

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Walla Walla fallout

Last week U.S. District Court judge Jack Tanner found the State of Washington guilty of cruel and inhuman treatment of its prisoners at Walla Walla because of overcrowding as well as brutality.

A few weeks ago U.S. District Court judge John Burns heard testimony in a suit brought against the State of Oregon and various state officials for overcrowding at Oregon State Penitentiary. A pending suit against Multnomah County treatment at the maximum security "A" tank at Rocky Butte, alleges that the conditions and mistreatment are used to induce prisoners into pleading guilty in order to get out or to interfere with their ability to aid in the preparation of their defense.

Three weeks ago a legislative committee held a hearing on alleged discrimination against minorities and the poor in "A" tank, pointing out that placement in the tank as well as treatment while there were often racially motivated.

Friday, Director of the Multnomah County Corrections Division Carl Mason ordered changes at Rocky Butte; changes in policy and administration that will alleviate overcrowding and end the 23 hour a day lock-down, when prisoners (most of whom are awaiting trial) are locked in their cells.

After years of complaints, grand jury reviews and recommendations by various organizations some improvements are being made at Rocky Butte. It appears that only the courts and the severe penalties they can impose can make realistic changes in the penal system.

End the embargo

The vast media coverage given the flight of 100,000 Cubans to the U.S. ignores the main reason for the exodus - the U.S. embargo of trade with Cuba.



From the (Havane) Gramma

Vernon Jordan no threat

(Grassroot News, N.W.) The recent attempted assassination of an executive officer of a civil rights organization came as a surprise; not the fact of a civil rights leader attempted assassination, but that the civil rights organization is the Urban League. What comes as more of a puzzle than is surprise is the traditional media obsession with Vernon Jordan's chauffeur and her boyfriends. Thus, drawing attention away from dealing with a public conspiracy to a personal problem.

The Urban League, since its inception has constantly avoided confrontation as a tactic to gain and ensure human rights for urban Blacks, thereby reducing anyone's perception of the Urban League as posing a threat to the powers that be. The League has historically stayed out of confrontational politics. Nationally the evidence is reflected in the

positions Vernon Jordan has taken in response to national issues.

When Iran arrested the American embassy and released the Blacks and women, Jordan responded that, "Blacks would not be used as pawns in Iran crazy game." The Urban League's stand on South Africa and divestment is, "No, the Urban League does not think the U.S. corporations should divest themselves in S.A. because of the resulting unemployment."

Locally, the Urban League endorsed the "School for the seventies," desegregation plan which the school system was forced to dismantle under pressure from the Black community, and recently chose not to support a one day school boycott on the premise that conditions were not bad enough to warrant a boycott.

These examples are set forth to

prove Grassroot News, N.W. contention that the organization, The Urban League poses no threat. But the individual Vernon Jordan may have. The attack on his person was attempted while Jordan was on a national speaking tour. Under his leadership the Urban League gathered research and statistics on Blacks in America in "The State of Black America," compiled and published yearly. Although he stressed an integrative, assimilative ideology, Jordan also attacked politicians unkept policies and promises.

It's a shame that in the land of free speech that people come to in boatloads to escape free speech persecution, an individual is shot for neutral stands which border on the truth that pinched someone or somebody's ears, causing them to pull the trigger.

When the Castro government took power 21 years ago they claimed a nation that had been ravaged by U.S. corporations for a century and an economy owned and controlled by those corporations.

While attempting - with no experience a few natural resources - to build a new nation the Cuban people were continuously harassed by CIA raids culminating in the "Bay of Pigs." For years the U.S. provided guns and ammunition to Cubans who were killing their own people in an effort to overthrow their own government.

There were numerous CIA plots to kill Fidel Castro.

At the same time the U.S. halted all imports from and exports to Cuba - including food and medicine. This embargo includes not only the U.S. but most of its allies.

The embargo prevents Cuba from buying and selling in the U.S., only 90 miles away. An undeveloped country dependent mainly on its sugar crop, Cuba must export its sugar at great shipping cost to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. It has to import food, machinery and raw materials -- also at great shipping cost -- from those countries.

The embargo - along with current disease of the tobacco and part of the sugar crops - is the reason why Cuba remains a poor country whose economy cannot expand as rapidly as its population. Although Cuba spends the largest portion of its budget on education and provides free health care and many other benefits, there is still rationing of food and clothing.

Some Cuban people are just tired of the austere life and they - along with those who want to be with relatives and others who want to find a easier life - are coming to the U.S.

The unfortunate thing is that the U.S. is making the same mistake again - in Iran. A U.S. embargo - plus local (and possibly CIA inspired) uprising has cut off access to the west. Only the rail lines to the USSR remain...



An African economic community

By N. Fungai Kumbula

Most of Africa's fifty four nations have been politically independent for almost two decades now. Economic independence on the other hand has remained largely elusive. The economic apparatus set up during colonial days, designed to benefit the former colonial powers while shamelessly exploiting the colonies is, in most cases, still intact. The result has been that the developed countries have gotten richer while Africa's fledgling nations have been bedeviled by a vicious, endless cycle of poverty and underdevelopment.

In 1963 several African Heads of State got together and formed the Organization of African Unity, OAU, as the first step towards cooperation among the various African nations. Though it has had a number of successes, the OAU has remained confined mostly to affairs political and, until recently, had not ventured much into the economic arena. What with the wars in Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Chad, Uganda, Western Shara and the Horn of Africa, the African body has had its hands more than full. The happy resolution of the first three has freed the OAU to deal with the now very serious problem of the continent's economic plight and endemic underdevelopment.

As early as 1973, African leaders had grappled with this problem when they met and signed the Abidjan (Ivory Coast) Declaration pledging economic cooperation among the Africans on a regional basis. A direct result of this was the formation of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, in 1975, bringing together sixteen nations. In 1976, the OAU Ministerial Council met and signed the Kinshasa (Zaire) Declaration and in 1979, the Heads of State signed the Monrovia (Liberia) Declaration. Each successive Declaration went a step further than its predecessor. The ultimate goal, as outlined in the Kinshasa Declaration, is the creation of an African Economic Community within the next 15 to 25

years. With this groundwork laid down, the OAU held its first ever Economic Summit in Lagos, Nigeria April 28 and 29. The Lagos Summit was preceded by a Lusaka mini Summit where the fundamentals for the creation of the Economic Community of Southern African States, ECOSAS, were outlined. The nine signatories to this mini summit: Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Swaziland, Mozambique, Malawi, Lesotho, Botswana and Angola were already included in the Preferential Trade Area of East and Southern Africa along with seven other nations.

The Lagos Summit culminated in the signing of the "Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa," as well as the Protocol of an African Economic Community. The Plan of Action specifically outlines the actions African nations must take at the regional, sub-regional and national levels to achieve the economic integration of the continent by the year 2000. The measures cover food and agriculture, industry, natural resources, human resources, science and technology, transport and communication, trade and finance, energy, the least developed countries, women and development and development planning.

The Plan further proposes the setting up of sub-regional Preferential Trade Areas all over Africa by the end of 1984. Negotiations aimed at removing intersub-regional trade barriers are to be initiated by 1985. By 1990, African nations should have removed all obstacles that curtail trade among themselves. Inter African trade which currently stands at a dismal 6% will be upped to 100% by the time all the sub-regional economic communities merge to form the African Economic Community in the year 2000.

Before skeptics rush to point out that "talk is cheap," it is well worth pausing to examine the incentives

that are driving the Africans to this long overdue goal of economic cooperation. Africa's population currently stands at 420 million; it is expected to top 800 million by the turn of the century. Therein lies the problem: a demographic time bomb. Under the present go-it-alone policy, very few of Africa's nations can cope with their current populations. The standard of living is on the decline, disease is rampant, unemployment soaring, malnutrition menacing, infant mortality delitating and inflation skyrocketing.

Hungry people can be very dangerous: just ask William Tolbert or the mayor of Miami. The only way that Africa can meet and cope with all these problems as well as the overall curse of underdevelopment is through economic cooperation. African leaders now realize this. Economic cooperation will not only speed up development and industrialization of the continent but will also ensure their own political survival. When people have enough of all the essentials, what do they have to gripe about?

Significantly too, economic cooperation is being pushed most vigorously by a whole new breed of leadership: Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Mozambique's Samora Machel, Angola's Dos Santos and Nigeria's Alhaji Shehu Shagari. Most of them know poverty first hand and still have the drive to pursue real change. After the collapse of the much touted North-South Dialogue, inter African economic cooperation makes real sound economic sense. The call for closer African ties in all spheres is being heard from all levels of the African social and economic strata.

The creation of an African Economic Community will not be easy, it will require a lot of political ambidexterity and a lot of expense but, it cannot help but be realized. It is an idea whose time has come: the first step in Kwame Nkrumah's long cherished dream of a United States of Africa.



Notes from City Hall

By Charles Jordan
Commissioner of Public Safety

"A judge issues a warrant to search your premises."

To obtain such a warrant, police officers must have probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed, and the evidence of the crime is housed on your property.

The officers prepare a statement to identify the reason why the search is necessary and specifically what the officers are looking for.

They must then take an oath swearing to their belief that the statement on the affidavit are true to the best of their knowledge. The District Attorney's office or the officers prepare an affidavit that is presented in court and sworn to by the officers before a judge.

The search can then take place within the time and location

specified on the warrant.

The officers will knock on your door, announce their authority, state their purpose as well as inform you that they have a warrant to search your home. At this point, you should open the door to allow them entry.

If you do not open the door, they can legally remove the door from its hinges.

In the event that the search involves narcotics, material that can be quickly disposed of, or there is a possibility that the officers could be harmed, the approach will be somewhat different.

This warrant is served before you are able to arm yourself, destroy any evidence, and to effect an immediate arrest.

Therefore, the officers will announce their authority and remove the door from its hinges at the same time. This entry is often referred to as a no-knock search.

In these instances both you and any other person(s) on the premises will be searched as well.

Once the officers locate the property listed on the warrant, their search should end. However, the officers can seize any other property considered fruits of the crime, i.e., items matching the description of another crime that are in plain view.

You will be given a copy of the warrant and a receipt for all items seized, except narcotics.

Usually an arrest follows a search.

The absence of power

(Continued from Page 1 col 6)

Blacks were pushed into the public sphere.

This second definition of power is superior to the first, but upon closer examination reveals serious flaws. As social scientist Steven Lukes noted in a recent study, these limited definitions of power are based upon conflict models of political behavior. Nowhere can one find the more subtle usages of power - the shaping of people's subconscious wants and beliefs, desires and demands. Real power is found in the ability to condition and to control a society's expectations, perceptions and worldview. The successful application of power, Lukes implies, is virtually never displayed as a series of public options or decisions - because the real-power brokers in America suppressed all alternative

to their own interests and simultaneously condition the mind of the public to accept whatever they desire.

Put another way, any Presidential election with the alternative of Reagan vs. Carter, or Wallace vs. Humphrey vs. Nixon is no real election because no fundamental choices are on the agenda. America's corporate elite manages the selection of the candidates prior to the so-called decision making event, the election. The powerful have the ability to create self-destructive desires among the population through manipulation of commercials, the media and popular culture.

The pursuit of effective power must include the moral and political decision to say "no." Black people, individually and collectively, must

constantly reassess and examine their relationship to the "logic" of the dominant white economic, political and cultural institutions of the total society. Any strategy for Black power must include the recognition that power begins with the process of controlling our own minds, and rejecting those norms and ideals which cut against our ultimate interests.

Voter registration campaigns, elections, public interest groups and demonstrations are all important vehicles for social change, but their mere existence does not create or convey power from one group to another. Before we can start a course for effective Black power, we must dare to be original. Before we can change or challenge the world, we must first change ourselves. The pursuit of power begins from within.

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