

Congressional rule hampers Black Caucus

A Congressional rule, which began to take effect this year, is putting a severe financial strain on the Congressional Black Caucus.

One of the oldest and most influential special interest groups in the Congress, the ruling forbids such caucuses from using public funds and free public office space if they also get contributions from the private sector.

In the past the Black Caucus has depended largely on the expensive and lavish Congressional weekend which culminates in a banquet and a dance to raise funds. With the new ruling, those funds can only be used for research now.

Black Caucus chairman and District of Columbia Representative Walter Fountroy said the Caucus

has resorted to some fancy footwork to ensure its survival.

"We are utilizing the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation which we established five or six years ago," Fountroy said. "That organization is able to receive outside contributions so long as it does nonpartisan research."

The foundation will sponsor the Black Caucus' annual congressional weekend dinners to finance its legislative analysis and research.

"Secondly," Fountroy continued, "we have established a political action committee (PAC) which can raise funds from individuals from across the nation. And the third organization [we have set up] is what we call the Legislative Service Organization."

The Legislative Service Organiza-

tion allows the members of the Black Caucus to maintain offices on the hill and is supported by contributions from the caucus members themselves.

"I'm sure that there are those who are not unhappy that the caucus has been put under severe strain by this rule," Fountroy said. "But the fact is that the rule was adopted primarily to get at well-heeled, narrow-interest lobbies that have been able, by contributions they have raised from among their membership, to finance many members of the Congress in their efforts to represent their views."

Fountroy said he did not know whether black Americans would be willing to contribute the necessary financial support to the Black Caucus without the lavish Black Caucus

weekend dinner.

"It is going to be increasingly difficult," he said. "For our advocacy week, we are going to have to depend upon a great many people who cannot afford to come to Washington for the dinner but who certainly need a strong caucus advocating issues in their behalf."

"I am depending largely on the contributions of individuals to the Congressional Black Caucus PAC," Fountroy added.

"We are going to survive this, but we are going to survive as more and more black people begin to contribute the \$10 and \$15 that will aggregate into a sufficient fund to make sure that those who are gloating at this new rule will not have the fulfillment of their wishes," Fountroy said.

Israel: No special treatment

(Continued from page 1 column 6)

and children, both Lebanese and Palestinian, is thus on our hands, not just on the hands of the Israelis. The American-made cluster bombs, for example, are among the most sophisticated and deadly anti-personnel weapons ever conceived by man. Scattering hundreds of small bomblets over an area of 25 acres or more, a single CBU has a particularly horrifying impact on a civilian population. It is well known that cluster bombs were furnished by us to the Israelis in the early 1970s on the specific condition that they be used only against regular armies when Israel was under attack, and that they not be used against guerilla forces or in civilian areas. When Israel violated this agreement in 1976 by the use of CBUs in southern Lebanon, the United States government lodged a formal and public protest.

Not so in 1982, however. Not only has the United States stood silently by as the CBUs were used in southern Lebanon in recent weeks; we also vetoed a UN Security Council resolution calling for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. As in the case of Vietnam, whatever may be the merits of the destruction of rural villages by U.S. firepower, the indiscriminate use of that firepower is viewed with universal horror elsewhere in the world.

It is not merely world opinion that is shocked: We violate our own principles in this process. We have long treasured our heritage as a nation under law, a nation which sought to restrain the excessive use of force, even in just causes, according to clear legal principles. One of those principles is that our police in pursuit of an armed criminal cannot pursue that individual into a marketplace and indiscriminately shoot into a crowd. Under no circumstances can the Israeli pursuit of not more than 15,000 armed Palestinians, in a country of three million people be considered a restrained use of force. Naval bombardments and aerial bombing of Beirut, Sidon, and Tyre and the Palestinian refugee villages must, of necessity, kill and maim tens of thousands of non-combatants.

A captured Israeli pilot put it fairly and accurately the other day when he said that he could not justify his country's use of force—that such use of force was excessive. Indeed, to much of the world Israel has become the newest international bully, created and armed by the United States and now out of control—but still supported by Washington in whatever its leaders, the former terrorists Begin and Sharon, may seek to do, regardless of how many innocent people are killed in the process.

The growing hatred felt by Arabs for the United States transcends national and political views. It is an emotional, gut reaction to our conduct, a reaction which once implanted in a human heart may remain for years. As the Holocaust is remembered in Jewish hearts, or as the extermination by the Turks in 1915 and 1916 is remembered in Armenian hearts, it is the kind of hatred that can provoke blind revenge and retaliation for generations.

I was recently visited by the ambassador from one of the moderate Arab states which has always been friendly to the United States. He could barely express his horror over the continuing U.S. endorsement of Israel's actions in Lebanon. But more than expressing the concern of his nation, he tried to express a small part of the poison against the

United States and its people which he felt was being permanently planted in Arab hearts by the daily Israeli bombardment in and around Beirut.

The perception is growing that we are not longer people interested in fairness and justice. Instead, we are now viewed as a people who, like the Soviets in Afghanistan, val ue expediency more than the lives of innocent people.

An even worse aspect of Lebanon's tragedy, however, may be the dulling of our own senses toward indiscriminate killing with U.S. weapons, so long as it is Israel which is doing the killing. As opposed to our traditional view of independence of action and policy, the United States seems to have adopted the view that no matter what offenses Israel may commit, against Arabs on the West Bank or in Lebanon, we intend to support them, out of respect for what Israelis have done in the past, or out of some sense of guilt over our inaction 40 years ago in the face

of Hitler's holocaust.

When Turkey, a NATO ally, used U.S. arms to invade Cyprus in 1975, we immediately invoked a provision of the Arms Control Act to cut off aid. Yet when Israel used U.S. weapons to destroy the Iraqi nuclear reactor, to bomb Beirut and to invade Lebanon, we stood nearly mute.

What is this strange paralysis of American leadership with respect to Israel?

In my judgment, respect for the opinions of mankind and our own legal heritage should prompt us now to treat Israel as just one more foreign country, to be assisted when right and condemned when wrong. There is no longer any reason why we should send \$2.2 billion per year in foreign aid (one-fifth of a total \$11 billion in U.S. foreign aid this year) to a single nation of 3.5 million people, when that nation is violating basic concepts of human decency.

Mitchell charges SBA waging war against minority firms

In a speech delivered at the Operation PUSH Convention on July 17, 1982, in Charleston, South Carolina, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, (D-7th-Md.) charged that "the Small Business Administration (SBA) has launched the most vicious attack on the minority community in recent memory."

According to Congressman Mitchell, SBA's failure adequately to defend a court challenge to the award of federal contracts to certain disadvantaged firms in its 8(a) business development program is the most recent in a series of moves aimed at the minority business community. This latest action will affect 8(a) firms which are nearing competitive status but which have technically exceeded SBA's definition of a "small business concern." According to Congressman Mitchell, "If these businesses are abruptly forced out of the 8(a) program, many will be out of business in less than six months."

A recent General Accounting Office decision, which is only advisory in nature, is now being used by SBA to deny contracts to 23 minority 8(a) firms. These firms will be forced to lay off most of their 7,500 workers, many of whom are minority.

SBA Administrator James C. Sanders has refused to amend its regulations to redefine a small business for the purpose of the 8(a) pro-

gram. According to Congressman Mitchell, "The inclusion of increases in employment and gross receipts to the base on which size is measured is artificial when these increases are attributable only to the performance of 8(a) contracts which are by no means permanent sources of income, as this latest maneuver demonstrates."

Mitchell stated, "I have received over 200 telegrams, letters and telephone calls in less than 3 days protesting this unreasonable and inequitable situation. As a result of this massive community outcry, I have initiated discussions with the White House, SBA, Members of Congress and the minority business community." To date, neither the White House nor Administrator Sanders has responded in a positive fashion.

SBA is consistently acting to deny economic parity for minority businesses. Programs for economic advancement are being sabotaged by those very persons who, by law, are directed and charged with responsibility for their proper implementation. SBA's failure to stop these kinds of abuses is testimony enough to its lack of commitment to the economic revitalization of this nation in general and the minority business community in particular," according to Congressman Mitchell.

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