



Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

Fifteen years ago this week, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was struck down by an assassin's bullet.

For fifteen years we have lived without his inspired leadership, his consoling voice and his unique ability to motivate citizens from all walks of life. An assassin's bullet took from us the characteristics that helped mobilize and change our nation.

Yet, that bullet did not take away all of Martin Luther King, Jr. Today, as we make our way through the 1980s, we still have his dream, his pride, his vision of the future, and his fidelity to principle. And we will need to hold on to these as we face the new challenges that confront us.

America has changed, and people's minds have changed. Much of what was considered "normal" by many Americans during the 1960s now seems beyond the realm of decency. Americans no longer accept separate entrances at restaurants for

blacks; they no longer accept "White Only" drinking fountains, and they no longer accept blacks riding the back of the public bus.

Nevertheless, we all realize that our quest for social and economic justice is far from over. We now face an Administration that—after promising to balance the federal budget in four years—has created the largest deficit in our nation's history; an Administration that has drastically cut the programs that helped bring the disadvantaged and oppressed of our nation closer to the mainstream of American life.

President Reagan's proposed 1984 budget actually cuts \$3.5 billion from 20 domestic programs, including Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid, food stamps, child nutrition, handicapped education, child abuse and legal services. At the same time, he proposes to increase military spending by \$39.1 billion, with total military spending for 1984 of \$245.3 billion.

We need to fight a battle here, but not with the weapons the President's increased military spending will buy. We need to continue to fight the battle begun by Dr. King over 25 years ago—the battle for freedom, opportunity and justice for all Americans.

There is a growing coalition in America taking up this battle. Decency and fairness are its common denominators.

This is a coalition of black and white, rich and poor, old and young, rural and urban Americans. They have stood up and realized that Dr. King's dream of a better society did not die when he was laid to rest; that not only do we have a need to carry on this legacy, we also have an obligation to carry it on.

It is a battle that won't be won in days, weeks, or even months. But it is a battle that must be fought and can be won. Dr. King saw it in his dream, and we can see it in our lifetime if we hold on to his vision of a better America and a better world.



From The Boardroom

by County Commissioner Gladys McCoy

To tax or not to tax in Multnomah County, that is the issue. I say, "No new taxes in Multnomah County in 1983."

On March 17, 1983, Commissioner Caroline Miller proposed a one-half of one percent income tax on Multnomah County residents as an emergency to tide the County over for one year. There were a number of Blue Ribbon folks who turned out in support. However, by a vote of three to two of the Board, the ordinance was defeated.

I was one of the opposers and would like to share my reasons why I will not support any new taxes this year.

First, my perception of the meaning of Multnomah County's decisive support to Ballot Measure 3 (1 1/2 percent limitation) was the citizens telling us in government to reduce government and live within our means. Had the measure passed statewide, Multnomah County would have been reduced by one third. Based on my perception, sup-

porting any additional tax would be to fly in the face of that mandate.

Second, some of us have been meeting for several months in what has been called FLGG, the Future of Local Governments Group, made up of elected officials from the City, County, Metro and Gresham. The group signed a resolution agreeing to work together to solve the problems of sewers, economic development and the urban subsidy. Further, the approved solution(s) would be put to a vote of the people.

At that time, four new positions were approved, a requirement that elected officials' salaries would be approved by popular vote; a limit to the term of office to be served; elimination of a county lobbyist; and, one filing for another office at mid-term would mean automatic resignation. That is not the way to run a County government.

The FLGG group will identify the issues, provide a process for public input, provide an educational campaign and allow a vote of the people. That process will be coordin-

ated with the Charter Review Commission which will surely recommend changes in local government. Those changes are likely to reduce the size of County government.

Third, it is my considered opinion the Legislature will require some additional revenue, to date, it is unclear what form it will take. While any new State revenue will not have an impact on County services, I do not wish to impose additional tax on the citizens of Multnomah County. Of course, the thrust of the income tax was to allow people the opportunity to vote, but that would cost upward of \$130,000. I would prefer to use those dollars for services to people rather than risk an election that I perceive would fail.

I am unwilling to support any new tax. I could be in error in my perceptions; if that is the case, I would surely respond objectively to a groundswell from Multnomah County citizens saying, "I want to pay more in order to maintain or increase the level of County services." Am I wrong in my perceptions?

Hanford radioactive leak revealed

by Ruth McFarland

One hundred forty gallons per minute of radiotoxic water has been draining into a sand trench at Hanford, Washington for the last four years—or the last ten years—depending on which Hanford UNC Nuclear Industries spokesperson you believe.

That leak was repaired last February—or will be this coming April or May—again, depending on which Hanford official you choose to believe.

The lethal water "may be going into the ground, but we are not sure," one spokesperson said.

Another said the repair work they did last February allowed them to confirm none of the water had leaked into the ground.

One of the officials said, "No uncontrollable radioactive water reaches the nearby Columbia River."

I wonder what Hanford officials believe "uncontrollable radioactive water" is? I also wonder how such a

leak could go on for four years while Hanford officials were doing no more than "keeping an eye on it," according to UNC Nuclear Industries spokesperson Karen Scott.

UNC Nuclear Industries contracts to run the N-Reactor at Hanford. The N-Reactor can produce either electricity or weapons-grade plutonium, the most lethal element known to human beings and one that takes hundreds of centuries before it is no longer deadly.

Spent fuel rods from the N-Reactor are now stored in a storage basin composed of a number of huge concrete tanks. The N-Reactor's storage tank is the one that leaked somewhere between 250 to 300 million gallons of radiotoxic water over the past four years.

This is the same N-Reactor that is now being readied for renewed plutonium production at Hanford. The renewed plutonium production results from the defense posture of the current federal administration which calls for a large build-up of nuclear weapons.

And Hanford is one of the two sites considered the most likely to be tabbed as permanent nuclear waste disposal sites in the United States.

The whole nuclear business at Hanford sends chills down my spine. That's why I'm a cosponsor of Senate Bill 720 which will establish a committee of Oregon legislators and private citizens to study the impact of renewed plutonium production at Hanford.

I intend to use the senate hearings on that bill to begin a public review of the safety standards applied at Hanford and the health and environmental dangers imminent in that renewed production.

Before I completed my doctorate in genetics at the University of Oregon, I took graduate work at the University of Washington on the effects of radioactivity on biological systems. Part of that study involved direct research at Hanford.

The more I come to know about lethal radioactivity the more concerned I become for the survival of human civilization as we know it today.

Everything in my political background convinces me there's something wrong with the way Hanford responded to public questioning about the leak—and there's something wrong with the fact that information about the leak had to be obtained by resorting to the Freedom of Information Act.

Everything in my scientific background alerts me to the dangers of plutonium production or nuclear waste storage so near the Columbia River.

The Columbia is the greatest life-giving body of water west of the Rocky Mountains. It must not become a potential ambassador of death.

You're appointed



a "Citizen Consultant" on electric power rates.

We are the Bonneville Power Administration and we're listening to you. We want to hear the comments and suggestions of all Northwest citizens on our proposed new electric power rates. We'd like to hear from you either orally at a public hearing, or in writing.

The Bonneville Power Administration sells electric power at wholesale rates in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Western Montana, and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

We don't set the final rates that you, the consumer, pay for electricity. But the rates we charge your local utility for wholesale power and transmission services are reflected in the rates you pay. The law requires that all our costs be recovered by our rates. Because our current rates don't meet our expenses, we have determined that we need to increase our rates effective November 1. We'd like to hear from you before our final rates are decided.

Our rates ultimately affect you. As a citizen, you can play an active part in the process that determines our final rates. We encourage you to give us any constructive comments or suggestions you may have on this important energy issue.

We are the Bonneville Power Administration, and we'd like you to consult with us. We're listening.

Please submit any oral or written comments you may have at our public hearing, to be held nearest you (see schedule).

If you can't attend a hearing and want us to provide you with information so you can send written comments to us, call our Public Involvement Office on our toll-free lines. In Oregon call 1-800-452-8429; in other Northwest states call 1-800-547-6048.

Please send your written comments on our proposed electric power rates to our Public Involvement Office, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212.

We will consider all comments we receive before the close of our hearings.

Hearing Schedule

Registration 7 p.m., hearing 7:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon - Monday, April 11

BPA Auditorium - 1002 N.E. Holladay Street

Eugene, Oregon - Tuesday, April 12

Eugene Hilton, Hellman Room - 66 E. Sixth Avenue

Tacoma, Washington - Wednesday, April 13

Bicentennial Pavilion, Rotunda - 1313 Market St.

Lynnwood, Washington - Thursday, April 14

Landmark Best Western - 4200 200th S.W.

Burley, Idaho - Monday, April 18

Burley Inn - 800 N. Overland Avenue

Missoula, Montana - Tuesday, April 19

Village Red Lion, Blackfoot Room - 100 Madison

Spokane, Washington - Wednesday, April 20

Ramada Inn - International Airport

Richland, Washington - Thursday, April 21

Federal Building Auditorium - 825 Jadwin



Remember. What you say counts.

Bonneville Power Administration

Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

The Legislature is currently debating whether to place restrictions on Bingo. The **Street Beat** team wondered what the public felt about this issue, and asked, "Should they abolish or restrict organizations who use Bingo as a means for raising funds?"



Raymond Price
Bus Driver

I don't think Bingo should be played in churches. It doesn't look right in churches. The church is a place of worship. I can understand the church wanting to raise money but the corruption by a few casts a dark light on all the churches.



C.O. Lugvial
Retired

They can have Bingo wide open as far as I'm concerned. I think we need more things like that in Portland. I love it.



Adrienne Mitchell
Unemployed

It should have certain restrictions on it as long as it is reasonable.



Rodney Smith
Salesman

They should have certain restrictions on the game. The game is a good way to help churches and nonprofit groups generate money.



Debra Harris
Bus Driver

People will always want to gamble but I think they should abolish it. I don't like Bingo. I never win.



Don Abelein
Unemployed

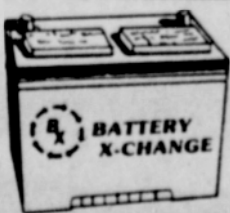
Yes, I think they should outlaw Bingo. It is too hard to control. It doesn't make sense for nonprofit groups to raise money and no one else.

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