

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Help Indians save Comumbia

While anti-nuke and environmental groups are waging a campaign against government plans to expand production of plutonium at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Eastern Washington, the Yakima Indian Nation has tackled the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) hopes to designate Hanford as a permanent depository for up to 70,000 metric tons of nuclear waste.

DOE has postponed its plan to sink a test shaft in 1983, the first step in the search for the nation's first permanent repository for commercial waste. The Yakima Nation and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission requested the delay because the drilling violates the Nuclear Waste Act of 1982; it could lead to a premature choice of Hanford, DOE's pet candidate for the site; and a waste dump could adversely affect Columbia River salmon, steelhead and other life in the area. The site is only 13 miles from the Columbia River.

The 570-square-mile site would be a politically expedient choice because it is federally owned and has a history of use as a nuclear site. The Indian groups say the selection must be made

not on political expediency but on the area's geologic potential for a safe site, groundwater hydrology and protection of the river.

The Yakima Nation has successfully petitioned for designation as an "affected Indian tribe" and the Umatilla tribe's application is pending. This gives them the right to information, consultation and financial assistance to enable them to participate in carrying out the act.

Before drilling, DOE must complete selection criterion guidelines and provide environmental assessments. Substantial public involvement is also required. All of this is what DOE attempted to avoid.

The Columbia River also flows past Portland and is a vital element in the economic life of the city and of the state of Oregon. The people of Oregon need to join with the Indian tribes in requiring that the regulations are followed, that the necessary research is done and done properly, and that information is provided.

Attention to the protection of the Columbia and its surroundings will insure that the Hanford site is rejected.

U.S. children need medical care

Six million children in the United States are denied medical care because states are allowed to set their own guidelines and eligibility standards for Medicare or to reject the program altogether.

Thirty states, including Oregon, exclude children of two-parent families from Medicare. In 29 states the income cut-off line is 50 percent of the federal poverty level. In 19 states, women who are pregnant for the first time are not eligible until after birth. About 330,000 pregnant women from low-income families are not eligible for Medicare and many receive no or inadequate prenatal care.

The number of children living in poverty rose from 15 percent in 1970 to 22 percent in 1982. In 1982, 13.5 million children lived in families with incomes below the poverty line. At the same time the number of children covered by Medicare dropped from 10.2 million in 1979 to 8 million in 1982.

President Reagan recently discovered that there are hungry people in the U.S.; he should now learn that babies are dying for lack of medical care. The push is on for a greatly expanded military budget and new tools of war. Just a few cost overruns could provide basic medical care for the nation's children.

Letters to the Editor

Prostitution law said irresponsible

To the Editor:

Portland City Council unanimously passed an irresponsible ordinance on July 13, 1983, mandating jail sentences for prostitutes, despite extensive testimony proving that legal suppression of prostitution results in greater criminal involvement and more violence and V.D. for both prostitutes and the community. Since prostitution is the result of women's second class economic and social status in society, this ordinance, by attacking the prostitute, encourages the growth of prostitution. To punish the prostitute for a situation imposed on her is hypocritical and immoral. I am for the legalization of prostitution as the only humane solution and greatly appreciated the 8/31 *Oregonian* article exploring this option.

A recent series of articles on prostitution in the August 21-23 *Oregonian* presented the viewpoint that

legalization oppresses prostitutes, and that decriminalization is the solution. Nevada's system is used as an example of legalization's effects. The conditions in Nevada are very oppressive, and I believe, illegal and unconstitutional, but they are the results of decriminalization and not legalization. Nevada has no laws making prostitution illegal, but also no laws legalizing it. In such an unprotected situation a whole series of practices that grossly restrict the lives and rights of prostitutes are being enforced by local law agencies.

I believe legalization is necessary to improve the status of prostitutes because it gives the prostitute an active role, a voice and a weapon. Decriminalization simply leaves her at the mercy of the status quo of a sexist and racist society and criminal justice system. Alternative laws against loitering and drugs could be used to harass her under decriminal-

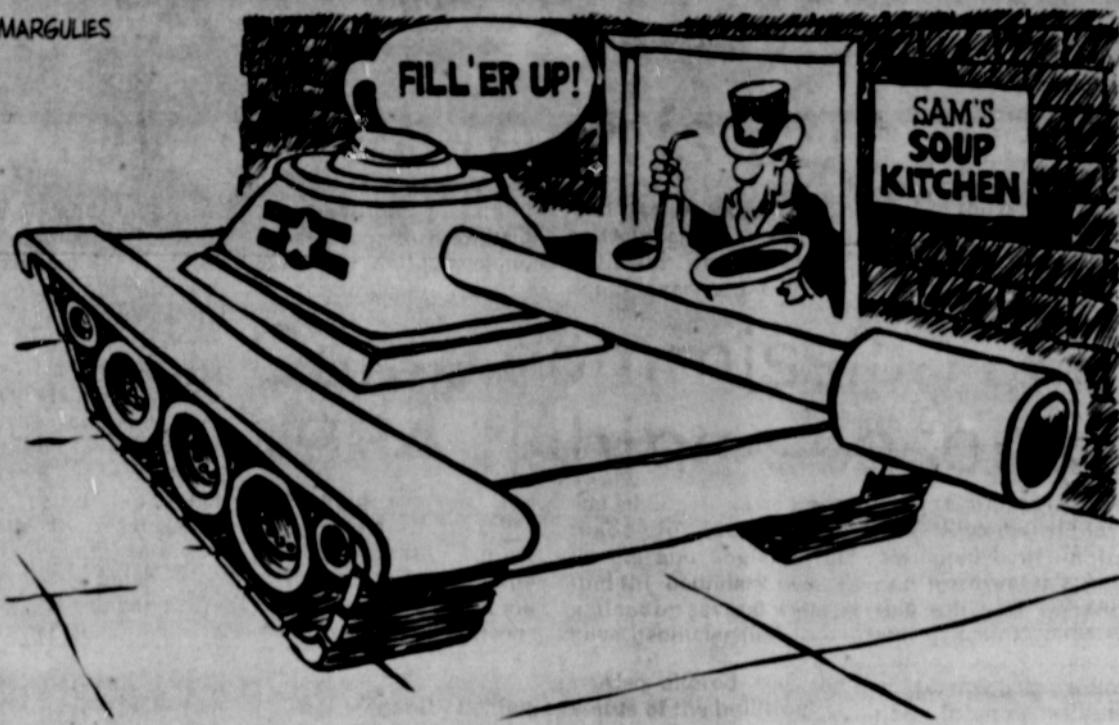
ization. There can be no hope that a vacuum of law in an intensely hostile system can protect the prostitute, as is shown by Nevada's system.

Legalization recognizes that the prostitute must fight back and gives her a legal base on which to fight for protective legislation, overtime laws, wage and hour laws, rights to protection against harassment by police, johns or pimps, protection under the NLRB, etc.

In order to end prostitution, the U.S. government must reverse its status as the most backward of industrialized nations on human services programs, and provide job training, education, quality child care, health care, employment and truly adequate wages for all the disenfranchised. Until then, I believe the prostitute's best chance for protection and survival is legalization.

Adrienne Weller

MARGULIES



Run, Jesse, Run

by Dr. Manning Marable, "From the Grassroots"

It's now all but official. As of this writing, Jesse Jackson will probably announce his candidacy for the presidency before the end of this month.

Ivanhoe Donaldson, a veteran organizer of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and top aide to Washington, D.C. mayor Marion Barry, will lead the campaign. Already a number of major Black political leaders and elected officials have given private assurances of support to Jesse's campaign, including Newark mayor Kenneth Gibson and Gary, Indiana mayor Richard Hatcher. Many respected members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including John Conyers (D-Michigan), Gus Savage (D-Illinois), and Ronald V. Dellums (D-California) will either aggressively support Jackson, or out of political solidarity, at least will remain neutral.

There are exceptions, to be sure. Detroit's Coleman Young has already committed himself to Walter Mondale. But it's clear that few major Black elected officials can afford to denounce Jackson, unless they have Coleman Young's type of raw political power and a strong patronage machine. Andrew Young, once firmly behind Mondale, has suddenly acquired cold feet, and is trying to placate Mondale and Jackson supporters simultaneously.

The sudden groundswell of support for Jesse Jackson's campaign for the White House should not be interpreted as general Black approval of Jesse per se. It is no secret that Joe Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Coretta Scott King share no great love for the charismatic "Country Preacher." For years, Black nationalists, labor union leaders, and NAACP activists have privately criticized Jackson's tendency to pos-

ture, his flagrant inability to carry out hard organizational tasks, his flights into florid and often illogical rhetoric.

What has changed has been the overall national political climate since the victory of Harold Washington in Chicago, and the failure of most Black middle class leaders to comprehend the growth of political militancy and independence across the Black community. The Congressional Black Caucus largely ignored the repeated calls for a Black challenge inside the Democratic Party primaries. Now it is too late for any other political spokesperson, chiefly someone of the national stature of a Parren Mitchell or Ron Dellums, to make the run. In short, Jesse was smart enough to move while nearly everyone else went to sleep. For better or worse, Jackson is the only candidate to emerge from the ranks.

What must we do? We have no choice except to support the Jackson for President campaign. There are at least three solid reasons why Jesse must be supported in 1984:

(1) Neither of the two likely Democratic Party nominees in 1984, John Glenn and Mondale, will negotiate with the Black and national minority communities unless they are absolutely forced to do so. The Jackson effort could become the decisive "balance of power" at next year's San Francisco Convention, given that the Southern candidates will eventually get behind Glenn, and the white liberals will support Mondale. Political negotiations must take place from a posture of strength, not weakness. Ben Hooks and Coleman Young ought to reread Machiavelli's "The Prince."

(2) Jackson's campaign, like that of Harold Washington, will bring thousands of new Black voters to the polls. This should help to establish a stronger electoral base to defeat the Reaganites in the Senate

and House races in 1984, plus create a more activist-oriented, politically involved Black electorate. The campaign would be a long-needed Black revolt inside the Democratic Party, just as Harold's campaign was the vehicle for us to attack the Daley-Byrne regime in Chicago.

(3) By running Jesse in 1984, we are building Black political power for the 1988 contest. Jackson cannot win the nomination, to be sure — but neither can Reuben Askew of Florida or Alan Cranston of California — and no one asks whether these white candidates have the "right" to run for office. Let's suppose a Parren Mitchell or Julian Bond ran four years hence. Their political credentials are equal, if not superior, to any white candidate now on the scene. We have to develop a political infrastructure which unites Black, Latino, peace, environmentalist, feminist and labor voters, in order to contest for electoral power.

What about the six white males currently contending for the Democratic Party's nomination? Mondale, Glenn and Company — known in some circles as the "Somnolent Six" — have few if any political attributes other than their ego-driven desire to reside in the White House. The most progressive candidate among the sorry lot, Cranston, has no visible support among Blacks, most Latinos, and labor.

If we continue to believe that a bland white male with moderate to conservative political credentials must lead the nation, we condemn ourselves to a life of political servitude, dominated by the corporations and the elites which run both major parties. It's time to bring the Freedom Movement into the center of the electoral process. Every protest march begins with the first step. The time for taking that step is now.

BUF protests South Africans' visit

(Continued from page 3 col. 3)

meeting with ODOT to talk about technical matters in regards to how you fund highways. It was a standard form request."

Rick Gustafson, Executive Officer of METRO, said METRO was involved because "the interest of the South Africa officials was to see how metropolitan transportation problems are handled. These gentlemen went to several different states to see how transportation problems were handled." Gustafson said at no time did the racial policies of South Africa ever come up. "We didn't talk about South Africa. We talked about METRO and transportation planning in the Portland area."

Vicky Rucker, the Public Information Official from the Oregon Department of Transportation, said "They were interested in how we get money to finance our projects and how we set priorities. They came to our office and talked with our planners. They wanted to know where and how we used our tax money. They really wanted to know how we did all the work that needs to be done with the limited monies that were available. We treated them the way we treat any other government person that comes over here and they come on a regular basis."

Herndon said he viewed those re-

sponses as excuses. "Any time an official in this state who occupies an office paid for by tax dollars turns around and hosts a representative from the government of South Africa, that shows that they have no concern for the millions of Black people who suffer daily. The money that these representatives has come directly from the blood that is extracted from Black people. It is one of the worst countries in the world and their system of racial segregation is the only one in the world." Herndon also said he believes the responses given were "weak and tinted with racism."

Paul Bay from Tri-Met said he understood how the courtesy which was requested from their funding source, the Federal Highway Administration, could be construed as insensitive. "But all I did was to give them a little pamphlet that we hand out by the thousands — and that was it!"

Herndon concluded his remarks by stating, "Anything that a representative from South Africa talks about is going to be harmful for Black people. The information requested by these two representatives will enable that country to come up with a better way to exploit Black people in South Africa. Here you have white local officials talking with white representatives from a

country whose entire aim is to exploit Black people. It almost appears as if it was a meeting between a Ku Klux Klan member and latent Ku Klux Klan sympathizers."

Free lunch policy

Revised eligibility guidelines for free and reduced-price meals for the 1983-84 school year will affect students in Portland Public Schools.

Prices for school lunches will be 90 cents in elementary schools, \$1 in high schools. The price for breakfast, available at most schools, will be 60 cents.

Qualifying students will receive these meals without charge or for the reduced price of 40 cents for lunch and 30 cents for breakfast.

Application forms, with a letter to all parents or guardians, will be sent to all student homes the first week of school. The forms also will be available at school offices.

Applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

Requests for an appeal hearing may be sent to Robert L. Honson, director of food services, P.O. Box 3107, Portland, OR 97208. Phoned requests for appeals should be directed to Honson at 249-2000, Ext. 393.

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