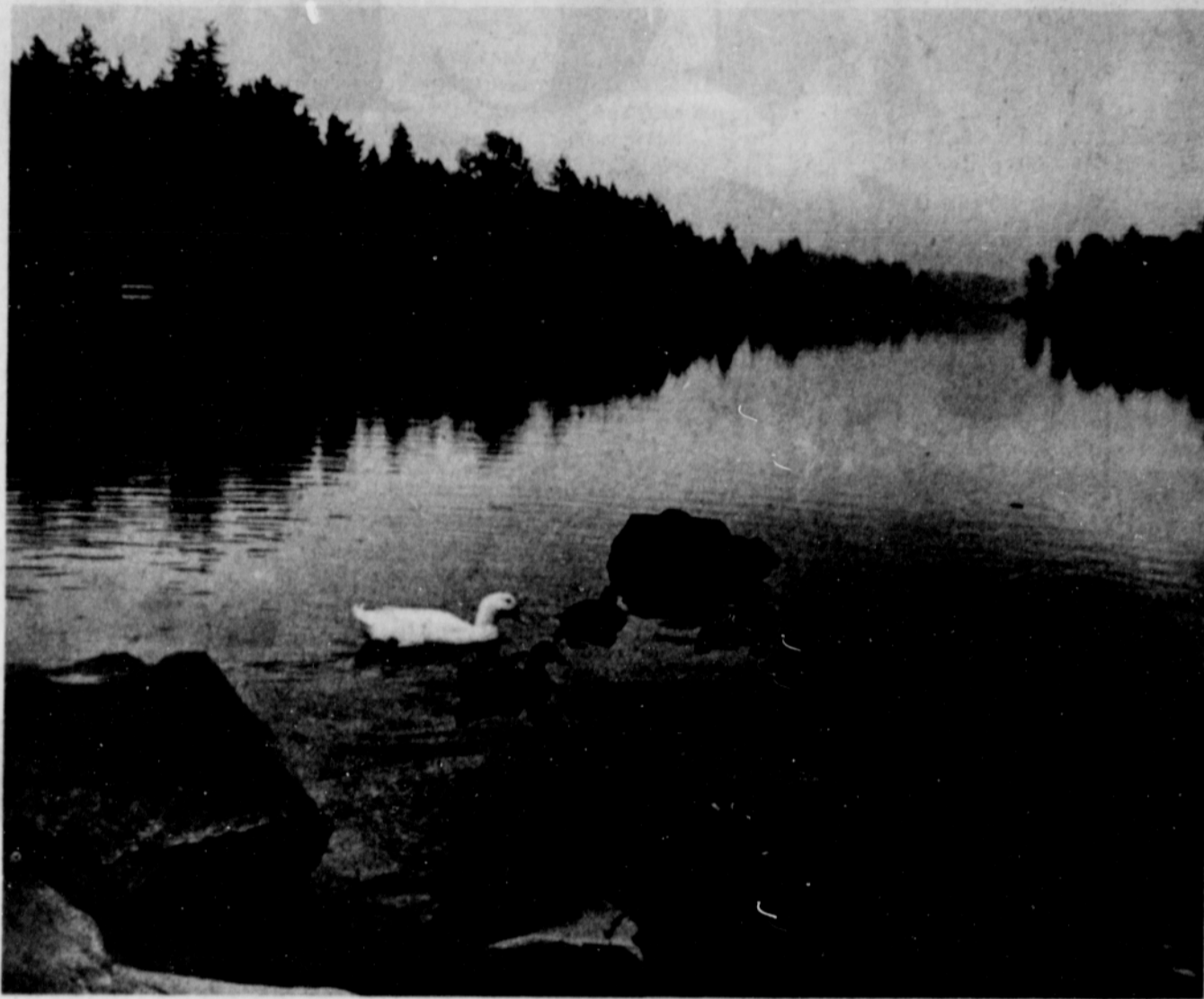


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Ducks bring Spring back to the Willamette Valley.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

PDC offers jobs program

One of the action plans in the Portland Development Commission's proposal for economic development of the Inner Northeast Target Area is a jobs program.

Unemployment in the area is twice that of the city as a whole and unemployment of youth is estimated to be three times that of the city.

The program outlines four areas:

- Outreach: This program would identify area employers, job categories and needs for employees.

- Centralized Employment Clearing House: It would provide services to prospective employees and to employers to assure target area residents knowledge of and easy access to job opportunities.

- First Source Agreements: The city has used this program to require employers who receive certain types of city financial assistance to hire city residents.

This concept could be extended to require employment of neighborhood residents. Jobs created or identified through Outreach would be accessible to area residents on a similar basis.

- Coordination of job training efforts of the City and Portland Community College. The college is developing plans to upgrade its Northeast facilities and improve vocational offerings.

Jimmy Brown, who designed the jobs program for PDC, sees the pro-

gram as crucial for Northeast residents. "One of the main problems is that the people who need jobs don't know where to find them. There are entry level jobs that require little skill and no training—the type a person can learn in a few days or a week—but the unemployed people in Northeast don't know where they are."

The Centralized Employment Clearing House would provide a place where residents could find access to jobs. It also would provide employers a ready labor force. "CETA can offer support services—such as screening prospective employees. This would cut down the time and money the employer uses to find employees—so it would be a service to him. But it would also provide an opportunity for neighborhood persons to get those jobs."

Brown believes this service should extend to employers outside the target area. "Most people don't work in the neighborhood where they live. They work all over town." Since many of the businesses in the target area are small and hire few employees, the option is necessary.

The development of jobs for inner-city residents has been the area of concern most expressed by community residents. The potential for the other elements of the PDC proposal—Minority Business devel-

opment, recruitment of business and commercial enterprises, and site development—are all seen in the light of employment: How much commitment will the City have to economic development that will produce jobs?

Caribbean policy: Bullets and bootstraps

The new Caribbean policy the world has waited for these past few weeks offers little to the suffering underdeveloped nations of the Caribbean—just bootstraps, bullets and the opportunity to open their gates to more investment by the U.S.-based multi-national corporations.

Financial assistance will be limited. A \$350 million appropriation will be "concentrated in the private sector"—and to business interests, not to governments. This aid will go primarily to El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and Belize.

- Tax incentives to U.S. corporations to encourage them to invest in the area.

- Assistance in investment promotion, export marketing and technology.

- Free trade without tariffs for certain goods imported from the area; 87 per cent of the products are already duty-free.

- Unspecified help for Puerto Rico, which is hard hit by cuts in U.S. federal social programs, and the Virgin Islands.

Prior to his announcement of the program to the Organization of American States, Reagan had repeatedly expressed his adherence to the "bootstrap" philosophy—that these nations should not receive direct U.S. aid but should improve their own economies through cooperation with U.S. corporations.

The Caribbean nations have been deeply hurt by the current economic

crisis in the industrialized nations. Although the prices they receive for agricultural products and other goods have not risen—or are even depressed—they must pay high costs for manufactured goods and aid from abroad.

The recent increase of 5¢ on the U.S. sugar tariff has devastated the sugar industries of many of these same nations. The increase actually meant a decrease in the price they receive for sugar—from 13¢ to 9¢, as compared to the subsidized price paid to U.S. sugar products of 19¢.

Unfortunately multi-national corporate investment has not been an answer to the economic problems of these nations since more is taken Reagan promised additional military expenditures. With angry words at Cuba and other nations of the area that are labeled "leftist" by the U.S. press—Grenada and Nicaragua—Reagan designated the Caribbean area as being in a state of crisis.

"The dark future is foreshadowed by the poverty and repression of Castro's Cuba, the tightening grip of the totalitarian left in Grenada and Nicaragua, and the expansion of Soviet-backed, Cuban-managed support for violent revolution in Central America."

Foreign observers consider this continuing threat to do "whatever is prudent and necessary to insure peace" as a rationalization of the refusal of the Reagan Administration to face up to the social factors that



PRESIDENT REAGAN

from the countries in profits than is invested.

Along with his economic "aid" are forcing the Latin American people to seek liberation from their oppressive governments.

The new Caribbean program will do nothing to lessen the revolutionary movements taking place in the United States' "backyard."

U.S. investment in Latin America grows

U.S. corporate involvement in Latin America goes back a long way, but has been heightened in the past few years.

In 1854 Grace Company, dealing in chemicals and food, moved into Peru. General Electric opened its first Latin American branch in Mexico in 1896.

Until World War I American corporations with branches in Latin America were few and, except for a few oil and mining firms, were small. In 1914, 50 per cent of the foreign investment in Latin America came from England, 26 per cent from the U.S., 14 per cent from France and 10 per cent from Germany.

Because contact between the U.S. and Europe was cut off during World War I, U.S. firms increased trade with Latin America. The U.S. profited greatly and became the financial, commercial and industrial center of the developed nations. Be-

fore the war the U.S. owed \$4 billion and when it was over Europe owed the U.S. \$10 billion.

By 1925 U.S. capital had displaced German and French capital in Latin America and was about to displace England. By 1930 there were 30 U.S. companies with offices in Latin America.

The fastest growth in U.S. transnationals took place after World War II when the radical changes in the nature of the productive forces led to a substantial increase in the internationalization of production in the capitalist world.

The result was a great increase in the number of U.S. corporations in Latin America and in the magnitude of their operations. By 1950 U.S. companies had a total of 225 branch offices in Latin America, but by 1977 the figure was nearly 1500.

The strategy of operation has also changed. The key is more central-

ized control by the home office, a common strategy for all branches, and maximum integration between the home office and branches. This means no matter how important the branch is to the economy of the country in which they operate, they serve only their own interests.

A few months ago the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that 77 per cent of all U.S. direct investments in the Third World are concentrated in Latin America and that nearly 70 per cent of the branch offices of U.S. companies in the underdeveloped world are in Latin America.

Economists have estimated that investments by U.S. transnationals in Latin America make up 14 per cent of the Gross National Product of the region whereas the figure for the European Economic Community countries (where U.S. monopolies are essentially active) is only 2.5 per cent. These figures demon-

strate the Latin American countries' high level of dependence on the internationals.

There are many reasons why the U.S. corporations are interested in Latin America: The region contains one-third of the world's copper reserves, more than a third of the bauxite reserves, a fifth of the iron ore, 40 per cent of the niobium and 98 per cent of the nitrates. There are huge oil and gas reserves. The potential for hydroelectric power is twice that of the U.S. and Canada put together. There are vast expanses of arable land; there is a wide variety of climate and soil. One quarter of the world's forests are in Latin America.

The interest of the multinationals in Latin America also explains the interest of the U.S. government in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and the remainder of Latin America.

Salvadoran editor in exile:

Washington controls the the throttle of terror in El Salvador

by Jorge Pinto
Pacific News Service

Jorge Pinto's family has been in the newspaper business in El Salvador for nearly 100 years. Pinto was editor of the independent daily *El Independiente* until January, 1981, when government troops destroyed the paper's equipment and arrested his staff. Though he supported President Duarte editorially in the elections of 1972, Pinto is now forced to live in exile in Mexico City.

MEXICO CITY—Today, as in decades past, it is the White House—acting through its ambassador in San Salvador—that controls the throttle of government violence in my country.

In 1944 General Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez, a dictator responsible for the death of 30,000 peasants who rose in rebellion, was

on the verge of striking violently again during a general strike of day laborers. But just at that moment, a Salvadoran policeman killed a young American named Joseph Wright. Reprimanded by the then-U.S. Ambassador Walter Thurston, Hernandez Martinez abdicated his office. The workers were saved from another massacre.

I offer this account to illustrate what a "reprimand" once meant. Today, however, to reign in the military in a country that has more U.S. arms per square mile than any nation in the world, words must be followed by stronger demonstrations of Washington's will to subdue government violence.

I personally can testify to the power signals from the White House still command. In January 1981, days after President Reagan made his first pronouncements in support of the Salvadoran junta, the government parked a tank outside my

house and sent troops to destroy my newspaper plant—though the newspaper had supported neither the government nor any opposition group.

Here in exile is where one feels more impotent; but it is very probable that from here things can be seen more clearly.

Each individual in El Salvador is faced with the option now of siding with the army of insurgents, which represents some hope, or with the government army, which has massacred for 50 years and threatens continued killing for another half century. That is not a political option. It is a constitutional option, guaranteed by El Salvador's constitution when people confront oppression as severe as that which exists today. President Duarte himself lost his popular appeal when he chose to align himself with this same army even after opposing it during the 1972 elections.

I believe that we have come to a crossroads, as the insurgents claim: Either we are going to have the country for all or the country for nobody. One simply has to decide which is more moral: the insurgency, which eventually could destroy the entire infrastructure of the country, but which attempts to reflect the human aspirations of the Salvadoran people; or the current regime, armed by the U.S., which leaves intact the infrastructure but destroys human beings.

These thoughts come to me when I read in the newspapers that the United States will send military assistance, for hundreds of millions of dollars more, to the damaged Salvadoran army.

The Salvadoran army is now an army of intervention. The government of the most powerful nation of the world is crushing the people of the smallest nation of the hemi-

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