

EDITORIAL/OPINION



Academic racism

by Dr. Manning Marable "From the Grassroots"

Public should help unions

Workers who thought accepting decreases in wages and other concessions would make employers more appreciative and cooperative have been fooled. The pressure to accept less pay and fewer benefits continues, with the threats of job losses, of plants closing or moving overseas, hanging over the workers' heads.

Government has sought to limit the growth of wages for years, even when wages were not growing with inflation. What government could not do, the depression, massive layoffs, and the competition for jobs has done.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics the decline in wage increases began in 1981 and picked up speed through 1982 and the first quarter of 1983.

In 1982 about one-third of the union workers covered by contracts negotiated that year received no wage increases, and those who did re-

ceived the smallest increase since 1973. Millions of workers in the basic industries took wage cuts of \$1 per hour or more.

Routinely, wages are blamed for rising costs. However, the pattern over the past twenty years has shown that wages lag behind the rate of inflation. High wages are also blamed for lack of competitiveness of U.S. industry and the "need" for plant closures. But while workers have taken massive pay cuts, wage freezes, and loss of benefits, the corporate profit for 1983 is expected to increase by at least 30 percent.

The only obvious answer for the employees is strong labor organization and refusal to accept wage and benefit concessions. This requires that the general public understand and support union activity, honor picket lines and support those whose jobs and futures are at stake.

Will we tolerate hunger?

Hunger is an increasingly serious problem in the United States. In the recent annual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors held in Denver, urban leaders reported that there are "increasing numbers of homeless and hungry people in the nation's cities due principally to record high unemployment and cuts in federal funds."

The mayors said soup kitchens, food banks and other volunteer services are not adequate to meet the needs.

Detroit, Cleveland, New Orleans and Rochester reported sharp increases in the need for emergency food aid. In Oakland, 30,000 more people need food than the supplies can feed. In San Antonio the number of people needing emergency food aid is expected to reach 50,000

next year.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities examined 181 emergency food programs during the past year, in cities including Portland, and found a 50 percent increase in the number of people served by one half of the programs examined. More unemployed workers and more families with children are applying. Ninety per cent reported serving people whose food stamps did not last through the month.

Still, the Administration opposes plans to increase food subsidies — even those that distribute surplus commodities like cheese, wheat, honey, corn meal and rice. Billions of tons of unused food are rotting in underground government storehouses.

How long will we tolerate mass hunger?

Part of the renaissance of racism today is found on college campuses. As most of us know, racism has taken the form of attacks against affirmative action in the hiring and promotion of black faculty and staff; the decline in the recruitment of black graduate and undergraduate students at white schools; the attack against Black Studies departments; and the loss of federal and private funding for historically black universities. There is one other component of "academic racism" which must also be evaluated — the growth of new eugenics research which describes blacks as "genetically inferior" to whites.

As documented in a recent issue of *Science for the People*, Barry Mehler notes that there is a direct connection between racist white academic researchers, the New Right and politics of the Reagan Administration. Over recent years the Pioneer Fund, an academic foundation, has funded a number of racist college professors. The officers and directors of the Pioneer Fund in 1981 included Thomas Ellis, a major financial contributor to Reagan, and John B. Trevor, a founder of the American Coalition of Patriotic Societies.

The Pioneer Fund has given thousands of dollars to British fascist Roger Pearson, author of *Eugenics and Race*, and an organizer of a large "neo-fascist and anti-semitic"

conference in Washington, D.C. in 1978; notorious racist William Shockley, who had written ten major studies trying to "prove" white supremacy; Arthur Jensen, called "America's leading proponent of black inferiority"; University of Georgia professor R. Travis Osborne; and professors Frank McGurk and Audrey Shuey, authors of *The Testing of Negro Intelligence*, termed by Mehler "a book that has formed the basis for numerous racist studies."

What kind of academic research in the fields of biology, psychology and sociology is being distributed to thousands of college students and public policy makers? A brief passage from the 1978 book, *Human Variation*, edited by R. Travis Osborne, Clyde E. Noble and Nathaniel Weyl, is clear enough: "[During slavery] the environment was more favorable than anything [blacks] had experienced in Africa. As slaves, they improved in health and increased in numbers. When the Negroes were liberated from agricultural slavery, they were thrown free to shift for themselves in largely Caucasoid societies. . . . These simple, rural people were suddenly offered irregular urban employment combined with the opportunities of drink and drugs, gambling and prostitution, and no reliable means of productive, creative or congenial labor." The authors conclude that

there is no "scientific and historical evidence" that blacks are the equals of "the intellectually well-endowed races."

Mehler notes that the goal of this new eugenics research "is a world of racially pure stocks living in separate geographic areas, with strict apartheid practices in areas where racial groups share one geographic land mass. The extreme wing of this movement openly advocates the elimination of all nonwhite races, Jews and homosexuals."

Some of us might think that this racist garbage could not possibly be taken seriously in respected universities. Think again: Jensen's writings have appeared in the *Harvard Educational Review*, and his "theories on the inferiority of black children" have been published in the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, the *Educational Digest*, *National Review* and *Science News*. Former University of Chicago professor Dwight Ingle has widely published his view that "Negroids" problems are "not caused by racism" but by the "Negroid-Caucasoid IQ gap." The task of uprooting white supremacy was only begun when we removed the Jim Crow signs and when Civil Rights legislation was passed in the 1960s. Now we must develop a serious campaign to destroy racist ideology in every form in the campuses across this country.



Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

Efforts to cut spiraling medical costs are once again on the front burner of the national agenda. And with good reason. Despite years of debate and the publication of reams of materials on the subject, we are still in much the same situation we were in two — and even 10 — years ago.

Costs are still going up. Choices are still limited in some areas. And millions of Americans are still facing bills they can't afford to pay.

The statistics are frightening. A yet unpublished report by the Department of Health and Human Services indicates that medical costs increased 12.5 percent last year, raising the total national health care bill to \$322 billion, or 10.5 percent of our Gross National Product — the highest percentage ever. That means that \$1 out of every \$10 we spend goes to health care. And that's just too much.

But how do we go about cutting medical costs?

The current Administration maintains that savings in the Medicare system should come from the pockets of senior citizens.

I don't agree. I believe that the Rx for curing medical care in the nation is a combination of efficiency

delivery of health care and cutting waste from government programs.

There are a number of ways we can achieve the first goal of increasing health care options for consumers. One of these is to encourage the development of a new, innovative health care option called Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs). PPOs represent a sort of cross between a Health Maintenance Organization and the traditional one-on-one doctor-patient relationship, and show real promise for keeping costs down.

Unfortunately, laws in some states discriminate against PPOs. That's why I've introduced legislation that would clear away these discriminatory provisions and allow PPOs to develop.

But just increasing choices will not resolve all the problems of the health care system.

That's why I have also moved to cut out specific examples of waste in the Medicare program — thus cutting costs without cutting benefits.

The first initiative, called the Fair Lab Payments Act, requires independent laboratories which currently charge Medicare and its patients more than other customers for the same tests to establish one price for

all customers. This "small" change would mean big savings: approximately \$21 million next year.

The second bill, which I introduced just last week, would reduce the amount charged to Medicare for pacemakers. Currently, Medicare pays an average of \$4,000 for a pacemaker that costs only \$600 to \$900 to manufacture. This happens because the device is marked up several times between the point of manufacture and the point of reimbursement by Medicare. My bill would begin to put a halt to this by cutting significantly the amount health care providers are reimbursed for pacemakers and related surgical procedures. Savings are estimated at nearly \$200 million a year.

Together these two bills would save more than half the \$400 million which Congress seeks to save in Medicare this year. It would do so by cutting obvious waste — not by making senior citizens pay more.

To corral wildly escalating health care costs will require a long and concerted effort on the part of Congress, the Administration, the health care industry and consumers. But I believe these are steps in the right direction and I plan to pursue them vigorously.



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Alfred L. Henderson, Editor/Publisher
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Immigration Laws

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opinion," according to Krueger. Many Central Americans would seem to qualify, yet according to Krueger asylum is rarely granted to those from a country with whom the U.S. has friendly relations, as is the case with El Salvador and Guatemala.

Carl Houseman, Portland INS deputy director, said that while the INS considers political asylum claims on a case by case basis, "the current administration of the U.S. government feels that, specific information to the contrary, Central Americans who are fleeing from their country are fleeing from economic conditions."

Very few of those who apply actually achieve asylum status, but the lengthy hearing and appeals process extends the time that refugees can remain in the U.S. semi-legally, and they can even work while awaiting a decision. A major disadvantage to poor peasants trying to achieve asylum is that it is expensive, and they must find a sponsor or free legal help.

Voluntary departure occurs when refugees agree to depart the U.S. voluntarily. Rogers says that many refugees with little or no knowledge of English or INS policies are intimidated into signing the voluntary departure forms, and soon find themselves flying back to an uncertain

fate.

Extended voluntary departure means the refugee agrees to depart voluntarily, but after an indefinite time. It is usually granted to foreign relatives of U.S. citizens, according to Krueger. Rogers said that one hope for liberalization of immigration policies is allowing more Central Americans extended voluntary departure status.

Krueger mentioned that in some cases an executive order can cause departure not to be enforced, as in the case of Poles, Ugandans, and Ethiopians fleeing from regimes not considered friendly to the U.S. government.

According to Rogers, the refugees are in desperate need of bail money and legal services.

For those who cannot afford private counsel now, the Catholic-sponsored Immigration Counseling Service offers accredited representation in INS hearings.

ICS director Margaret Godfrey reports 12 Salvadoran asylum cases pending in Portland. "We have more cases than we can handle," she said, but she knows of only one refugee that has been granted asylum.

"It's terrible when you are working with someone who has experienced all kinds of horrors — including wholesale murders — which most of us can't even imagine," said Godfrey. "I find it very discouraging.

"They have no families, no relations. They have no way of staying in this country unless asylum is granted. No other country has so consistently taken so many refugees as the United States. I think it would help if the U.S. government would recognize that these people have a genuine fear of returning home, and permit them to stay for awhile."

The Lawyers Committee Against U.S. Intervention in Latin America is participating in CAMINO by setting up a panel of lawyers studying immigration laws who will donate their services to refugees in need.

Phil Hornik, a bi-lingual Portland immigration lawyer, thinks "the need for such a panel is definitely increasing."

Even though harboring illegal aliens is a felony, those who harbor have little to worry about, according to Hornik. He was unaware of anyone prosecuted under the provisions of the "harboring law" in Oregon except for those caught smuggling undocumented farmworkers into the state.

"It is an interesting question whether the church sanctuary movement is against the law," he said. "I am unaware of anyone anywhere in the country being prosecuted in the sanctuary movement."

For more information, contact the Lawyers Committee Against U.S. Intervention in Latin America, 228-5222, or the American Friends Service Committee, 230-9427.