

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Is the City really committed?

The most valuable section in the Portland Development Commission's economic development program for Northeast Portland is the jobs program. Unemployment in inner Northeast is twice that of the city; the unemployment rate of inner Northeast non-whites is more than twice that of non-whites in the city; the unemployment rate of inner Northeast males is twice that of other males. For 16-19-year-olds, the unemployment rate in inner Northeast is three times that of youth from the city as a whole.

The proposed jobs program would attempt to match unemployed or underemployed individuals with existing jobs. An outreach program would find vacancies throughout the metropolitan area and assess the needed requirements. A Centralized Clearing House, as part of the City's CETA program, would provide information to prospective employers and employees. This would ensure that residents of the area would

know where jobs exist and would have assistance in applying for employment.

The program could be extremely useful, especially in assisting community people to find where and what type of jobs are available. The keys to this program are the commitment of the City Council and the selection of a director.

The program was conceived and developed by City employee Jimmy Brown. Brown not only has the experience with employment programs and CETA, but he is perhaps the only person with those credentials who also can relate well both to the captains of industry and to the community at the grassroots level.

We can judge the true commitment of the Mayor and the City Commissioners on this appointment alone. Brown in the position will demonstrate commitment; his absence will point to lack of concern for the people of the area.

They always suffer most

The House of Representatives has adopted a budget package designed to raise more taxes to help meet the \$310.8 million state budget deficit. The package calls for a 3.9 per cent income tax surcharge to raise \$39 million, a 3¢-per-package cigarette tax to raise \$11.3 million. It also calls for a lowering of the maximum payment through the property tax relief program in which the state general fund pays 30 per cent of the homeowner's property tax. Lowering this payment from \$355 to \$220 would save \$42.2 million.

The State Senate does not like the plan and is considering dropping the cigarette tax and making other changes. State Senator John Powell, Chairman of the State Revenue Committee, is afraid the new taxes will hit the same people. The man with an \$80,000 home who gets less property tax relief is the same man who will pay cigarette taxes. Too bad.

Senator Powell should remember that it is always the same people who are hurt by budget cuts—children, the elderly, the poor.

A COUPLE MORE STEPS BACKWARDS, FOLKS, AND I THINK EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.



Terror in El Salvador

(Continued from page 1 column 4)

sphere—people who would have found their own proper path if it weren't for Washington's political and economic support to that army. It is the generous American people who pay for this support—at the cost of social welfare programs in the United States. Yet this Goliath of dollars is used against a people evidently disposed to follow in the footsteps of our martyred Monsignor Romero, who believed that the Christian who fights for others lives forever, even though his body may die.

Salvadorans admire America's democracy, but cannot understand the popular campaign mounted by the Reagan administration to protest the crackdown in Poland, while Salvadoran workers are subjugated, massacred and tortured in the prisons of San Salvador.

Meanwhile, we the unarmed, the intellectuals, the non-violent, form part of a wandering caravan of ex-

iles, politically persecuted for the crime of attempting to express our opposition to the brute force of a murdering army and millions of dollars worth of U.S. arms.

If the government of the United States would only comprehend that the truth cannot be hidden behind President Reagan's certification that the human rights situation in El Salvador has improved. The truth has no political color and it sounds hypocritical to condemn martial law in Poland, while a romance exists between Washington and El Salvador's military criminals whose corrupt martial law regime is being sustained with American money. The ideal would be for those dollars to support the legitimate aspirations of the Salvadoran people.

But if the imagination doesn't stretch that far—even though it would earn the U.S. the gratitude of a new nation—at least the dollars should not serve to create in Central

America the catalyst for a new world war or a replica of Vietnam. They should serve to arrange negotiations with the insurgents and the army.

The question is whether the dollar ought to serve to exterminate a people which is becoming more radicalized every day, or whether they ought to serve the advent of a much wished-for political, social and economic democracy for the Salvadoran nation. I believe that is the choice.

Our history shows us that here a reprimand by a representative of the White House traditionally has been sufficient to "put into line" a dictatorship sustained by American arms. Meanwhile, the Salvadoran people continue to ask themselves why Americans desire a democracy for themselves, but for us sustain the most fearful, criminal and corrupt of dictatorships.

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