We see the world through Black eyes

Try new system

The State Senate is considering Senate Bill 354, which would authorize the state corrections division to make grants to counties participating in a community corrections program. The program would provide community rehabilitation programs for non-violent offenders with sentances of five years or less.

The program would offer an alternative to the already over-crowded penitentiary. Due to the crowding at OSP, rehabilitation programs are almost nil and the emphasis is on punishment. Locking a man up, keeping him in degrading and often brutal conditions, isolating him from family and friends, and offering no counseling or training programs, cannot possibly contribute to his rehaabilitation.

Community programs would allow time and facilities for rehabilitation programs. The services of existing mental health and health programs, community colleges, etc. could be utilized. Perhaps most important, valuable family and community ties could be continued and strengthened.

Perhaps some of the inmates could come out of this type program with a new understanding, a trade and a chance to go straight. It has been pretty well determined that the best way to "reform" a person is to give him a positive self-image and provide him with a way to make an honest living.

The problem is not an easy one, buj something must be tried. Too many valuable people spend their lives penned up like cattle with no hope for a future. Our current correction methods are failing; we must look for something new.

Place blame carefully

Throughout the entire world the persons who commited the atrocities in Rhodesia -- killing elderly priests and nuns -- are being condemned. The press has pointed out that these murders will hurt the cause of liberation, since the Rhodesian government has claimed that they wre committed by Black guerrillas.

The freedom movements claim that the massacre was committed by government forces. It would not be the first time a government in power had committed acts of violence in order to discredit an opponent.

The Rhodesian government is in deep trouble and needs something to turn public opinion its way. The liberation movement should not be condemned for this act until the facts are known.

Liberian freighters

by YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

Copley News Service

Americans were appalled recently when the Sansinena, sailing under the Liberian flag, exploded in the Long Beach, California harbor. Eight lives were lost and the damage to the harbor and the city ran into the millions.

The public gets the impression that ships owned by Liberians are threatening our ports. This is true in part. The tiny West African republic of Liberia has the world's largest merchant fleet. Most of its 2,600 vessels are huge oil tankers. Until now, few of us knew how Liberia, with a population just over one million, has developed its worldwide shipping operation.

Like Panama, Liberia is a flag-of-convenience country. Owners from all over the world register their ships in Liberia to escape taxes, higher wages for crews and costly safety standards. When accidents cause death and disaster and we look for a culprit, tiny Liberia can be considered only a shield, a shield of convenience. International businessmen are shielded from view and prosecution by Liberia. Greek and U.S. interests own 30 to 35 percent each of the Liberian fleet. Hong Kong interests own 10 to 15 percent. The remainder is owned by countries the world over. For the guilty, we need to look only as far as New York City where the Liberian shipping operation is centered.

The Sansinena is owned by Barracuda Tanker Co., formed by Peter Flannigan and 26 others associated with Dillon, Read & Co., investment bankers.

In 1956 these prominent Americans bought three ships: the ill-fated Sansinena; the Torrey Canyon, which broke up in 1967 in the biggest oil disaster in British history; and the Lake Palourde, the only one remaining in service.

Flannigan worked with President Nixon in the White House beginning in 1969. He oversaw among other things the merchant marine development, foreign trade and oil import policies. Flannigan's position is another example of Nixon's lack of concern for conflict of interest.

Though his influence was substantial, it was not enough to bring Flannigan confirmation as ambassador to Spain. During his senate confirmation hearings in 1970, the long, sordid history of the Sansinena unfolded. Yet the Sansinena continued to sail -- as the people of Long Beach will never forget.

It is estimated that only 17.5 percent of the value of waterborne exports and imports of the United States are shipped in vessels under the U.S. flag. The higher cost of transportation in ships of American registry is the reason this percentage is so small. Our taxes are higher, our wages are higher and our required safety precautions cost more. The costs of American registration are estimated to be three times those of Liberian registration.

Our wages and safety standards are high in the United States. Commendable, certainly! Except that we allow ships of foreign registry to use our harbors and transport our materials while violating our safety regulations and paying substandard wages to their foreign crews.

It is little wonder shipowners register in a country that does not regulate wages. It is possible to hire a Greek, Italian or Filipino crew for $180 per month rather than Americans for $745 per month. In addition, it is less expensive to pay for cleaning occasional oil spills than to bring ships up to safety standards. All this adds to handsome profits.

The strength and influence of oil companies and other shipping owners have in the past killed regulations to their financial disadvantage even though the regulations were sanctioned under public law and are of obvious public good.

A very small newspaper article caught my attention this week.

It said that the Coast Guard has been ordered to inspect every tanker entering American ports as a means of avoiding accidents such as the Liberian tanker Sansinena on December 17. I question why the Coast Guard has not been inspecting the ships all along. Congress enacted safety regulations in 1972 in the Ports and Waterways Safety Act which, to a large degree, have remained unused.

My inquiry into the forces behind oil tankers in our ports has just begun. Not for a moment should we be turned aside by the question of foreign registry. We must demand truthful, full disclosure. Anything less would be a disservice to the people of this country.

Another Point of View

Gas "shortage" brings profit

from the *People's World*

Cruel, cold-blooded and premeditated murder is being committed in this country, an organized violence directed at our people which has already claimed almost 100 lives in the past few days. The victims were felled not be bullets or knives or clubs, but by a tiny cabal of flint-eyed manipulators who have grasped control of warmth and light and turned it into hard cash.

Make no mistake, there is no more substance to the so-called "natural gas shortage" than there was to the phoney "gas shortage" two years ago. Trillions of feet of natural gas lie hidden in the massive reserves of the huge oil monopolies, gas that will be "discovered" as soon as President Jimmy Carter signs his bill to decontrol the price of this precious commodity. And like gasoline, once the price controls are lifted, natural gas will bite even more deeply into the diminishing purchasing power and living standards of this nation's people.

The natural gas industry is a $20 million business, a business that even the Carter Administration estimates will reap an extra $5 billion from consumers during this non-existant "shortage". It is a business that is willing to allow people to freeze to death, to lay off 1.5 million workers, to close schools, libraries and public services to make its point.

The formula is a successful one. Create an emergency by withholding supplies, allow people to starve, freeze or stand in lines, and then sit back while Congress falls all over itself in a stampede to pump greater and greater profits into the coffers of Exxon, Mobile, Transcontinental Natural Gas Co. and El Paso Natural Gas Co.

As they were chipping the body of Margaret Shotter out of five inches of ice in her New York home, Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas was declaring on the Senate floor that any attempt to place a price ceiling on natural gas would mean a filibuster "till the flowers bloomed in the spring." Senator James Abourezk's attempts to keep the price of natural gas down and to reach into the massive surplus of fuel in Texas for allocation to the hard-hit Midwest and Northeast was brushed aside.

As long as the natural resources of this country remain in the hands of private enterprise, protected by their hirelings in Washington, there will be an unending litany of Margaret Shotters, $167 gas bills, shuttered schools and silent factories.

Private ownership and public interest in the field of energy are incompatible. The interests of the natural gas owners are to make a profit, as much as possible, while those of the public are to stay warm and make a living. Something has to give, and the interests of all must be served over the interests of a few.

Democratic nationalization of the energy industry is on the agenda for the people of this country. Not a "nationalization" that keeps industry in power while the people pay the cost, but a nationalization whose control rests in the hands of the consumers, labor unions and conservationists. Energy is far too serious a business to left in the hands of those few who make a profit by denying it to the many.

Agency on Aging holds public hearings

A recent announcement by the Area Agency on Aging Planning and Advisory Committee establishes the format for this year's public hearings on the Area Agency on Aging Annual Action Plan of service objectives and goals.

The hearings, to be held during the months of February and March, are designed to allow the greatest public involvement in the processes of planning for social service programs for the elderly in Portland/Multnomah County.

The Planning and Advisory Committee hopes that these hearings will provide the public, particularly those individuals having a special interest in the problems and goals of the area's senior citizens, an opportunity to respond to the directives outlined in the Annual Plan of Services.

National priorities have established low-incomes, minority, and socially isolated elderly persons as having the greatest need for services. The Annual Action Plan as prepared by planning staff of the Aging Services Divison of the City Human Resources Bureau in coordination with the Area Agency on Aging Planning and Advisory Committee addresses itself to those needs. Nutrition, Social Contact, transportation, employment, homemaker and shopping assistance services are among the services detailed in the plan.

The goal for Fiscal Year 1977/78 (July-June) is to strengthen the existing system of services to sustain dignified and independent living for the elderly community of Portland/Multnomah County. This plan, if adopted, will provide for this framework of services to the Area's elderly population during the year 1977/78.

Copies of the 166 page plan are available to the public at the Area Agency on Aging, 620 S.W. 5th, 3rd Floor. A smaller, 5 page synopsis is available at the eight Area Agency on Aging Senior Service Centers located throughout Multnomah County.

The Public Hearings will be held on the following dates:

February 11th - Project ABLE Senior Center, 7508 N. Hereford, Portland
February 18th - PACT Senior Center, 3588 S.E. Division, Portland
February 25th - Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1624 N.E. Hancock
March 4th - Trinity Episcopal Church, 147 N.E. 19th, Portland

All meetings will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For additional information, call 248-4752.

IRS allows child care deductions

PORTLAND, OREGON (IRS District Office) - Taxpayers who work or attend school and pay someone to care for their children or for disabled dependents can take advantage of a new child care credit on their 1976 Federal income tax return, according to Ralph B. Short, District Director for IRS in Oregon.

Under the new law, eligible taxpayers can claim acredit of 20 percent of their child care expenses, up to a maximum credit of $400 for one child and $800 for two or more. Short pointed out that the credit is subtracted directly for the tax liability.

The credit can be taken by couples even if one or both spouses works only part-time. But, in these situations the eligible expenses are limited to the amount of earnings of the spouse earning the smaller amount, or in the case of a single person, to his or her earnings. Separated, divorced, or widowed parents with custody of children are also eligible, according to Short.

The credit is also available to married couples where one spouse works full-time and the other is a full-time student.

Other features of the liberalized child care law are that relatives who are not dependents can now be paid for child care so long as Social Security taxes are withheld from their pay; there is no longer a distinction between child care performed inside and outside the home; and persons who use the standard deduction can also claim their child care expenses but must file a Form 1040.

Formerly, child care was treated as a deduction rather than a credit, there was an income limitation, full-time employment was required, and payments to relatives were not included as deductible child care expense.

Additonal information on the child care credit can be found in the tax instructions that came with the tax package, Short said. Taxpayers can also use the handy order blank in the package to obtain a free copy of IRS Publication 503, "Child Care and Disabled Dependent Care."

Babe Wilson

(Continued from p. 1 col. 3)

he might be trying to force something into my mouth." Wilson said he was forced to the floor, his head struck against the floor and his hands stepped on. Then McDade held a red balloon in front of his face.

Des Connell, attorney for Wilson, reminded the jury that they had to judge the word of the defendent against the word of the police and corrections officer and "they didn't get their story together." Telling them that public servants are not always right, he reminded them of "All the President's Men" and the eighteen minutes. "The government almost fell because honorable men were not honorable...Do policemen lie? Does the President lie? Does the Attorney General of the United States lie?"

Some element of doubt required the all white jury of nine women and three men to deliberate ten hours before reaching their verdict.

Babe Wilson's friends and co-workers who still believe him to be innocent are continuing fund raising for his Defense Fund. "There are enormous costs involved for the first trial and we are planning for an appeal," a spokesman for the group told the **Observer**. Those who are able to contribute or assist are asked to call 283-2487, for information.

Notice

The Metropolitan Human Relations Commission luncheon honoring A. L. Henderson, publisher of the **Observer**, will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Lloyd Center, February 22nnd at noon. Henderson will receive the Russ Peyton Award for work in human rights. For tickets or further information call the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, 248-4187.

"He who has clear ideas can command." Goethe

Belize

(Continued from P.1 Col.6)

Negotiations are continuing between the three parties--Belize, Guatemala and Britian--but positions have hardened so much over the years that real progress seems unlikely. Guatemala has insisted she must receive at least some Belizean territory as part of a settlement, and has suggested a slice of land in southern Belize.

But Belize--which is smaller than New Hampshire--has reiterated her determination not to yield "one square centimeter" of land. Recent indications that there may be oil in southern Belize have made such a compromise even more unlikely.

Despite being neighbors, Guatemala and Belize are almost totally different.

Guatemala, like Belize's northern neighbor, Mexico and other nearby Central American countries, is a Spanish-speaking Latin nation; Belize is English-speaking and has developed completely apart from Spanish influence.

Most of the population here is Black, though there are also Creoles, Caribs, Arabs, descendants of indigenous tribes and a host of other ethnic influences. The main thoroughfare of Belize City is called Queen Street, reggae music spills from the cafes and the residents speak a kind of clipped English resembling Jamaican dialect.

Belize, in fact, has more in common with Jamaica and other West Indian island nations than any of her mainland neighbors. She is a member of CARICOM, the Carribean Common Market, but not of any Central American regional organization. Not surprisingly, Jamaica has been her strongest advocate at the UN and elsewhere.

With unemployment around 20 percent and a sluggish economy, Belize's largest export is people. Diplomatic sources say about 40,000 Belizeans live in New York and Los Angeles, nearly all of them illegally. That is roughly equivalent to the population of Belize City, where about one-third of the nation's residents live.

The economy is largely agricultural, though emigrants send home an estimated $10 million annually, mostly from the U.S. Only sugar brings in more foreign exchange than that.

Stephen Kinzer, a Boston-based freelance writer, reports from Latin America for Pacific News Service, Boston **Globe** and Boston **Phoenix**.

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