

EDITORIAL/OPINION

MBE just talk to Reagan

President Reagan has proclaimed Minority Enterprise Week, as have presidents before him. But Ronald Reagan has done everything to make life more difficult for minority and small businesses. His "Reaganomics" has depressed the economy, raised interest rates, created high rates of unemployment and business bankruptcy.

Minority businesses — usually undercapitalized — must compete against large corporations that pay lower interest rates and can purchase in quantities that provide better prices.

Some white businesses begrudge the little that minorities do have, taking advantage of minority goal and set-aside programs to pick

their own pockets and to cut out minorities. Compliance agencies look the other way until the job is done and the money is gone.

Commissioner Charles Jordan's attempt to put teeth in the City of Portland's program by assessing financial damages on those who don't comply is bringing him the wrath of fellow councilman Mildred Schwab.

Reagan has also created a climate of racism so that businessmen and others do not feel that they have to obey the laws designed to profit minorities.

It is to their credit that many minority-owned businesses are surviving the depression and that they will grow and prosper.



The Right to Live

by Dr. Manning Marable

The most odious aspect of all fascist and authoritarian movements is their doctrines of racial or genetic superiority. Hitler's psychotic belief in racial purity led millions of Jews to the gas chambers, as well as Slavs, political dissenters, homosexuals, and the physically handicapped.

Reaganomics shares the same contempt, in a diluted and more subtle way, for America's poor and minorities. Reagan reduced inflation by hiking national unemployment rates by four percent or more: by 1983, at an annual rate, this increase meant 148,000 additional deaths, including almost 4,000 additional suicides, 2,000 additional deaths from cirrhosis of the liver, and 16,000 additional admissions to state mental hospitals. Those are the statistical costs in terms of human life each year due to Ronald Reagan. These Americans were not executed or gassed in Hitler's ovens, but they are just as dead as the victims of previous human disasters.

There are other subtle ways to undermine the right to live. The National Association of Children's Hospitals is suing to overturn federal anti-discrimination regulations which protect infants born with physical handicaps. The regulations opposed by hospitals would half federal funds to any healthcare institutions which starved children to death, or which denied basic medi-

cal care to those with handicaps.

Why do the hospitals oppose such humanistic legislation? They assert that Washington should not dictate the decisions properly left to parents and doctors. Hospitals' "ethical boards" would police themselves in life-and-death decisions.

This litigation raises a number of disturbing moral and political questions. People who have the ability to make conscious decisions, who exercise free will, must be allowed the right to decide if they wish to die — for example, cancer patients or those who are otherwise terminally ill. Similarly, I support the right of any woman the freedom to decide whether to have an abortion. Here, the state should have no authority to dictate what happens inside a woman's body.

But what of the child who is born with a mental handicap, or with any of a number of the birth defects which can occur? I do not think that a hospital board of so-called neutral participants, nor even the child's parents, should close the door to the experience of life for any handicapped child. In such cases, there is an obligation for the federal government to subsidize whatever costs are involved to ensure the right to live for these thousands of children. Can the rights to live of a Black, Latino or poor child be guaranteed by a "majority vote" of any hospital board?

Ronald L. Seigel, the Director of

Detroit's United Community Ombudsman, an organization of volunteers involved in human rights and social welfare, has been at the forefront in protesting the National Association of Children's Hospitals' suit. In his view, there is a direct danger that if babies with handicaps were deliberately destroyed, then Black and Latino children could be next. "If rights can be taken away today because of a defect, rights can easily be taken away tomorrow from any race or sex that a bigoted judge considers to be naturally defective," Seigel states. Other Detroit activists who support Seigel's protests include Nellie Cuellar, head of the Detroit chapter of the National Association of the Black Aged; Eric Gentile, author of the Michigan Handicappers Civil Rights Act; and Rose Bell, a leader of Detroit's United Neighbors, a neighborhood food and self-help organization.

Can hospitals police themselves against racism or prejudice against handicapped babies? Seigel raises another decisive question: "If we let this go through, why don't we eliminate federal enforcement of all civil rights laws, and let integration and voting rights be protected by ethical boards picked by those doing the discriminating? Could that be the next step?" The defense of civil rights cannot stop at the color line. It must be expanded to include all Americans subjected to discrimination.

"I HAVE A DREAM" WAS THE THEME OF TODAY'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS HONORED MARTIN LUTHER KING...



AND VOWED TO REGISTER MILLIONS OF BLACKS TO VOTE IN 1984



I HAVE A NIGHTMARE



WASSERMAN © 1983 Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Ebony poll favors Black president

The results of the *Ebony* poll are in with a resounding 67.1 percent vote for a Black presidential candidate.

Ebony asked its readers to respond to the question: Should a Black seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984? And if so, who should it be.

Of those participating in the poll, 67.1 percent said yes; 21.5 percent said no; 11.4 percent were undecided.

Readers were asked to vote for one of five political and civil rights leaders: Reverend Jesse Jackson of Operation PUSH; Maynard Jackson, former Mayor of Atlanta; Walter Fauntroy, Washington, D.C. delegate to Congress; Richard Hatcher, Mayor of Gary, Indiana; and Maxine Waters, California State Assemblyman.

Jesse Jackson received 61.6 percent of the votes cast. Andrew Young, Mayor of Atlanta, a write-

in, was second with 11.6 percent. Others were: Maynard Jackson, 6.1 percent; George State Senator Julian Bond (write-in), 3.4 percent; Hatcher, 2 percent; Waters, 2 percent; Imam Warithuddin Muhammad, American Muslim Mission (write-in), 1.4 percent; former Congressman Barbara Jordan (write-in), 1.3 percent; and Mayor of Los Angeles Tom Bradley (write-in), .9 percent.

Letters to the Editor

LINDBERG PLAYS POLITICS

To the Editor:

New Clear Vision of Oregon, a non-profit voter education lobby, has asked City Commissioner Mike Lindberg to use his elected position to provide the public with hearings on Portland-based nuclear weapons production. For five weeks not only did Lindberg refuse to get the issue on the City Council agenda, he also refused to meet with the group to explain his position. In response, a number of New Clear Vision members and staff went to Lindberg's office to present the Commissioner with lists of Portlanders concerned about involvement in the nuclear arms race. Once again, Lindberg was not available to talk with citizens, but on the very same day did find time to give Channel 12 News a

private interview in his office and behind closed doors.

The result was slanted and inaccurate reporting. On the 10:00 news show, Channel 12 broadcast that: "Other commissioners had refused to meet with New Clear Vision and that the group had indicated it would work against Lindberg in upcoming elections." Nothing could be further from the truth. The fact of the matter is no other commissioner has had the opportunity to refuse, and, as an educational lobby, New Clear Vision will never endorse any particular politician.

What we will do is communicate to voters which elected officials are taking action to be responsive to the anti-nuclear movement, and which are playing politics with an issue of such public importance. In truth, many New Clear Vision members will continue to vote for Mike Lind-

berg, but that has nothing to do with what we must do as an organization. What we must do is pursue moral legislation. And although Channel 12 and Mike Lindberg would like to make it seem as though we are an unreasonable group, the proposal we are asking for public hearings on has already become law in cities from Garret Park, Maryland to Ashland, Oregon. We are working within the system, but a system which allows elected officials to avoid public accountability, which allows the press to be manipulated by elected officials and through silence allows murderous weapons to be produced is a system that needs changing.

Jeff Liddicoat
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Pier Park site of racial attack

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control. "During large altercations there are a lot of charges being flung back and forth. When there is a large group, the officers will try and disperse the crowd." As other questions were asked Shrunk directed them to seek answers from the police department.

One observer said, "It seems that every question thrown at you you throw it to someone else. This man (Johnson) is hurt and the people's feelings are hurt. The people want questions answered and it seems that you are fair, but you keep saying that you are not responsible."

However, Shrunk commended the group for their willingness to

stand up and try to solve the problem. "There has been one arrest and that arrest was the result of you sitting down and giving enough information to these officers so they could put it down on paper. They were able to sit down with an attorney from my office to file charges." A juvenile was charged with recklessly endangering a person's life and attempted assault.

The assault was on Charles Brandon who was standing on his porch during the incident in the park, when three shots were fired at him.

The apartment manager, Kenneth Schmid, said, "I went down to North Precinct and I wanted to know why there was no PR between

the Police Department and our tenants. I got nothing from them. On Sunday, I told the police that I was the new apartment manager and asked the officer what was going on. He told me this was police business — stay out of it."

Henry Mott, one of the residents, said, "This was not an isolated incident. During the summer we have reported all of them to the police and they took everything we said as being funny. The police have been very passive about coming to the aid of Blacks." Mott also said he feared for the safety of his family. "We are protected by the law, and if the law is not responding I want to know why. We don't want, nor do we need, a racial thing out here."



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