



We see the world through Black eyes

Spend the money now - not later!

The Juvenile Law Center is in danger of being terminated because it and the Board of County Commissioners cannot come to terms on finances. The Center provides legal counsel for juvenile offenders who do not have funds for attorneys.

These young people are usually charged with serious crimes -- theft, burglary, car theft or assault. The Center not only provides them with legal assistance to prove their innocence if possible, but enters into the sentencing process.

The Center handles 960 cases a year with three attorneys. It contracted with the County last year to provide this service for \$90,000. This year, in order to hire a law clerk and to provide better services to these young clients, the Center asked for \$124,000, an increase of about thirty percent. However, the County Commission has set a ceiling of seven percent on department budget increases. So, the County has told the Law Center to "take it or leave it" and the Law Center has declined to accept a contract for less than it needs.

Unless the situation changes the County will have the option to find another contractor who will provide the service for less money or to appoint and pay private attorneys.

There is unanimous opinion among the judges, probation officers and other professionals that the Juvenile Law Center is doing a tremendous job. There is also feeling among clients that the Center's services far exceed those of private court-appointed attorneys. They have the interest and the experience in juvenile law to make the difference. The additional factor is their dedication to keeping young offenders out of the system -- the foster home, group home, McLaren, O.S.P. route.

The County does, as usual, have problems finding enough money for all the services it must provide. But we believe this is one service that needs to continue. Why go back to the old system that provides little opportunity for a young person who has taken the first steps into a life of crime? A whole lot of money can be saved at a later date that will otherwise be spent on police, courts and jails.

When we see a continuous stream of young men entering Oregon State Penitentiary and realize that no one really knows how to "rehabilitate" these young people to insure that they do not remain there for the rest of their lives, \$124,000 is little enough to spend. We think the Commissioners can find the money someplace if they really make the effort.

PPS discriminates

There are few viable Black businesses in Portland. There are many reasons -- lack of capital, high costs, high insurance costs, inability to get loans, lack of business experience and discrimination.

One example of a successful Black business is the American State Bank -- a bank that has seen growth and development in the past few years. And one example of discrimination is the Portland School District's refusal to do business with the bank.

Several years ago the Portland School Board voted to use ASB as one of its banks, along with several of the large white-owned banks. The district opened a checking account and made a small deposit. That checking account remains open -- but is unused.

Last week the School Board passed a \$121.6 million budget -- and that does not include many of the federal and special funds. And how much of that will go through the American State Bank? You guessed it! Not one cent if we can judge by last year. YET some of this money -- for example, Title VII funds

-- would not be available if the District did not have Black students. But none of this money comes to a Black bank to help build the Black community.

A year ago, during the budget meetings, we asked School Board member Gladys McCoy to determine why the School District does not put some of its money in ASB. Just the checking account on the federal money would be significant. She promised to look into the matter and also to see what additional affirmative action influence the Board could exert.

A year has passed, but nothing has happened. This is yet another example of the District's indifference to the Black community.

Another Point of View

Mr. Fauntroy's possible dream

taken from *The Washington Post*

Ever since Walter E. Fauntroy first took the floor of the House as the District of Columbia's lone, voteless emissary to Congress, he's had this impossible dream: that someday, two-thirds of the members would vote to let the people who live here have full-fledged senators and representatives in Congress. Fat chance, said those faceless "longtime Capitol Hill observers." But yesterday, thanks to Mr. Fauntroy's faith and footwork -- and a superb campaign by the Self-Determination for D.C. National and local coalitions -- the House did say yes, with a solid 289-to-127 vote. Moreover, the members capped it with two emotional standing ovations for the teary-eyed delegate from the District. It was, as House Majority Leader Jim Wright (D-Tex.) proclaimed exuberantly, a "great day in the history of human freedom," reflecting the belief that there is "no such thing as a second-class American."

Well, you can't be sure about that -- for now it's on to the Senate, where things are a bit cloudier. Nevertheless, we like to believe that most senators today recognize that the issue is not one of political ideology, but of good democratic government, of something that is right. Certainly the vote in the House reflected that sentiment, with support coming from 228 Democrats and 62 Republicans from all points on the political spectrum.

In any event, before the Senate begins serious consideration of the measure, a brief time-out is in order, we submit, to thank those who were instrumental in building the impressive House vote. The support of President Carter, Vice President Mondale and the leadership of the House was more than lip service; the administration lobbied intelligently and diligently, as did Representative Don Edwards (D-Calif.), chairman of the subcommittee handling the resolution, and floor manager; Judiciary Committee Chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D-N.J.); and, among the Republicans, John Hall Buchanan Jr. of Alabama and Robert McClory and Tom Railsback of Illinois.

With that as impetus yesterday, a cross-section of senators -- including Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), Birch Bayh (D-Ind.), Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R-Md.) and Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) -- signed a "Dear Colleague" letter urging Senate approval of the resolution. In their letter, the senators rightly emphasize that all the leading constitutional scholars who testified before the House hearings said they found no constitutional problems in letting the District have two senators.

What it boils down to, the senators' letter rightly notes, is a matter of supporting a "fundamental principle of justice for the citizens of the nation's capital." That is how so many Americans throughout the nation have reacted when apprised of the District's disenfranchisement; they recognize the wrongness of taxation without representation, and of excluding the people of the District from participation in important national decisions. The incredibly long effort for full representation -- having come this far -- should not wind up crushed by an insensitive Senate. The job needs to be finished this year.

Job priority

by Vernon Jordan

Just how high a priority the Administration and the Congress give to assuring jobs for all who want to work is in doubt.

The President unveiled his request for a continued public service jobs program recently, and while it contains many positive features it stops short of making full employment the nation's number one priority.

The Administration wants the public service jobs program extended to 1982, and for the first time is asking for a basic minimum public service jobs commitment. It wants at least 100,000 such jobs in each year through 1982, and would tie creation of more jobs to the unemployment rate.

The idea is that for each half a percentage point that unemployment goes over four and three-quarter percent of the work force, the government would create another 100,000 jobs.

It makes sense to tie the federal job creation levels to the unemployment rate, but the figures just don't add up. Right now, there are 725,000 public service jobs. But if the formula the Administration is asking for were in effect, it would mean only about 400,000 public service jobs.

So a plan to have a basic minimum of public jobs is good, as is the built-in

escalator clause of increasing the numbers of those jobs as unemployment rises. But the formula doesn't provide anywhere near the numbers of jobs it should. And that becomes even more apparent when we realize that the current level of 725,000 jobs is far from adequate. It provides work for only about a tenth of the unemployed.

The AFL-CIO has issued a call for sharply expanding the numbers of public service jobs. My own view is that doubling the number to about one-and-a-half million in the coming year would do a lot to alleviate unemployment and to improve public services at the local level.

But the Administration is only asking Congress to maintain the 725,000 level in the coming year -- no increase at all. If that stance is based on the recent drop in unemployment rates, it's wrong. Black unemployment actually increased in 1977, while white joblessness fell. Without those public service jobs, Black unemployment would have been even higher last year, just as it is bound to increase this year unless more vigorous action is taken.

One encouraging initiative in the President's job proposal is his plan for creating local Private Industry Councils to provide about 100,000 job training slots in the private sector.

Important as public employment is, especially in the short run, the private

sector is where most of the jobs are, and it is there that much remains to be done. The Administration will foot much of the bill for the private sector job training -- it's asking for \$400 million.

Private sector spokesmen have been eloquent in expressing their concern about involving private industry in job creation. Here's a chance for industry to show it can respond creatively to the challenge of training and employing the unskilled and the jobless.

The proposed job legislation, along with the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill, will determine whether the Congress is going to act responsibly to put the country on the road to full employment.

Swift passage of the Humphrey-Hawkins Bill is a must -- it will provide the planning mechanisms and the clear goals needed for development of a full employment economy. Revision of the Administration's job package to increase the numbers of public service jobs and to improve some of the technical shortcomings in the plan is also essential.

The Administration has shown itself responsive to pressure and has taken steps to deal with important national problems. Congress, however, has been subjected to far less pressure and has not exerted itself on behalf of desperately needed social legislation. Now it has the opportunity and the responsibility to do so.

The survival factor: Why the miners didn't settle

MARCH 9 [PNS] -- When the nation's coal miners voted down the second contract proposal, their primary concern -- more than salaries -- was safety.

Coal mining is still America's most hazardous occupation. Roof falls, mine gas ignitions and the dismembering crush against rock of an errant machine remain an integral part of the miners' job.

Since 1970 more than 1,000 coal miners have died of work-related causes and another 125,000 have been injured. Each year a working miner faces a one-in-eight chance of suffering an injury.

The fatality rate of U.S. miners is still roughly seven times the average for workers in all American industries. And the amount of time miners lose as a result of injuries is nearly ten times the national average.

Despite this record, however, the proposed contract would have weakened the safety protections the miners currently have -- mainly by weakening the miners' right to strike. According to the proposed contract, disagreements over safety would have to go through the grievance procedure.

Thus if miners were to go out on strike in a safety dispute and an arbitrator subsequently ruled against them, "They would be subjected to discipline," says Tom Bethell, former director of the United Mine Workers' research department and a leader in the Miners for Democracy movement. "So it compromises a right miners have had since 1947."

The contract the miners rejected also would have made it easier for companies to get rid of troublesome safety committeemen, would have made it more difficult for the union to act quickly to correct safety dangers and would have narrowed the circumstances under which a miner may refuse to work because of poor safety conditions.

Nor has federal law succeeded in insuring miner safety. Congress passed the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act in 1969 and Nixon signed it into law only after miners threatened a nationwide strike. But enforcement of that Act

has been poor, largely because the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration that was created to administer it has been dominated by political appointees and former industry personnel.

Indeed, as Common Cause charged in a recent study, "Three assistant administrators in the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration came from copper or coal mining companies." One of these three has now become a vice president for Pittston Coal and the top safety lawyer in the agency recently resigned to accept a position with the American Mining Congress, an industry organization.

The Carter transition team criticized the assistant secretary for energy and minerals who supervised mine safety enforcement in the Nixon-Ford administrations, declaring that, "In the past four years, the assistant secretary has not supported the (MESA) program and has delayed or obstructed efforts to improve mine safety programs."

But the Carter Administration has done little to change the situation. Only recently did it begin actively considering people for appointments in the mine safety program, and thus high-level positions are still in the hands of "acting" personnel. Other countries, however, have done much more to insure their miners' safety.

In Great Britain, for example, miner fatality rates are between a quarter and a half what they are in the U.S. Great Britain relies almost exclusively on long-wall mining -- a technique that protects workers from cave-ins by having a big machine collapse the tunnel immediately after mining.

This safer technique, which requires a substantial capital investment, has gained widespread acceptance in Great Britain because the British coal industry is under national control and depends on a relatively few mines, each of which is quite large. In the U.S., however, where the industry is still characterized by many small mines, the private companies that own them have been unwilling to make the investment required for long-wall mining.

There is also a greater emphasis on production in the U.S. than in Great Britain, where the average daily output per miner is only two to three tons, compared to eight to nine tons in the U.S. The UMW argues that slower, more careful work habits are required to protect workers' health and safety. But the mine owners are determined to boost worker productivity, which has fallen from fourteen tons per worker day in 1965 to 8.5 tons in 1976, according to the General Accounting Office. Consequently, the mine owners have called the "production incentive plans," which union officials believe would create "extremely dangerous" mine safety conditions.

There is also greater emphasis on safety training in Great Britain. "There it's a matter of months rather than hours, as it is here," says L. Thomas Galloway, an attorney with the Center for Law and Social Policy who specializes in coal mine health and safety. In fact, new coal miners in the U.S. frequently have received no formal safety training whatsoever.

Beginning March 9th, however, federal legislation will require a minimum of forty hours training for all new miners. "It's a first faltering step," says Galloway. "And we're still far behind West European nations."

Yet, even with better federal legislation, Galloway insists that "federal inspection people can never substitute for the right of miners to withdraw" from a situation they believe is unsafe. He pointed out that federal inspectors are in the mines only three percent of the time.

Consequently, he says, "Workers must have the right to withdraw from the mines. And they must be protected from employer reprisals once they withdraw." But so far the mine owners have been unwilling to agree with that, insisting on penalties in the event of "unwarranted" strikes.

[Steven Schneider monitors energy policy for the Ford Foundation-funded Third Century America Project and Pacific News Service.]

Begin and Arafat

(Continued from Page 1 Column 6)

that in the Machiavellian world of international power politics, there is no such thing as a reliable "client." Today President Sadat in many ways is less powerful in determining questions of war and peace than the PLO, and Israel has the power -- and will -- to frustrate any U.S. peace plan.

The tragedy is that short-term success for both Arafat and Begin may spell long-term disaster for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Current PLO doctrine, one of short-term despair and long-term optimism, holds that, with Israel adamantly opposing Palestinian statehood of any kind, the struggle must continue until Israel's own "contradictions" make a settlement inescapable. But this strategy risks both endless Palestinian defeats at Israeli hands, and the Arab repudiation the Palestinians fear so much.

Current Israeli policy is based on short-term optimism, but it leads to an abyss. Prime Minister Begin currently has decided that Israel now is both militarily and diplomatically supreme, and neither can be persuaded nor coerced into a settlement. But each year without peace for Israel is another year in which

social divisions deepen; in which exasperated U.S. policy makers grow more the Arabs grow wealthier, more populous and more powerful; in which Israel's subject population grows larger and more resentful while Israel's own economic and more "even-handed."

Both President Carter and President Sadat have made extraordinary efforts to make these dangers understandable to Israelis and Palestinians alike. Carter no doubt will try again during Begin's latest mission to Washington. But politics is the art of the possible, and as President Sadat reconsiders his position in Cairo, and President Carter copes with Prime Minister Begin in Washington, the advocates of peace must confront a terrible prospect.

This is not just that the proponents of confrontation now have the upper hand,

but that peace now simply may not be possible in the Mideast.

If true, this is a situation filled with the gravest implications not merely for the Palestinians and the Israelis, and for the political futures of both Presidents Sadat and Carter, but for the United States and the whole Arab world. And the peril now is even more troublesome because in both Cairo and Washington, a truly admirable preoccupation with peace has prevented much serious consideration of the crises that must inevitably flow from a renewal of war.

[T.D. Allman has written on the Mideast for Pacific News Service, "New Times," "The Los Angeles Times," "The Guardian" and "Le Monde diplomatique." His analysis of "The Palestinian Dilemma" appears in the current issue of "Harper's Magazine," of which he is Contributing Editor.]



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