last summer until an independent arbitrator ruled that the protestors' picket-line was a demonstration, rather than an official union picket line. Longshoremen recognized the picket-line initially, but returned to work after being informed of the arbitrator's decision.

G-P has attempted to justify its economic pragmatism with the following arguments:

- Officials say hundreds of Oregon workers would be jobless if the shipments are discontinued and that Oregon timber stocks are not plentiful enough to take up the slack.

- G-P also says that the Chilean timber has either been grown on company-owned land or was purchased from private Chilean individuals and is merely being shipped to another company location for processing. G-P spokesperson George Ritchie labels this shipping as a transfer of materials — nothing more.

The ECFC sees G-P's position as built on rationalization, and this is an accurate assessment.

Most important, the ECFC draws its support from all sectors of the Chilean trade union movement — including Untrach, the country's

official union, which is recognized and partially controlled by Pinochet's regime. According to the ECFC, trade unions of Chile have issued a worldwide appeal urging all foreign governments to cease handling all products going to and from Chile, until democratic and trade-union rights have been restored.

In a country such as Chile, few individuals or organizations have the opportunity to communicate their grievances. Since the representatives of the Chilean workers have asked for our help in applying economic pressure, nothing should prevent us from supporting them.

And while protests are valid in combatting G-P's lack of social conscience, such efforts are weakened by inevitable conflicts of interest. It is difficult to organize people to boycott any product, and even harder to get workers to support a process that could put them out of work.

Realistically, pressure must come from the federal government. Economic sanctions have been used with success against such countries as Rhodesia, and these tactics will work even better against the volatile Pinochet regime now strangling Chile. We urge Carter's staff to add some clout to the human rights rhetoric which it utilizes so smoothly.

We owe at least this much to the people of Chile. Our own CIA is at least partly responsible for the fascist regime now ruling their country.

ours

Pinochet is a heavy-handed regime enforced with the tool of brutality. Torture and intimidation by the government have become commonplace, dissent has become a crime and human rights have become obsolete. The fascist underpinnings of the Chilean economy are also painfully evident: Inflation is burying the already poor rank-and-file workers, while the rich elite continues to obtain loans on the international money market.

Protestors, supported by the Eugene Committee for a Free Chile, are attempting to block the unloading of 5.5 million board-feet of timber, bound for G-P's Toledo plant this week. These actions are an attempt to force the ruling dictatorship into loosening its grasp, and ideally they would aid in eliminating Pinochet and his cohorts

yours

Gay freedom

Isn't it time we started to see that Eugene will never change its attitude toward gay people until we get out and take a stand for our rights as human beings?

To be looked upon as people, not as pervers.

To be open so that people may really know who gay people are, and not what they think or have heard — to be ourselves and not totally plastic.

I don't expect them to agree 100 percent, but at least accept that we are here. For example: A group of seven homosexuals, including myself, went to Grand Illusions disco on October 6th. Two of us began to dance and were interrupted by the management, who said we should stop dancing and that people had asked if they could harass us. (If they were going to beat us up, they could have done it with or without the management's

permission.)

We left. The next day we came back and danced by ourselves in front of the mirrors. Again, the management interrupted us with the same bullshit. So we left and I decided to write this letter.

Portland is not as liberal a city as San Francisco, but at least people there accept the idea that we exist and that we aren't going to change for society. Society is composed of different kinds of people and we are part of it, whether or not heterosexuals accept us.

Jose Carrasco
Freshman, Art Education

'Oil' owns sun

The name "Big oil" is seen increasingly on the editorial pages of the national media. "Big oil" has been exploring for new oil and gas reserves all over the world. "Big oil" is here on campus this month to interview

geology students interested in jobs.

But who is "big oil"? They are not just oil companies, they are big energy, and with the help of big government, they are making real progress towards gaining complete control of this country's energy production — all kinds of energy production. For example:

Big oil controls most of the still-struggling photovoltaic industry in this country today. (Photovoltaic cells convert sunlight directly into electricity.) Of the nine major photovoltaic firms in the U.S., eight have been recently purchased by large corporations, five of these by major oil companies. Exxon and Arco will soon control half the industry. And big oil is moving to control the raw materials upon which the industry depends, as well. One of the most vital is copper, and 63 percent of domestic copper

production is in big oil's hands.

Not surprisingly, many solar energy advocates are concerned that big oil will suppress the development of what they would see as a threat to their corner of the energy market. This possibility is reinforced by the oil companies' well publicized prediction that solar power can not make a significant contribution to U.S. energy production in this century. In 1978, Shell Oil predicted that solar energy would contribute only five percent of U.S. energy by the year 2000. But solar contributes five percent now, and a federal task force recently forecast a contribution of 25-30 percent by the year 2000.

Despite pressure from those who would like to see a more decentralized development of solar energy, the U.S. Department of Energy seems to be giving the future of solar energy to the big businesses: 88.7 percent of the DOE's 1978 solar energy research and development grants were awarded to big businesses.

Big oil's control extends over the more traditional energy resources as well. The eight largest oil companies currently control 64 percent of the world's known oil reserves, 60 percent of the proven natural gas reserves, and 45 percent of all known uranium reserves. Uranium affords us an excellent illustration of big oil's control over the lives of thousands of people right here in the U.S.

Sickness and death from uranium exploration and mining (known as the "front end" of the nuclear fuel cycle) are not distant possibilities, but are a tragic reality to the people living in the northern parts of the Navajo Indian Reservation. In the early 1950's the U.S. military fixed their eyes on the uranium rich Navajo lands, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) leased huge tracts of this land for uranium exploration and development.

Companies took the land,

polluted the air and water, took advantage of the Navajo's cheap labor and ignorance of radiation and its hazards, and left their radioactive tailings behind. 10,000,000 tons of these wastes were left on the reservation, and the people living near the sites, never warned of the dangers, even built their homes and schools from the radioactive material. The miners who were exposed to unmeasured and unregulated amounts of radon gas in the mines are now falling prey to lung cancer and pulmonary fibrosis. In the words of one former miner, "it looks like there's been a war around here."

And the Navajo see a new wave of problems on the way. This time, the uranium buyer is the nuclear power industry, instead of the military (and the justification is the national energy shortage, instead of the Cold War), but the effect on the Navajo is the same. Currently, 47 percent of the U.S. mined and milled uranium comes from the Indian lands in northwestern New Mexico, where 750,000 acres have been leased for exploration and development. Among the companies in the area are Exxon, Gulf, Mobil, Phillips, and other representatives of big oil. (Exxon holds an exploration and development lease on another 400,000 acres in Arizona).

When big oil is dictating our future energy policies to us, will they have our best interests in mind?

Bill Clingman
Senior, Geology

letters policy

Letters must be typewritten, using 65 characters, and should be triple spaced. Letters must be signed, and the author's field of study (or faculty status) noted.

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