

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Raids have evil purpose

"Operation Employment"—the U.S. government's effort to arrest and deport 30,000 undocumented Mexican workers from ten cities with high immigrant populations is not a true effort to free jobs for unemployed U.S. citizens.

It is an effort to turn race against race, class against class as the economic stagnation deepens.

The U.S. economy will not be turned around by deporting people working in jobs that U.S. citizens refuse to consider. Although the operation is reported to involve only "highly paid" workers—most are working for minimum wage or less.

The raids—which are continuing in Oregon and Washington as well as across the country (350 arrests in Oregon in the past eight days)—are designed to turn the attention of the American people away from the real causes of the recession and from the real reasons for the loss of jobs—high interest rates, plant closure, deteriorating factories, excess profits, spiralling prices, etc. The tune of the day is to blame the workers—and when possible to blame black or Spanish speaking workers.

While fighting each other for low-wage jobs black, Hispanic, Indian, Southeast Asian and white workers and unemployed will never

turn their attention to the true causes of their misery. The targets will be undocumented workers, affirmative action, and unions.

It is no accident that the raids are against Mexicans while hundreds of thousands of undocumented Canadians, Poles, and other illegal white immigrants live in peace and security. Not only do the raids hunt down illegal Mexicans like animals, but the nets catch U.S. citizens of Mexican descent, naturalized U.S. citizens, Mexican citizens in this country legally, and children who are U.S. citizens with Mexican parents.

The U.S. does not even provide minimal security and safety for its own citizens of Mexican or other Hispanic origin.

It is also not accidental that the "Operation Employment" roundup began on the day Senate debate began on the controversial Simpson-Mazzoli bill (S.222 and H.5872). This bill would provide "temporary residence" for two years which would enable Mexican citizens to work in the U.S. legally, but would deny to them benefits, civil rights, and access to federally supported legal defense organizations. This would provide a class of low-wage workers in virtual slavery.

The current raids on undocumented workers were carefully planned to set the stage for more repressive acts to follow.



## Zimbabwe today

by N. Fungai Kumbula

It seems funny being in Zimbabwe now. It is a far cry from the fear-ridden, internationally ostracized, racially discriminatory and strife-torn country I left some 10 years ago. I keep remembering the polarization of the races. There were sections of town where we as blacks, were de facto aliens. The only time we dared venture there was to serve the needs of the "massa." Now the roles are almost totally reversed. While whites are still very much in evidence in the formerly white section of town, they are there as a very self-conscious minority. Their former arrogance has now been replaced by the shocked realization that the days of the "massa" are gone and gone forever.

So now they are busy trying to make friends with the very people they had trampled underfoot for so long. They are busy trying to curry favor with the new bosses. Before they had always been told they were needed to "maintain standards and safeguard 'civilization.'" Now they realize they are wanted but not needed. They need Zimbabwe more than Zimbabwe needs them.

The "White exodus" so played up in the Oregon press and other papers of similar persuasion has now slowed to a trickle. In some

cases even those that had fled to South Africa are clamouring to come back. For the first time they are beginning to realize there is no future in South Africa, that when change comes, their lot would be a lot worse than it is here now. The old order has changed.

On the job where we work with them, they are for the first time having to demonstrate their competence, to shoulder their responsibilities and to compete on the basis of merit with everybody.

For someone whose white skin has been an automatic passport to all the top positions and their attendant privileges, it is a most uncomfortable switch. Understandably, they have the most trouble dealing with Africans who were trained abroad. These Africans have a certain arrogance, and self-confidence that they find so irritating. (Remember the "Northern Negroes" and the Southern Whites?) "Been-to's" as we are sometimes called have no time for them, do not mix with them, do not ask anything from or of them and generally give the impression that they do not need them. For someone who has travelled, mixing with different races is no longer a big deal. For those who have been oppressed, however, it is

a new experience that offers some sort of excitement.

Further, in a lot of instances, the locals are obliged to go and ask this or that from those whites because they are the ones that, until very recently had access to it all. The relationship between them, therefore, is somewhat easier as it tends to be one between teacher and student.

The recent influx of the "been-to's" back to Zimbabwe has seriously shaken the complacency and over-confidence of most of the whites because it has blown sky-high the myth that without the whites to run the economy, Zimbabwe would soon grind to a halt. In a lot of cases, the returning Africans are coming back with better educational qualifications and more solid and versatile work experience than they (the whites) can boast of. There is no possibility of the whites repeating what they did in Guinea and Mozambique where they just up and left, leaving the countries without the skilled manpower to run the economy. It was worse in Guinea in 1958, not so bad in Mozambique in 1975 and non-existent in Zimbabwe in 1980.

Till the next time, keep the fires of liberation forever burning.

## African Liberation Day

by Dr. Manning Marable  
"From The Grassroots," May, 1982

Malcolm X, the greatest spokesperson of black liberation of the 1960s, recognized the necessity for black Americans to internationalize our struggle. One of the key proposals of the Organization for Afro-American Unity, formed in 1964, was to take the various issues of racist repression against blacks in the U.S. to the United Nations. Before his untimely death, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke out against both the U.S. war in Vietnam and this government's genocidal policies before the world stage. Both Malcolm and Martin understood that the struggle for black freedom was an international effort, requiring the unity of oppressed peoples across the Third World.

Today Reaganism threatens to undercut every significant political/economic/educational gain that was won by the black Movement in the last 50 years. But it would be a mistake on our part to isolate Reaganism as simply a domestic problem. What we are witnessing is a broad and sinister reaction of the most racist and fascist-oriented forces that threaten the survival of black people across the globe.

In racist, apartheid South Africa, terrorism against black freedom

fighters has accelerated. 620 people were "detained" in 1981. About 300 of them are unaccounted for. Police do not announce who is detained or released. Many prisoners have been given massive doses of thallium—a powerful rat poison. Detainees have no rights at all—no fresh clothing, no food parcels, limited access to attorneys, no reading material.

In Namibia, both the United States and South Africa are attempting to strangle the legitimate voice of that country's African population, SWAPO. U.S. representatives have in effect repudiated U.N. Security Council Resolution 435 which calls for self-determination for Namibia. In the Western Sahara, the U.S. provides millions of dollars in arms for the dictatorial Moroccan regime's repression of Polisario, the liberation movement of the region's Saharawi people. The U.S. government has encouraged South Africa to launch military strikes deep into Angolan territory.

In the Western hemisphere, the racist and reactionary politics of this country has produced the specter of U.S. troops in El Salvador; the threat of armed confrontation with the progressive governments of Nicaragua

and Grenada; and economic exploitation of the black masses in Jamaica and Haiti. Reagan's racist immigration policies meant the drowning and deportation of Haitian refugees.

The United Nations Committee Against Apartheid has declared 1982 the "International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions Against South Africa." This is also the 10th anniversary of the ALD—African Liberation Day—a day reserved to honor black freedom fighters throughout the African diaspora.

On May 22, at the United Nations, thousands of black and progressive people rallied in support of black world, SCALD, the "Support Committee for African Liberation Day," has been endorsed by hundreds of activists and leaders, including Congressman Mickey Leland; Judge William H. Booth, President of the American Committee on Africa; Rev. Dr. William A. Jones of the National Black Pastors Conference; Rev. Timothy Mitchell of Harlem's Ebenezer Baptist Church, and others.

For more information, contact SCALD, 550 W. 155th Street, New York City, 10036, (212) 690-9058.

## We'd Give A Million Bucks To See Oregon Working Again.



## Open letter to Chief Ron Still

Dear Ron:

The Portland Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union is seriously concerned about information which appeared in an article published in the *Oregonian* regarding your maintenance of a "file" on *Oregonian* reporter Linda Williams.

In that May 7th article, you were quoted as saying the Portland Police Bureau maintains a file on Ms. Williams of considerable size which includes articles she has written regarding the bureau, its agents and police affairs. Other published statements indicate that you, the bureau and the police union are not

pleased with many of Ms. Williams' stories.

The file, as described, and the maintenance thereof does not constitute a violation of law. However, its existence, and the possibility for inclusion of other information, poses potential constitutional questions regarding an individual's right to privacy, as well as First Amendment protections of both the individual and the press.

We hope you are aware that the inclusion of any information "about the political, religious or social views, associations or activities of any individual..." would be a violation of ORS 181.575, "...unless such information directly relates

to an investigation of criminal activities, and there are reasonable grounds to suspect the subject of the information is or may be involved in criminal conduct."

The Portland ACLU sincerely hopes that you are aware and sensitive to both the critical nature of your station as head of a law enforcement agency empowered to protect the rights of individuals, and the existence of external mechanisms and entities to ensure that you do.

Barbara C. Ring, President  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Greater Portland Chapter

## The economy and social justice

by Norman Hill, Executive Director  
A. Philip Randolph Institute

For decades the civil rights and labor movements have argued for greater social justice and for safeguards which could better protect workers from the recessions which recur in any free enterprise economy. Such arguments have been based upon a humanitarian impulse, upon the view that all human beings are entitled to an adequate standard of living and to the right to lead a dignified life.

Today, a mountain of evidence appears to suggest that greater social justice, increased social spending by government, job security, and greater protections for workers, not only are morally laudable, but are good for economic growth. Such is the evidence contained in a critically important new book, *Minding America's Business*, (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982), co-authored by Robert Reich, of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and Ira Magaziner, a consultant to business and labor.

In essence, the book makes a persuasive argument for adopting much of the agenda favored by organized labor and the civil rights movement. Through imaginative and concise use of charts and statistics the authors document the decline of the U.S. economy. In 1960, the U.S. was first in the world in terms of standard of living. Today, we are no better than tenth, behind such countries as France, Holland, Denmark, West Germany, Norway, and Belgium, with Japan quickly approaching us and signifi-

cantly outpacing us in productivity increases and economic growth.

What, ask Reich and Magaziner, do these countries have in common? What policies have their governments and industries adopted to achieve economic growth?

The evidence shows that those Western democracies which outperform our economy have a higher, not lower, degree of government spending on social expenditures than does the U.S. In each of these countries there is a higher degree of per capita social spending for such programs as social security and unemployment insurance. Workers in these countries receive on the average four to five weeks annual paid vacation (while U.S. workers average 2.5 weeks time off). In each of these countries there are substantial government- and industry-financed health insurance programs.

Job security also is one of the cornerstones of industrial productivity. As Reich and Magaziner suggest: "It is difficult to gain workers' commitment to a company if they know that the company is not ultimately committed to developing their careers." They assert, on the basis of evidence from such countries as Sweden and Japan, that "it is in a company's best interest to be concerned about the career development of all employees, not just the few at the top." In this regard, the authors argue, "it would not only be more humane but also less costly to develop the employees they have rather than bear the substantial cost

of employee disaffection and high worker turnover."

Significantly, Reich and Magaziner suggest that government could promote job security by reimbursing companies for keeping workers on the payroll or in training during recessions.

Finally, the authors indicate that unionization is not an obstacle to economic development. Rather, by creating more decent work conditions unions help to spur productivity. In countries which outperform the U.S. economically, levels of unionization are from 50 per cent greater than ours (Japan) to 400 per cent greater (Belgium and Sweden).

*Minding America's Business* is a book which deserves serious attention from labor and civil rights communities. Its evidence flies in the face of President Reagan's supply-side and free market pieties. Government is not the problem. Rather, when it reflects the popular will, it is a responsible and indeed essential part of the solution.



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