

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## State sales tax not the answer

The Oregon Supreme Court has found that the process by which the sales tax proposal was put on the ballot was unconstitutional. This removes the sales tax from the ballot for the March special election unless the Legislature acts to replace it.

Governor Atiyeh has proposed a one-day special session of the Legislature for this purpose. All that could be accomplished in a one day session is to put the same measure on the ballot—perhaps with minor changes.

However, a one-day session will open a can of worms. Numerous groups—including small business and professional groups—have come out against the current sales tax because of the inconvenience and bookkeeping expense it will cost them. Each of these special interest groups will attempt to have their business or profession exempted from the tax—placing a heavier burden on working people.

The real answer to the sales tax question is not a one-day band-aid session. It is a realistic program to adopt a progressive personal and corporate income tax and to provide home owner and renter property tax relief through a homestead exemption. The answer is to collect taxes from the big income/larger property owners who can afford to pay.

The Democratic legislators are in a bind—many of them went along with the pro-sales tax forces in spite of the Democratic Party's platform and philosophical opposition. These people, who now need the votes of Democrat working people are now behind the gun. Which side are they on?

A one-day session that will allow them an opportunity to weasel out of their responsibility to the people is not necessary. An overhaul of the State's tax system is.

## No surprises!

Ronald Reagan's budget for fiscal 1984-85 brings no surprises. The 19 percent increase in the military budget brings military expenditures to one third of the national budget—an unheard of expenditure, particularly for a period in which the U.S. is not at war.

This increase in military spending has to come from somewhere—so it comes from programs designed to assist the poor and minorities. Vocational education, education for the handicapped and the social service block grants are to be decreased by 3 percent, cost of living increases for retirement programs will be frozen.

Also, the massive increases in the military budget will leave a \$180 billion deficit. Many economists say the deficit (the largest in history) will lead to higher interest rates, industrial stagnation, unemployment and depression.

The Reagan Administration is continuing to spend money to fatten the pockets of the military industrialists at home and to bill men, women and children abroad. Meanwhile, the children in the U.S. will forfeit their right to a decent standard of living as their dreams are mortgaged to pay for Reagan's delusions.



Fred Wright, UE News



## African politics prove explosive

(Continued from page 1 column 6)

and incomplete, to concern export crops only.

So this year, Africa will receive more than half the world's food aid.

The future looks no better. By the turn of the century, Africa will have 400 million more people to feed. And many national leaders have shown themselves completely incapable of managing a sound economy, much less economies able to handle the coming population increases.

Their disillusioned citizens look

for alternative philosophies. In the north and to some extent in the west, they turn to Islamic precepts. In the rest of Africa, serious economic, social and political deterioration is likely. And the chaos which follows may lead to long-lasting civil uprisings.

The Western world will have to contend with this new situation especially in North Africa, where the Islamic revival directly challenges everything Western. Leaders who see everything in terms of East-West confrontation will find themselves more and more isolated, especially

when they align themselves with those leaders who are seen as responsible for the current crisis.

People in the Western world must try to understand what is happening in these regions of Africa in human terms. If they do, the inevitable upheavals may become expressions of positive feelings.

Otherwise the prolonged crisis in Africa and the intervention of the superpowers might well get out of hand, and a serious confrontation of these powers becomes a danger-out possibility.

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## An endangered species?

by Dr. Manning Marable  
"From The Grassroots"

Several weeks ago one of the most interesting scholarly conferences was held by the University of Cincinnati's Office of Minority Programs and Services in conjunction with the Department of Afro-American Studies. Key organizer P. Eric Abercrombie brought together Black scholars and hundreds of student and community people from across the Midwest. The controversial topic of discussion was "The Black Man: Endangered Species."

Abercrombie, an articulate administrator at the University of Cincinnati, had earlier evoked the wrath of many neoconservatives at the school by challenging the university's racist environment. This conference, the second annual event, was part of a larger struggle to combat academic racism while simultaneously creating the forum necessary for Blacks to discuss our own concerns.

The topic itself could not have been more timely. Too many Blacks have been lulled into complacency by the illusion that we as a people have achieved "equality." The rise of feminism in the 1970s sharpened our appreciation of the impact of sexual discrimination upon Black women, who in socioeconomic terms remain at the very bottom of American society. No struggle for Black liberation, to be sure, can be separated from the efforts to combat rape, "wife-beating," income inequality and all other forms of anti-women violence.

But the Reagan Administration's criminal contempt for Blacks has accelerated the destruction of

Black men as well as women—particularly young Black men. Dr. Robert Staples, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of California/San Francisco, presented some devastating statistics on the pressing plight of our young males:

•Less than 20 percent of all Black college graduates are males.

•One-fourth of all Black males fail to complete high school.

•Since 1960 Blacks aged 15 to 20 commit suicide at a rate higher than that of the total population of all ages. Suicide is now the third leading cause of death after accidents and homicides among Black males aged 15 to 24.

•85 percent of all executions for rape have involved Black men and white women, despite the fact that only 10 percent of all rape cases involve Black males and white females. No white male has ever been executed for raping a Black woman in U.S. history.

•About half of all Black men over 18 have never been married, separated, divorced or widowed.

•Despite the fact that several million Black male youths desire a career in professional athletics, the odds of any Black youth making it are over 20,000 to one.

Today, over 300,000 Black young men are in prison. Black males suffer over two million arrests every year in the U.S. How do we begin to combat the destruction of young Black males—and in turn, the obliteration of our communities?

Conference participant Dr. W. Monty Whitney, Associate Director

of the Cincinnati Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses, suggested that the basic "factors which inhibit healthy relationships are Racism, Sexism and Capitalism." Short-term strategies to address these problems included greater "racial awareness," changing "male-female socialization pattern," and improving "communication and accountability" between Black men and women. Dr. Na'im Akbar, a Florida State professor of Psychology, urged Blacks to combat the institutions and ideologies which "work against both our individual and collective survival." The "lust for power," material possessions and sexuality must be replaced by "a genuine commitment to one's being rooted in the knowledge of one's true self and nature." Professor Angelene Jamison, head of Black Studies at the University of Cincinnati, suggested that "Black women and men have accepted and internalized many of the myths, stereotypes, roles and definitions established by whites. Because we have not clearly understood these outside forces on male-female relationships," Blacks often "blame each other for the problems rather than to establish creative and productive ways of dealing with them."

"Black survival," in Dr. Jamison's words, depends upon the creation of a "meaningful dialogue" between Black women and men, and in efforts to build more "healthy and supportive relationships in the Black community." This conference was a decisive step forward in that long process.



## Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

President Reagan's State of the Union address last week was, as usual, a virtuoso performance. He is a masterful performer and showed his skill in presenting the resounding theme of "America is back."

But as I sat in the House of Representatives and listened to those words, I couldn't help but think that, whereas some parts of the country are on their way back from economic recession, states like Oregon have a ways to go.

In our state, unemployment is still above 10 percent. More than 100,000 people are out of work. Mills are still idle and grain overflows the silos because we cannot market it overseas.

The culprit is the deficit, and the first step to getting our state back on the road to economic health is cutting the deficit.

Deficits are a "double-whammy" for Oregon. They keep interest rates out of sight because the Treasury has to go out and borrow the money that home-buyers would use. Hence, fewer homes are built, less timber is cut and less lumber is milled.

Second, high deficits make the dollar artificially strong. The result is that American goods are more expensive to buy and hence we export less of them. That costs jobs all the way from the wheat fields of eastern Oregon to the docks of north Portland.

The President brought us a step closer to starting the difficult task of deficit reduction when he proposed that we must make a "down payment" on the deficit and offered to work together with Senate and House leaders of both parties.

But at the same time that President Reagan made this offer, he indicated that there was no fat to cut at the Pentagon and that tax reform was out of bounds until after the election.

To make a bipartisan plan for reducing the deficit work, all of these areas—defense spending, domestic spending and revenue—must be open to discussion. We can't cut the deficit on the back of domestic programs.

Finding ways to cut the deficit will be my number one priority for the remainder of this Congress. I will need your help and advice. I will be holding an open, public forum to hear your ideas on how to go about his important task. The forum will be held Saturday, 1020 N.E. Third Ave. Please come and share your views.

## Police complaints bring concern

(Continued from page 1 column 4)

it would be important to check the officer's complaint history at the same time," she said, and the committee is working on that.

Jolin said the IID gets about 350 complaints per year. That's about half of what it was before 1981-82 when the Bureau stopped counting "minor" complaints. "We want them to count all the complaints, regardless of the degree of severity," she said.

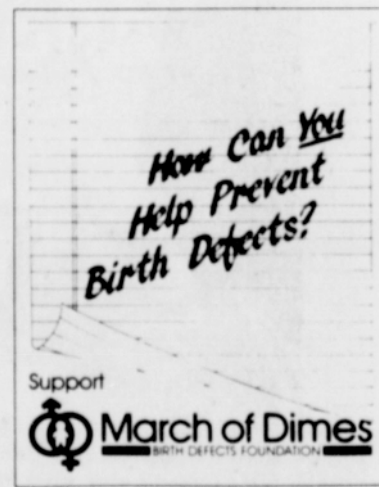
According to the IID's records for the period Jan. - Sept. 1983, of the complaints they received, 33 (20 percent) came from Blacks and other minorities, 101 (63 percent) from whites, and 17 percent from within the Bureau itself. Out of the total 161 complaints for that period, 59 (36.6 percent) involved excessive force, 22 (13.6 percent) rude conduct, and 29 (18 percent) misconduct.

Jolin said that when there is a problem, the Internal Audit Committee "can go into the Bureau and look at the files" to ensure that both the complainant and the police are protected. "We can go through them with a fine-tooth comb," she said.

While the committee exists because of the 'possum incident and problems having to do with police-community relations and internal police discipline, specifically to monitor the police internal investigations process and look out for the interests of complainants, it is also concerned with police rights, she

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said. "It's very hard being a police officer," she said. "It's not an easy job, not one you are often appreciated in."



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