



From the Capitol

by Rep. Ron Wyden

Q. The White House Conference On Aging seemed to end in almost as much controversy as it began. In your opinion, was the Conference a success?

A. Although the conference could have accomplished more if politics had not intervened, it did produce many positive suggestions as to how we can better the life of America's elderly population.

For example, the delegates recommended:

- Strong support for home health care—a cost-effective, more humane way of delivering health care;

- Strong support for expansion of employment opportunities and elimination of mandatory retirement for older people—a move I have long supported and one which supports the right of older people who wish

to keep working;

- Institution of prospective reimbursement programs for payment of health care providers—a cost-effective proposal for cutting escalating health care costs and the same concept contained in a bill I recently introduced, and;

- A proposal to eliminate the outside earnings limitations that currently prohibits Social Security beneficiaries from earning more than \$6,000 per year in outside income without having their benefits reduced.

The delegates also discussed other Social Security reforms at great length. But because of a conference rule which forced the delegates to vote on all the reports as part of a single package, the resulting recom-

mendations were sometimes contradictory.

For example, although the main committee considering Social Security voted against using general funds to bolster the system, two other committees voted just the opposite.

In general, however, the conference did support restoration of the minimum Social Security benefit and maintenance of existing levels of benefits for current retirees.

The fate of benefits for future retirees was left in the hands of Congress and the Administration (albeit with the instruction that they do everything in their power to maintain benefit levels for that group).

Q. You said you thought the conference could have accomplished

even more if politics hadn't intervened. Do you think there's any way to prevent similar problems from occurring in the future?

A. Yes, and to accomplish that goal, I have written a letter to Rep. Claude Pepper, Chairman of the House Select Committee on Aging, requesting: (1) That the Committee begin immediately to review the rules and regulations which governed the 1980 White House Conference on Aging, and to lay the groundwork for development of rational and responsible rules for the 1990 Conference, and; (2) That we take whatever action necessary to ensure that in the future, political parties and other organizations that receive copies of the list of delegates will be prohibited from using those lists for political purposes.



An Open Letter

by Police Chief Ron Still

I have used this "open letter" to explain some of the Police Bureau's functions and policies, with the hope that this provides citizens of Portland with a better understanding of how the Bureau works.

I will also use these letters to alert citizens to problems within the city. Right now, the rising crime rate is a significant concern that needs to be addressed. During the past few months, major crimes are being reported to the police at a rate of 50 per cent more than the past year.

This includes burglary, robbery and rapes. This trend is not much different for other cities, but it should cause some reaction from

citizens in Portland. From 1974 to 1979, crimes against persons and property showed either a decrease or a leveling off. 1980 ended with a slight increase in most crimes.

A variety of factors are involved. Some of these factors can be influenced by the police and some by citizens. One area that I am working toward, is increasing the number of convicted criminals that are incarcerated. By keeping people in jail who have a history of repeating crimes, the city will greatly benefit by the reduced crime rate. But this is something that cannot happen immediately. Portland is still confronted with the problem that requires input from everyone. It is everyone's

responsibility to help reduce crime. We all want Portland to be a safe place to live. In order to maintain that, citizens need to be willing to extend themselves.

Portland did see a reduction in the crime rate and much of this was the result of increased participation among citizens. The willingness to report suspicious activity and becoming involved in your neighborhood are two ways you can impact the crime rate. One of the reasons that burglaries are so high, is that the burglar goes in a neighborhood, unnoticed.

We have a Crime Prevention Unit that can provide information on

how you can secure your home and learn about Neighborhood Watch. They also offer self-defense classes and commercial crime prevention techniques. I recommend that you call Crime Prevention at 248-4126, it's there to assist you.

If you have comments or questions regarding the Portland Police Bureau, send them to me through the Public Information Office, 222 SW Pine, Portland, Oregon, 97204. I will not be able to respond in my open letter to each and every concern, but will select those which will assist in improving communication and relations with the community.

Cities in a new time of crisis

by Carl Holman, President National Urban Coalition

In many ways this is the most critical time for cities, for the poor, for minorities, since the Urban Coalition was founded in the midst of the urban riots in 1967.

Most of what was largely taken for granted by many Americans in the earliest days of the Coalition has now been called in question. That includes guiding principles, priorities, programs. The role of government, particularly, has undergone a radical sea change.

Minorities and the poor are pretty much out of favor and basic guarantees which offered them some protection are in danger of disappearing along with the deadwood of bureaucratic waste and red-tape. Many of those who were about to get a leg up on the job and educational ladder find the rungs giving way underfoot. Further up that now

shaky ladder, a good many middle class Americans, who once felt secure and generous, now turn inward, holding on for dear life against the threats of economic uncertainty and the fear and the ugly reality of violence.

The private sector is offered inducements which somehow fail to induce (witness Wall Street). In some quarters the private sector is expected to span an unprecedented gap in services and resources. The response has predictably been uneven—giving both optimists and pessimists something to be self-righteous about.

Cities that were on the rocky road to coping with some of their fiscal and revitalization needs, now find themselves saddled with new obligations and drastically diminished resources. While physical infrastructures collapse and economists argue,

Mayors and city councils pare services to the bone and struggle to placate increasingly irate citizens looking for answers to those problems unceremoniously dumped on the steps of City Hall by Washington.

A more positive development is that luckier urban communities are finding a new cadre of volunteers from business and civic groups, along with some admittedly atypical individuals, who bring to large cities some badly needed skills—and a touch of that communal spirit which romantics would have us believe animated most small towns in the past.

The past is indeed with us in many ways. The near-past is censored daily and a very harsh price is being exacted for earlier errors. Social programs which we are told overpromised and underproduced, cost precious tax dollars in the process.

The Klan and less blatant peddlers of racism have once more emerged from the dark fringes of national life. The media and politics are loud with the voices of the harshly pious apostles of the new Salem in their three-piece suits. And for everything from the economy, to crime, to foreign affairs, many seem convinced that complex realities can best be dealt with by simple remedies that worked well enough when America and the world were a good deal younger.

With so much gloom being dispensed these days from Washington and elsewhere, the battered champions of urban America must choose between despair or the brazen illogicality of that French General in World War I who is supposed to have said something like: "My rear is threatened, my flanks are collapsing—therefore, I shall attack!"

War in the Middle East?

(Continued from page 1 column 5)

United States, he must be good for his people.

Conversely, those political figures who are favored by the United States more often than not tend to be unpopular among their own people. Anwar Sadat is the latest case in point, as the muted Egyptian response to his assassination clearly indicated.

The obvious conclusion to be drawn from this paradox is that U.S. policymakers either are hopelessly out of touch with reality or their policies are in fundamental contradiction with the aspirations of Third World people.

In recent months particularly, Muammar Khadafy has been characterized by the U.S. government and the American press as the most dangerous man on earth, the primary cause of all its evils: hijacking, kidnapping, revolution. Thus, any tyrant in Africa or the Middle East today who wants to remain in power despite the popular will need only invoke the threat of Khadafy to qualify for U.S. military supplies. Much too often, these arms are used for suppressing their own people. Sudan has recently locked away more than 10,000 of its citizens. And the new leadership in Egypt is credited with rounding up over 30,000 government critics.

The fact is that Khadafy's real threat does not spring from his military might but from his genuine popularity among the inhabitants of neighboring countries. His progressive social and economic policies—and his general support for the oppressed—have enormous appeal with ordinary people, especially when they compare the Libyan colonel with their own leaders who so frequently are exploitative at home and subservient to the West.

To a large extent, the Muslim uprising in the Middle East and Africa is a repudiation of Western economic and cultural domination, a repudiation which also underlies Khadafy's political stance. He has not engineered it, but he does symbolize it, and this is the essence of his popularity.

Just before the Organization of African Unity (OAU) summit in Nairobi this past June, the United States mobilized all of its support among African heads of state to oppose Khadafy's election to the presidency of that organization next year. But to no avail: Khadafy will be the OAU president for 1982-3, after all, and host its summit in Tripoli.

At Nairobi, both France and the United States attempted to make a major issue of the invasion of Chad by Libya's army—again without

success. In fact, the OAU acknowledged that Libya's army has helped reestablish peace in Chad after 20 years of a French-manipulated civil war which was terribly costly in lives and property.

French president Francois Mitterrand's assertion Oct. 23 at Cancun to the effect that Khadafy is about to overthrow President Goukouni Oueddei of Chad suggests a continuing Western strategy to embarrass and isolate Khadafy in preparation for his forcible ouster.

It is an open secret that the United States is readying its Rapid Deployment Force for potential use in such a move in conjunction with Egypt and Sudan. As early as July of this year the U.S. press was discussing a CIA project to set up a "large-scale operation" for toppling Khadafy. The Sadat assassination and the shaky condition of Sudanese president Gaafar Nimeiri have provided an ideal pretext for action.

But unlike the assassination of Sadat, any attempt on Khadfy's life would be bound to set off civil strife, not only in Libya but in Egypt, Sudan and probably throughout most of the region. It is well to remember the consequences of Western aggression on Egypt in 1956, when the conservative Anthony Eden of England and socialist Guy Mollet of France attempted to

oust Nasser over the Suez issue.

Instead, both Eden and Mollet were thrown out of power in their own countries, and Nasser emerged as the leading figure in the Middle East and Africa for more than a decade.

© 1981 Pacific News Service (A.M. Babu, former Minister for Economic Development of Tanzania, teaches at Amherst College.)

Dental Clinic

(Continued from page 1 column 3) of the OHSU. Two denturists are also employed at the clinic.

"Meeting the needs of handicapped persons in our community is one of the major goals of the clinic and something we are fully equipped to do," said Dr. Rosenstein. "Several of our dentists have extensive experience working with the handicapped and the clinic is easily accessible."

As part of the OHSU School of Dentistry's curriculum, dental students are required to spend at least one week of their school program at the clinic.

"We want the students to realize the excellent care that can be provided to low-income persons and to see that it truly is appreciated by these patients," said Dr. Rosenstein.

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Citizen of the Week

President of one of the community's most successful businesses is Henry Scott, who presides over Coast Janitorial Service. The company was established in 1957. Five Scott brothers -- Henry, Manuel, Albert, Sam and Terry -- are involved in the family business.

Primarily a janitorial service, Coast operates in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. A recent acquisition is the contract for McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma. The company is a major employer for community residents and contributes to the economic development of the area.

Scott belongs to the NAACP, the Urban League, and is a member of Bethel AME Church. He and his wife Bernice have raised four children. For relaxation, he enjoys boating.

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