

Civil Rights leaders oppose Senate Bill 1

Southern civil rights leaders have issued a warning to the Black community and to civil rights advocates across the country concerning legislation pending in this session of Congress which they say could turn the U.S. into a police state. The legislation is titled Senate Bill 1.

Issuing the joint statement were veteran civil rights figures Julian Bond, John Lewis, Reverend Ralph Abernathy and Bernard Lee. Abernathy and Lee are President and Vice-President, respectively, of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Bond, Lewis, Abernathy and Lee were active figures in the civil rights movements of the South in the 1960's. They said that if passed, Senate Bill 1 "would be a monumental set-back to the civil rights gains of the last twenty years." They called it the most dangerous legislative threat to the rights of all Americans ever to come before the Congress, and said it would strike hardest at Blacks and minorities.

Senate Bill 1 is a reworking of the entire U.S. criminal code that was introduced in its original form into the Congress by former President Nixon. It is pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Its supporters include President Ford, Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield, and Republican leader Hugh Scott.

The civil rights leaders said, "Senate Bill 1 would outlaw many of the methods of mass, nonviolent protest of the 1960's. It would encourage government harassment such as that directed against the late Dr. Martin Luther King by the FBI. Senate Bill 1 would silence press exposure of government secrets, and would turn concepts of criminal justice upside down." They said Blacks would "face an ominous series of repressive laws in today's struggles for justice if Senate Bill 1 is passed."

According to the statement, Senate Bill 1 protects government employees who commit illegal acts, calls for widespread wiretapping, provides a mandatory death

penalty and harsher prison sentences with less parole or probation.

The four said Senate Bill 1, a 753-page bill, "is so filled with the repressive taint of the Nixon policies that amendments cannot save it." They called for immediate efforts by people concerned with justice to defeat the measure.

With the second session of the 94th Congress underway, we wish to sound the alarm to the Black community concerning Senate Bill 1 - the criminal Justice Reform Act - now pending in the U.S. Senate.

We are facing the possibility of a vote and passage of Senate Bill 1 in 1976. We feel its enactment would be a monumental set-back to the civil rights gains of the last twenty years, and a disaster to the rights of all Americans.

We believe Senate Bill 1 provides the legislation basis for a police state in America. Yet most people know nothing about the repressive provisions of Senate Bill 1. This is a dangerous situation.

There must be a strong, organized outcry against attempts to pass this bill. We are calling on Black leaders and organizations, and all groups concerned with justice, to work now for defeat of Senate Bill 1. All work for civil rights and justice is imperilled by this bill.

We in the South especially sense its dangers. Senate Bill 1 would outlaw many of the methods of mass, nonviolent protest of the 1960's. It would encourage government harassment such as that directed against the late Dr. Martin Luther King by the FBI. Senate Bill 1 would silence press exposure of government secrets, and would turn concepts of criminal justice upside down. Black and minority people especially would lose by this bill's passage. We would face an ominous series of repressive laws in today's struggles for justice if Senate Bill 1 were law.

Senate Bill 1 was drafted and introduced in its original form by the Nixon

Administration. It would enshrine into law many of the repressive policies of that administration. Senate Bill 1 is now supported by President Ford, Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield and Republican leader Hugh Scott.

Senate Bill 1 is the most dangerous legislative threat to the rights of all Americans perhaps ever to come before the U.S. Congress. Some feel its repressive sections can be taken out by amendment. We feel Senate Bill 1 is so filled with the repressive taint of the Nixon policies that amendments cannot save it. It must be killed in entirety.

Senate Bill 1's provisions on civil rights enforcement are better than current law. But it is not possible to buy good civil rights sections with a police state law. Further, its mandatory death penalty, harsh prison terms and excessive sentences have no place in civilized law.

PROVISIONS

• Under Senate Bill 1, organizers and participants in protest demonstrations could be charged under "riot" provisions, charged with "obstruction of government functions" or even "instigating overthrow or destruction of government." Numerous sections infringing on rights to assembly and protest include 1111, 1112, 1115, 1116, 1302, 1328, 1334, 1861, 1863, 1831, 1103, 1002 and 1003, 1833 and 1834.

• Under Senate Bill 1, vast amounts of wiretapping would be authorized against the citizenry, under broad authority (Chapter 31). Wider latitude for use of entrapment activities by government agents is provided (Section 551), as well as increased "contempt" penalties and

use of "immunity" statutes frequently used against political dissidents (Sections 1333, 3111).

• Senate Bill 1 provides an "official secrets" section which would allow the government to prosecute news media members, government workers and publishers who publicize secrets embarrassing to the government (Sections 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124). "Official mistatement of law" and "public duty" sections would insulate public officials and government servants from prosecution for illegal activities, such as some of those involved in Watergate (Sections 542, 544, 552).

• Senate Bill 1 provides for a mandatory death penalty (Chapter 24). The death penalty has always fallen hardest on poor, Black and minority people. This is especially so in the South - as the disproportionate share of Black and minority people on death row in North Carolina today shows. This is "cruel and unusual" punishment for a select group of people, and it is inherently racist.

• Senate Bill 1 provides mandatory, long prison sentences, de-emphasizes rehabilitation of criminal offenders in favor of vengeful punishment, and allows greater latitude for the use of forced confessions (Part III, and sections 1811, 1823, 3713 and 3714). It does nothing to establish effective control of handguns (Section 1823). And it provides over-broad authority for use of deadly force by authorities to prevent escape from arrest or jail, regardless of the crime alleged or grounds for suspecting the accused (Section 541).

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Sheriff attends FBI Academy

Sheriff Lee P. Brown, Director, Multnomah County Division of Public Safety, announced that FBI Director Clarence Kelly has selected Captain Edgar E. Martin to attend the 105th session of the FBI National Academy. Martin is Assistant Director under Brown.

Martin has been a Deputy Sheriff for ten years, advancing through the ranks to become Captain in April, 1974. He has been Commander of the Training Academy and recently chaired the Task Force on the concept, development and implementation of Team Policing. Mult-

nomah County is the first county sheriff's office to implement team policing, and the first to commit the entire department to the program. Martin was graduated from Oregon College of Education in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree and received a Master's of Education degree from the University of Portland in 1973.

The FBI Academy runs from April 4th to June 19th, 1976 at Quantico, Virginia. Subjects of instruction include: behavioral sciences, firearms, physical training, management, criminal law, budgets, and unions.

Black Political Assembly called

The National Black Political Assembly has completed the format and schedule for what may be one of the most significant national meetings in the long history of Black people in America. Some 6,000 delegates and observers are expected in Cincinnati, Ohio for the Third Bi-Annual National Black Political Convention, March 17th-21st, 1976. The first convention was held in Gary, Indiana in 1972. The theme for the 1976 Black Convention is "Which Way Black Nation: Towards a 76 Political Strategy". The convention will focus on the building of a mass based independent Black political movement for 1976 and beyond.

After preliminary Convention Committee meetings and Platform Hearings on Wednesday, March 17th, the Convention activities will formally begin on Thursday, March 18th, with a Testimonial Luncheon hosted by the Cincinnati Chapter of the National Assembly. The Testimonial will be a "salute to Theodore M. Berry", veteran Civil Rights freedom fighter, a past Deputy Director of O.E.O. and former Mayor of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Opening Session of the Convention and the Official Seating of the Delegates will take place on Thursday evening at the Cincinnati Convention Center. Among those who have been invited to participate in the Opening Session are: Lerone Bennett, Author-Lecturer and Senior Editor of Ebony Magazine; Congressman Ronald V. Dellums of California; and, former D.C. School Superintendent and long time community activist, Barbara Sizemore. A broad cross-section of National Black Leaders and representatives of African nations have also been invited to be present at Opening Session as Official Platform Guests.

Convention activities on March 19th, will consist of a series of fourteen Information and Issue Oriented Open Forums with panels of experts from the National Black Community dealing with a wide range of topics from the Concerns of Black Women, Youth and Senior Citizens to issues in Economic Development, Politics and Education.

Women join planning board

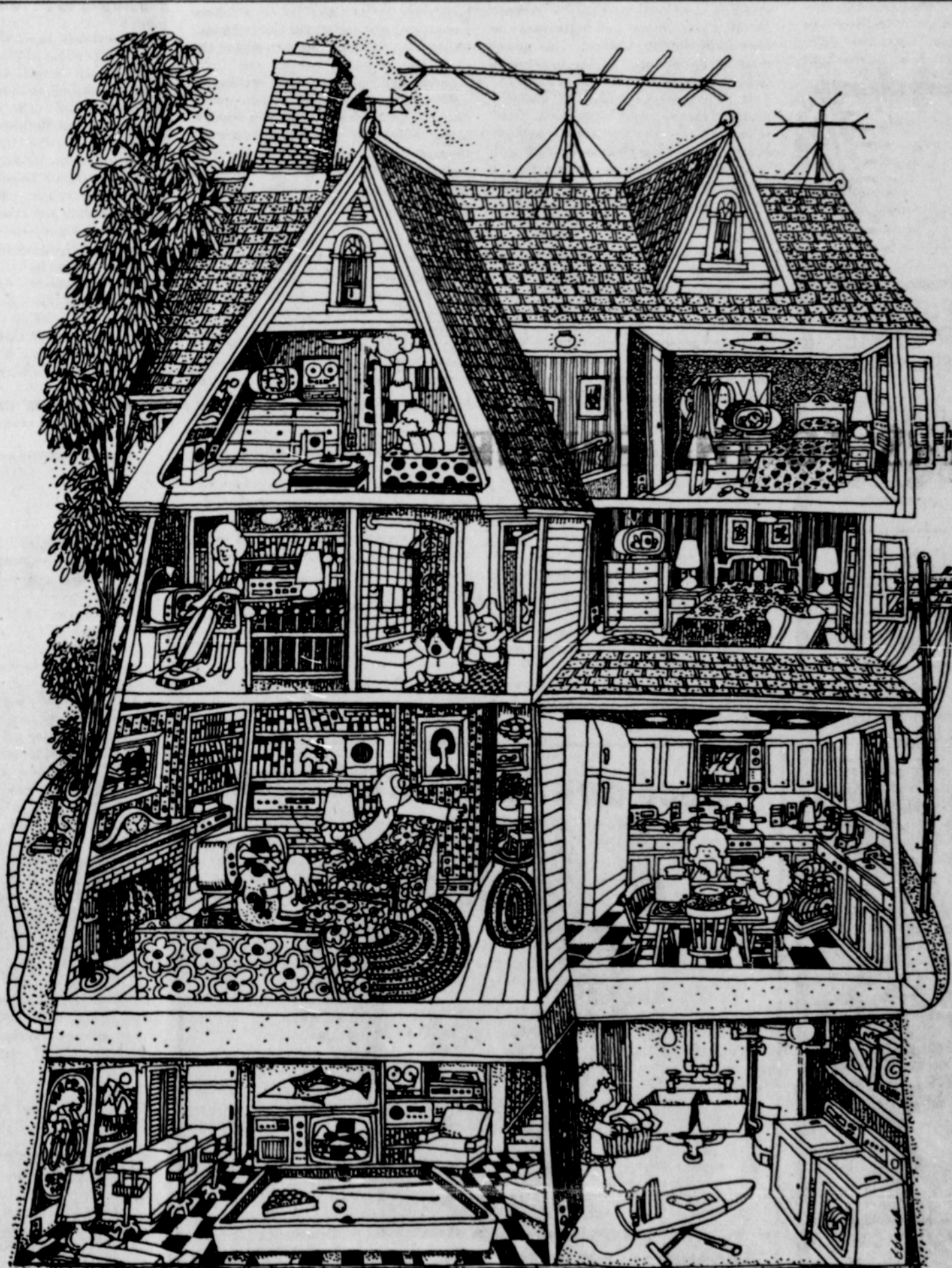
Don Clark, Chairman of the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners, announced that he is nominating two women from East County to serve on the County Planning Commission.

The two nominees are Barbara Wiggins, and Sister Mary Gregory Hanson. Ms. Wiggins is a secretary and bookkeeper for First Union Management, Incorporated which manages Mall 205. She has also served as secretary for the Wilkes Study

Group. Sister Mary Gregory is a former hospital administrator and has served on various health advisory and regulatory agencies.

The vacancies were created when Robert Shoemaker and Patricia Wessinger resigned in January.

The current members of the Planning Commission are Gerald Brewster, William Cooley, Gussie McRobert, Louise Miller, Lee Moore, Charles Sax, and Victor Gilliland.



Home sweet Hummm.

A lot of homes these days fairly hum with the sound of electric motors, appliances, stereos, electric widgets and wadgets.

Regretably, a lot of people still use electricity like there's no tomorrow; like conservation makes no sense at all.

But, there's one thing everybody understands: money.

From here on out, everyone will pay for the pleasure of waste.

Conservation of electricity won't completely make up for increased

electric prices. But by cutting out waste, the bite is less than it might have been.

And right now, this summer, is the time to start tightening up your home. Add a little insulation where you need it. Check your weather-stripping. Take a look at what storm-windows might do for you.

The tips for saving energy go on and on. But they all add up to money saved. And you don't necessarily have to spend a bundle to do something.

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