

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## Fadeley seeks sales tax ban

Senate President Ed Fadeley, a proclaimed foe of the sales tax, has proposed a constitutional amendment prohibiting a sales tax. Fadeley's proposal — which would replace the House's 4 percent sales tax measure — says: "No general retail sales tax shall ever be levied for purposes of defraying the expenses of the state."

Fadeley expects the Senate to vote on the proposal this week, possibly Saturday. Fadeley's intention is to end discussion of a sales tax, an issue that dominated the House for five months before it was finally adopted and sent to the Senate. Debate on the sales tax effectively cut off deliberation over tax relief alternatives, including a homestead exemption or increasing the

upper brackets of the personal and corporate income tax. With the sales tax out of the way, the Senate could move on to balance the state budget and provide property tax relief.

Of course Fadeley's proposal could not gain the support of the House — now committed to the sales tax — or overcome a potential veto by the governor. However, a citizens initiative campaign could put it on the ballot and gain public support.

A ban against a sales tax in the State Constitution — although not written indelibly in stone — would be a strong deterrent to any serious thought of reviving the sales tax issue. It would also force future legislatures into seeking realistic and just methods of financing state government.

## Theft symptom of deeper sins

The newly revealed information that Ronald Reagan used briefing papers stolen from the president to prepare for his crucial debate with Jimmy Carter is not an isolated incident. Nor is it just another chapter to the growing ever expanding story of corruption in the Reagan administration.

The theft of Carter's papers — like the spying on the Democratic Party headquarters at Watergate — was an attempt to steal the presidency. It was a direct assault on the people of the United States.

Additional examples of Reagan's flagrant violations of constitutional rights are not hard to find.

- The U.S. government has restricted and censored the publication and dissemination of scientific research.

- The Justice Department has designated three Canadian films (one on nuclear war and two on acid rain) as foreign propaganda and kept records of those showing the films.

- The president imposed censorship on all present and future federal employees, limiting

their right to speak on "sensitive" subjects.

- The government prevented citizens from receiving publications from or travelling to Cuba (recently overturned by federal court).

- The State Department has refused entry to the U.S. to many foreign nationals, including the widow of Salvador Allende, who was invited by California churches; Cuban film makers invited to discuss their work; Japanese pacifists desiring to participate in a U.N. disarmament debate, etc.

- Reagan limited Congress' ability to review CIA operations and allows the CIA to investigate U.S. citizens in this country for the first time.

- Reagan has allowed the FBI to infiltrate U.S. political groups.

The theft of Carter's papers — the act of cheating on a presidential election — is not an isolated incident. It is further evidence of a complete lack of integrity and a lack of respect for the nation he heads and its citizens. And this man has the power to destroy the world.

## The "Dud at HUD"

by Dr. Manning Marable

Almost three years ago, a number of prominent blacks — including media star Tony Brown, the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy and Hosea Williams — made fools of themselves by defending blacks who supported Reagan's candidacy. Now it's clear that even those blacks within the Reagan administration rival their incompetent, aged boss in their contempt for the unemployed, the poor, and the dispossessed.

Even the *Wall Street Journal*, that staunch defender of Reaganism, recently concluded that the chief black administrator inside the cabinet, Housing and Urban Development head Samuel Pierce, was "reclusive," lacked "interest" in urban problems, and often "doesn't always know what he's talking about." The *Journal* article noted, "Increasingly, from Capitol Hill to city halls and even in the White House, officials wonder why Mr. Pierce remains at HUD. The stories about the reclusive cabinet member, whom Mr. Reagan once called 'Mr. Mayor' by mistake, are becoming legion." Pierce's latest nickname is "the dud at HUD."

Pierce, who earns \$80,100 per year, was unqualified for the post from the outset. A labor attorney and a protege of the Nelson Rocke-

efeller/Jacob Javits wing of the Republican party, Pierce had little knowledge of urban affairs. Pierce has yet to schedule meetings with key members of the Congressional Black Caucus. He failed to push for strong fair-housing legislation which he had promised over a year ago. He has lost several important budget fights with OMB director David Stockman, according to the *Journal*, and now "some housing-industry officials maintain that Mr. Stockman has more power than the HUD chief over urban policy." When housing, real estate, and urban groups do get a chance to speak with the dud at HUD, "they come away surprised at his lack of interest in their concerns."

What has Pierce accomplished in two and one half years? HUD's full time work force has been cut by 11 percent, down to 13,412 workers. Rent-subsidies to poor black, Latino and white families have been drastically reduced. Pierce has ordered that all low-rent apartments constructed with federal government subsidies be halted. In short, this black Reaganite is a "loyal soldier" for the president.

Meanwhile, the economic conditions for working class families and neighborhoods continue to deteriorate. 130,000 steel workers

were on lay-off in October in 1982, and in fact the number of steel production workers has dropped 40 percent in the past decade. In the twelve months between December, 1981 and December, 1982 white collar unemployment has jumped by 1.1 percent; blue collar workers, up 3.7 percent; farm workers, up 1.5 percent; and service workers, up 2.7 percent. 14.8 percent of all manufacturing workers are unemployed, and a staggering 22 percent of all construction workers are jobless. Federal reductions in needed social services means deteriorating urban conditions — poorer schools, low quality health care, inadequate and dilapidated housing. Reaganomics and a vicious attitude toward minorities and the poor has set the stage for social unrest and urban chaos.

But "Silent Sam" is undisturbed. He has greater faith in the senility of his Great White Father than in the urban and socioeconomic alternatives being put forward by the Congressional Black Caucus. This black Reaganite is not suffering — he has a spacious office, a good position, and a direct access to the very centers of power. Let urban America continue to decay...the "dud at HUD" is doing his job.

## Quorum of One

by Greg Wasson

While last week's decision declaring the Congressional veto unconstitutional got the headlines, the U.S. Supreme Court made another ruling worthy of examination. In an appeal originating in Tillamook County, the high court struck a blow for the police in the continuing battle between society and the individual.

In *State v. Bradshaw*, the Court upheld as legitimate a confession obtained after the suspect had requested a lawyer, but before the counsel had arrived. It would seem that once suspects told the police that they didn't want to talk, the police would have to leave them alone. The Court evidently agreed with Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer, though, who argued that a suspect should be free to change his or her mind and confess after initially refusing to cooperate with the police.

A press release from Frohnmayer's office quotes the attorney general as saying that the ruling strikes "(a) proper balance... between the right of the suspect to counsel and the need of law enforcement authorities to resolve criminal investigations."

The right to counsel is not intended to be a balance; it is part of the constitutional shield designed to protect the individual from the inevitable excesses of the government. *Bradshaw* provides further proof that the present Supreme Court is committed to reversing the judicial advancements made under that liberal of liberals, Chief Justice Earl Warren.

The *Bradshaw* decision erodes probably the most famous case of Warren's tenure, one involving a Phoenix defendant named *Miranda*. *Miranda* argued successfully that his arresting officers had failed to explain his constitutional right to remain silent and demand a lawyer before questioning.

Ruling that defendants can't willfully waive constitutional rights they don't know they have, the Court refused to allow *Miranda*'s statements to be used against him. If constitutional guarantees are to mean anything, argued the Court, the authorities must follow the rules established to check the power of the police. One of those rules says people should get help from a lawyer before the authorities initiate proceedings which might put the suspect in jail.

And, the Warren Court didn't limit the idea of restricting the police to protect the individual to the guarantee of counsel. In 1960, the panel considered *Jones v. U.S.*, a case where the police had burst into an apartment without a warrant — an act prohibited by the 4th Amendment — and arrested a friend of the owner. The suspect contended that even though he didn't own the dwelling, he had been subjected to an unconstitutional search and the evidence should be suppressed.

The Warren Court agreed. Ruling that the Constitution protects people, not property, the Court held that the police had no right to be in the apartment and refused to allow the state to admit any evidence

seized in the search.

Granted, if evidence obtained in violation of the constitution is ruled inadmissible, the state's case sometimes collapses and the defendant goes free. However, the Warren Court considered that an acceptable price for keeping the government honest.

The present Court? If you liked Richard Nixon, you'll love Chief Justice Warren Burger. In 1981, the Burger Court showed its official distaste for the *Jones* decision, writing:

"(We have) overruled *Jones* and instead limited such Fourth Amendment claims to those persons who had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the area or object of the search."

My favorite reactionary, Columnist James J. Kilpatrick, applauds this restriction of the Warren doctrine. He contends that the discomfort of watching a guilty defendant go free justifies overlooking police improprieties.

I would respond that Kilpatrick's obsession with the individual crime is misplaced. The more important consideration is the effect on society of granting the police additional discretion. If America is truly different than other societies, if we are sincerely concerned about protecting individual freedoms, we have to do something different than simply turning the shock-troops loose.

In their drive to wage a successful war on crime, authorities, both federal and state, seem to have forgotten that too much power goes to the head and discretion inevitably leads to abuse.

ty for the future of our children. We are fulfilling that by opposing these missiles.

"We women at Greenham Common are not asking someone else to please stop the deployment of cruise missiles for us. We have taken it upon ourselves to stop them. I know cruise missiles are not going to be deployed in Britain because we women have made a personal commitment that we will not allow it."

"The greatest crime is silence."

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I would like to voice my objection to the headline of the article on Ethiopian Jews in the June 22nd issue. The article provided information on the background and current status of the Falashas, black Jews in Ethiopia, as well as comments about the inactivity of the Israeli government in providing assistance to this group. However, the headline read, "Israel Rejects Ethiopian Jews." I feel that this is misleading and may be perceived as reflecting an anti-Israeli bias. The article was more about Ethiopia's rejection and mistreatment of the Falashas than about their rejection by Israel. Based on the information contained in the article, Israel can more accurately be described as "neglecting"

rather than "rejecting" the Falashas. It is mentioned that the Israeli government is keeping a low profile and is relatively inactive in response to helping the Ethiopian Jews, especially in comparison to Russian Jews, who are Caucasian. I do not doubt that this is related to the fact that the Ethiopian Jews are black, and that this racist attitude of the Israeli government justly deserves criticism; however, I feel that the headline did not accurately reflect the content of the article.

Dorothy Parker

(Editor's Note: John Blank, author of the article, was not responsible for the headline.)



I resent these unfounded accusations!

## Silence

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Common, the women would link arms and encircle the nine mile perimeter of the base. They were told to bring scarves to extend the circle in case there weren't enough women.

A military police car with its lights flashing circled the inside perimeter of the base. The officers inside peered at the women.

"As that car approached us, the most incredible sound erupted from us," said Simone. "It came from our bellies. I couldn't imitate it for you now if I tried. It was a howl, a scream, a moan. I made a sound like it while I was giving birth."

That evening Greenham Common air base was surrounded by nine miles of flickering candlelight.

The next day five thousand women blockaded the gates. Since the previous arrests had caused a sensation, the strategy of the police was not to arrest but to drag the women away. The strategy of the women was to come back and sit down again.

"It was raining, as usual, and very muddy," said Simone. "I went back 17 times. It got very rough. We were dragged by our hair, our arms, our legs, our breasts. There were five arms and three legs broken at my gate alone."



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