



Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

On November 29, members of the House and Senate will return for the so-called lame-duck session of Congress.

Although there is a lot of unfinished business still on the table, it is unlikely that much of it will be completed. For one thing, time is limited (to approximately three weeks). For another, there will be a lot of pressure to wait until the new Congress convenes in January to take up a lot of the controversial measures.

For example, although Social Security has been in the news a lot lately, I don't believe Congress will enact any significant changes in the system during the lame-duck session. Not only is time too short to properly consider such a complicated issue, but House leaders will want to wait until the new Congress is assembled to help ensure they have the votes to prevent massive

cutbacks.

I also think it is unlikely—though possible—that Congress will seriously consider a rewrite of the Clean Air Act in the lame-duck. Unless members of the Energy and Commerce Committee are able to agree on a short version of the bill—which they have shown little propensity for to date—I just don't see how it can be done.

There are, however, a number of issues that will be considered—if not resolved—during the lame-duck. Following is my best guess as to major issues that will be debated during that period:

Jobs legislation: Congress almost assuredly will take up proposals for a new jobs program—most likely one that will aim at providing jobs in road and bridge repair and other endeavors that will help rebuild Am-

erica's infrastructure. There have been various proposals as to how such a program would be paid for, including a 5 cent-per-gallon tax increase on gasoline.

Tax cut acceleration: Despite warnings by Congressional leaders that he doesn't have the votes to get it passed, the latest word from the White House is that President Reagan intends to go ahead with plans to ask Congress to speed up the 1983 income tax cut from July to January. Although this move would increase the federal deficit, the President claims it would help provide the economic shot in the arm the country needs to begin moving out of the recession. Opponents claim it would only make matters worse.

Housing: Legislation to shore up the hard-hit housing industry is still a possibility—though not a certainty

—for the lame-duck. Possible formulations include a direct subsidy or a long-range stimulus bill such as one I have introduced that would open up pension funds for housing.

Environmental: Although I expect Congress to defer consideration of the Clean Air Act during the lame-duck session, I am fairly certain it will take up legislation to establish a process for identifying the best possible permanent nuclear waste disposal sites. Congress has put off making a decision on this matter for too long—and the health and safety of the American public have been jeopardized as a result.

The lame-duck Congress is also likely to consider legislation to protect existing and proposed wilderness areas by prohibiting further oil and gas drilling and leasing in those areas.

Rewriting American History

by Dr. Manning Marable
"From The Grassroots"

Why has Reagan repeatedly attempted to "rewrite" the history of the black freedom struggle? The most immediate and obvious reason is that the trend toward racist random violence against blacks has continued unchecked in the 1980s, and that blacks of every socioeconomic class and political persuasion are becoming more militant.

Almost daily throughout 1982, there were a fresh series of racial atrocities in virtually every corner of the country, as reported in the Atlanta-based publication, *Racially-Motivated Random Violence*. On December 19, 1982, and January 16, 1982, the offices of a black newspaper, the *Jackson Advocate* (Mississippi) were firebombed and shotgunned, and staff members were threatened. On May 3, 1982, Chester Reems, a black man in Durham, North Carolina, was attacked by a racist for "walking with a white woman." The white man drove his automobile into Reems, throwing him more than 80 feet. Reems was pronounced dead on arrival at (Durham's) hospital, having suffered a broken neck and multiple fractures. On May 26, 1982, one young black man was killed and another seriously wounded by a gun-wielding white man in Franklinton, North Carolina. Black families in Boston's Hyde Park neighborhood experienced assaults, racial slurs, and had their homes vandalized during July and August, 1982.

Much of the racist violence came from white teenagers and young adults. White students at Chicago's Bogan High School harassed and attacked young blacks. Between 55 and 73 black teenagers were arrested

in the interracial fighting, but police arrested no whites. White youths in Dorchester, Massachusetts, firebombed an apartment building in which black families had recently moved. On August 8, a black family driving in downtown Boston were pursued by four young racists. The youths got out of their car, covered their license plates and, while hurling racist epithets, began smashing the windows of the family's car with chains and clubs. Fortunately the family escaped with only minor injuries. The most publicized "lynching" occurred in Brooklyn, New York, on June 22. A gang of young whites stopped an automobile containing three black men. Two of the men were cut and punched, but managed to escape. The third black man, William Turks, was brutally beaten to death.

The violence against blacks can be explained only through the prism of history. Immediately following the Compromise of 1877, and the end of the First Reconstruction, Afro-American people experienced a wave of murderous race hatred and violence. With the demise of the Second Reconstruction, many whites have returned to the bloody American tradition of the *auto-da-fe*, mob violence, and criminal behavior towards peoples of color. What we now are witnessing is "the spirit of the mob"; a desire to inflict punishment at random; to terrorize small children and their families; to force black people ever backward, into the darkest and most obscure corners of political discourse and economic life.

The mob hates the black man and woman, because it fears the poten-

tial strength of united black political power, the danger of being replaced on the job by a black person, the threat of blacks living next door and undermining property values. As W.E.B. DuBois suggested, the mob believes "the Negro an inferior race," and that "this inferiority must be publicly acknowledged and submitted to." Leaders of the "mob spirit," from the hoodlums in Boston, the firebombers of Mississippi, to the President himself, will distort the lessons of the past to ensure racial inequality in the future.

The black elite now cries in the face of Reaganism, yet it too bears indirectly a share of the blame for the present "mob spirit." The black elite will promulgate an economic program which mirrors the right-wing tendencies of Social Democracy in most of the Western world's nations, but beyond that invisible boundary, they will not go further left. In short, the black elite calls for federal initiatives to provide employment for the poor, but they will not advocate a clearly socialist agenda which would severely restrict the prerogatives of private capital; they denounce the growing trend of racist violence, without also seeing that such violence is a manifestation of a more profound crisis within the capitalist political economy. The elite has no viable solutions to address the proliferating and permanent black reserve army of labor, or the deterioration of the inner cities. They are simply prepared to administer the crisis, but not to resolve it.

Their failure, in brief, is one of vision. The Old Guard constantly maneuvers, responding to minor political crises, but they are hopelessly in-

ept in projecting a constructive programme to transform the larger society. The react, rather than act; they imitate, rather than create; they plead, rather than demand. As the decades of the 1980s progressed, it has become obvious that their limited vision has created a temporary yet quite real barrier between the black majority and their goals of bi-racial democracy, economic justice, and freedom. With DuBois, I must agree that many critical failures of both Reconstructions were the result of the blacks' leadership "by the blind. We fell under the leadership of those who would compromise with truth in the past in order to make peace in the present and guide policy in the future."

Debt counselling available

Free professional counseling is being offered local residents whose family income can't keep up with debts incurred when the economy was better.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Oregon, Inc., (CCCS), a Portland-based non-profit organ-

ization, is already helping almost 100 North Portland-area residents find ways to make financial ends meet. The door is open to others.

"We're seeing people today who have never had a money management problem in their lives," says Lawrence Winthrop, president of

the 15-year-old service.

He says CCCS services are available to anyone, regardless of income level, who can't pay his—or her—bills.

CCCS counseling alone is free. If more help is needed, there's a debt management program for which a nominal charge is made (or waived in serious hardship cases). In these programs, counselors work with clients and their creditors to arrange mutually satisfactory programs for getting debts paid—usually by extending repayment periods and reducing the amount of monthly payments.

Appointments for counseling may be made by calling 232-8139 (in Portland). There's no obligation and advice alone is free. The service is funded primarily by private contributions and governed by a volunteer board of directors.

Abortion: A woman's choice

Abortion is safe and legal in a clinic setting. The Portland Women's Health Center offers abortion services up to 19 weeks from the last menstrual period. The abortion procedure used up to 12 weeks is vacuum aspiration with minimal dilation. Dilation and Evacuation (an adaptation of the suction method) is used for abortions 13 to 19 weeks. Abortions are performed with optional local anesthetic. Medicaid, insurance and major credit cards are accepted. Other referrals available—call for further information.



PORTLAND FEMINIST WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER

up to 12 weeks LNMP \$180.00
13-14 weeks LNMP \$235.00
15-19 weeks LNMP \$300.00
6510 SE FOSTER ROAD
PORTLAND, OREGON 97206
503/777-7044



NAACP ELECTION

The Portland Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will hold its annual meeting and biennial elections of officers, Sunday, Dec. 12, 1982 at 4:00 p.m. at the Vancouver Ave. First Baptist Church, 3138 N. Vancouver Ave.

Anyone 17 years or over "who appears on the roll of the branch as a bona fide member of the branch at least thirty days prior to the elections" is eligible to vote.

Lucious Hicks IV, President
Betty White, Secretary

INTERESTING FACTS

brought to you every week by

AMERICAN STATE BANK

A French inventor patented the first practical synthetic fiber in 1884. He called it artificial silk. We know it today as rayon.

The first white road markings for traffic control, called "center line safety stripes," were painted on the surface of River Road, near Trenton, Michigan, in 1911.

The Egyptians learned by about 1500 B.C. how to make wrought iron. They used a bellows made of goat skin to force air into their iron-making furnace.

We do not do business with South Africa.
ASB American State Bank
AN INDEPENDENT BANK
Head Office
2737 N. E. Union
Portland, Oregon 97212

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

Last week the Portland City Council engaged in a dog fight over police dogs. The *Street Beat* team asked Portlanders, "Do you think the City Council should spend money to acquire police dogs?"



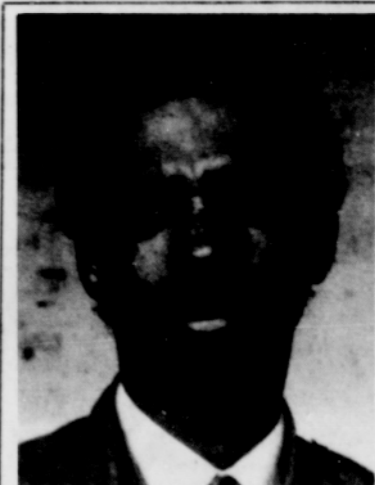
Don Swett
Service Station Attendant

No, I don't. I believe it should be left to the County to take care of instead of the City. The public should decide whether we want police dogs or not. In some respects police need the dogs. In others the dogs aren't needed.



Wendy Rogers
Student

No, I don't like animals. I do not like dogs. I don't think we've gotten to the point where they need police dogs.



Michael Relf
Salesman

No. The police shouldn't have the dogs. They should improve the manpower instead of getting animals. This would be too much.



Carl Buchanan
Security Officer

I don't think police need dogs. The police are likely to let them go more on blacks than on whites. The dogs remind me of when Bull Connor sic'd the dogs on Martin Luther King.



Jay Hinshaw
Machine Operator

No. We've had three friends who've gotten bit. The police sic the dogs on them. In court my friends couldn't get any recourse.



Kevin Coyle
Stock Clerk

No! There are more important things than getting police dogs. They can borrow dogs from another precinct. I think Ivancie is out of his mind. We should go with Mildred. She has her ideas together.