

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Elections offer hard choices

The 1984 elections will be one of the most important for Oregon residents for many years. The face of the legislature will change significantly—a legislature that just barely passed some significant legislation and just barely failed to pass other legislation that was just as important to low-income and working people. Where will the balance of power lie in the next legislature?

In North/Northeast Portland alone, new legislators will be elected for Districts 17, 18, 19 and 20—all of which have been represented by what is usually termed "liberal" Democrats. Two Senate seats are up for grabs—those now held by Bill McCoy and James Gardner. These six races alone could bring great changes in the direction of state government—for the better or for the worse.

Three state-wide offices are on the ballot. The Secretary of State is an important position that audits state agencies and runs the election processes. Even more important, this position is often a stepping-stone to higher office. The contenders on the Democratic side are Sen. James Gardner and Rep. Barbara Roberts, both with outstanding reputations and leadership records, both with "liberal" credentials, but both avid supporters of the now-fizzled effort to place the sales tax on the ballot.

The State Treasurer is largely responsible for the investment of state funds. Clay Meyers fought hard against any effort to divest state money from corporations doing business in South Africa and travelled to South Africa while in office. The Democrat candidate is Rep. Gratian Kerans, who fought hard for D.C. statehood and usually comes down on the right side of issues. A man with strong "liberal" credentials, Kerans also pushed to get the sales tax on the ballot.

The Republican candidates include David Cargo, former Governor of New Mexico; David Chen, a C.P.A.; and former Rep. Bill Ruther-

Meyers resigned his position in time for the Governor to appoint one of these candidates, Bill Rutherford, to the position. Should this end-pass nullify Rutherford's otherwise reasonably good record in the minds of the discerning voter?

The Attorney General is the State's highest law enforcement officer, represents the State in lawsuits, interprets laws for state agencies and public officials, enforces freedom of information laws, tries civil rights cases, etc. An important position!

Locally, City Commissioner Mike Lindberg is being challenged by a middle school principal, Carl Piacentini, whose campaign methods have disappointed even his friends. Example: After declining to appear in a City Club debate with Lindberg, Mr. Piacentini sneaked in at the last minute (during the introduction of Lindberg) to participate after all.

Frank Shields, a Southeast Portland minister, has gained notice through his chairmanship of the Multnomah County Charter Review Commission and his campaign to achieve districting of the Portland School Board is challenging County Commissioner Caroline Miller. Miller, who was once head of the Portland Federation of Teachers, has raised the eyebrows of some observers by stitching "freedom of speech" to "freedom of billboards".

Another category of offices being sought is that of judge—a position of special significance to minorities and the poor. The most outstanding and scholarly attorney/judge can have a blind spot when it comes to minorities and the poor.

To help the voter come to an informed decision there will be numerous forums, candidate fairs, debates, news articles and television interviews featuring the many candidates. Get out and meet the candidates in the races most important to you, check their voting records and ask questions. There is still time to find the answers.

West Europe target of NATO missiles

by Bryan Johns

"The 'gentlemen of dawn' arrived, but at nine-thirty; then the BKA invasion of our offices and of the apartments of two *Konkret* editors went on just as in a scene of a crime movie: observers with walkie-talkies in the street, big limousines with telephones parked here and there, names on apartments and letter boxes being written down and even dirty linen sniffed through."

The scene is not from South Africa or the West Bank, but from Hamburg in January, 1983. It was a moment in the struggle of the peace movement, of man's effort to survive the nuclear arms race. The raid by the German federal authorities was, at first appearance, an act of retaliation for *Konkret's* publication of stories about the seamy side of their activities at home and abroad. But it had also become known that *Konkret* had acquired copies of NATO nuclear war planning documents—first strike plans—bearing the highest secrecy classification. These documents were seized by the Federal police, and West German Attorney General Kurt Rebmann promptly warned *Konkret*: "I advise you that the announced publication by your magazine of the NATO documents could make you guilty of a grave crime against the external security of the German Federal Republic."

Nevertheless, copies of eleven secret NATO documents turned up at the Vienna offices of another publication, *Das Magazin*, for, as Austrians, the German authorities and their interpretation of German law do not concern us—a state of affairs that we value greatly."

First strike early option

In the rapid expansion of the peace movement during the past three years, "first strike" is the phrase which has aroused the most intense public alarm. The freedom to strike first with nuclear weapons is to be achieved through the "position of strength", or superiority, to which the present masters of the White House aspire. It would confer upon the United States the power to dictate to the Soviet Union, and therefore to all others. The practical difficulties, to put it gently, in the achievement of this goal we can leave aside for the moment. To appreciate the problem facing the peace forces, it is important to understand that neither first strike nor the position of strength are new ideas. On the contrary, they explicitly reaffirm the intent of those who first possessed the atomic bomb.

The American public has learned that the scheme for the nuclear destruction of a score of Soviet cities and thirteen million lives took shape in the minds and in the plan-

ning papers of top Pentagon officers immediately upon the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.

A few weeks later, on September 18th, the Joint Chiefs of Staff issued the secret Directive 1496/2, "Basis for the Formulation of a Military Policy," which named the Soviet Union as the enemy and emphasized the "first-strike" concept as a new American policy for the prosecution of war. The importance of secrecy can be better appreciated if one remembers the tenor of the times. The Soviet people and their western allies, Americans, British and French lived in the glow of their joint victory over fascism. They cooperated in the care and rehabilitation of the displaced and destitute millions in Europe. New friendships formed, the most notable that of General Eisenhower and Marshal Zhukov. No ordinary American citizen or soldier could possibly have imagined the existence of Directive 1496/2.

This directive was followed on October 9th by Directive 1518, "Strategic Concept and Plan for the Employment of United States Armed Forces," again naming the Soviet Union as the enemy and the intended victim of a preventive war. In November the Joint Intelligence Committee produced, in Memorandum 329, its target evaluation—the specific list of 20 cities to be incinerated. Secretly, a rapid increase in the production of atomic bombs was ordered.

"D-Day" scheduled

A number of unforeseen obstacles—demobilization, logistics, Soviet fighter defense and others—rendered unfavorable the balance of military forces needed to carry out this plan. It is said, however, that eating improves the appetite. Succeeding years produced ever more ambitious plans for nuclear destruction of the Soviet Union. They had intriguing names—Charioteer, Cogwheel, Gunpowder, Fleetwood, and others. The Dropshot plan, drawn up in 1949, envisioned U.S. leadership of a coalition of states which would invade the Soviet Union with 20 million men after massive nuclear bombing. D-Day was set for January 1, 1957. The same "bad luck" dogged all of these plans—failure to achieve a sufficiently favorable balance of forces. The Soviet Union continued to make credible its defense strategy of retaliation.

War Plan 2ATAF, says *Das Magazin*, was adopted by NATO on January 31, 1973, and classified "Cosmic Top Secret", presumably to punish any extra-terrestrial, as well as earthly, breach of secrecy. It names as "first option" a nuclear first strike by NATO forces co-

ordinated with a first strike by ICBM's from the United States. "The first goal of Option One," says 2ATAF, "is to destroy or to inflict the greatest possible damage to the nuclear capability of the Warsaw Pact Powers and to their control and defense installations necessary for survival."

Friendly nations target

War Plan 2ATAF also includes a "Tactical Strike Program" which illuminates the military thinking in Washington and at NATO Headquarters. The tactical program seeks "to limit the extent of hostilities" to Europe. Washington's influence is obvious here, and the shortsighted among us might feel relieved that the United States has the position of strength within its own military alliance. But what about the Austrians? Their country is neutral. The NATO plans mention "additional targets inside neutral or occupied friendly territories." Nuclear strikes against such targets require "special authorization" by NATO High Command. But under the U.S. Plan of Operations 100-6, forty such additional targets are located in Austria.

And what about the Germans? West German Defense Minister Manfred Wörner took part in creating the current NATO plan. Under it, West Germany is about to become the launching pad for all 108 Pershing 2 missiles to be installed in the coming months. Now we see the function of these missiles more clearly: They take the place of the American ICBM's which, under plan 2ATAF, were to be coordinated with NATO nuclear weapons in a first strike against the socialist countries. As *Das Magazin* puts it, "a straight line leads from the NATO strategy of 'War Plan 2ATAF' to the Euro-missile decision arrived at in Brussels." Herr Wörner says that the presence of the Pershing 2's will help protect West Germany against nuclear strikes. He will be remembered, not pleasantly, as a former member of Hitler's General Staff, the stern military scientist who assured the German people that bombs would never fall on their cities.

Finally, what about the Americans? Marshal Ustinov, the Soviet Defense Minister, has warned that the Pershing 2's and the cruise missiles will be regarded as the same as American intercontinental missiles. It is a common-sense attitude. But the collaboration between Wörner and Weinberger, between Brussels and Washington, should tell us something more than simply that in military science as well as morality, mediocrity seeks its own level. The root of the cancer is here, in America. To rid ourselves of it is our duty to the whole human family.

Letters to the Editor

Shop at home

To the editor:

The Black entrepreneurs of Portland may eventually fizzle if the Black consumers and business people are not educated on the importance of buying from the various North/Northeast businesses. People should spend their money in the community in which they live. Comparative shopping is fine, but don't drive miles away to get the better buy when you actually spend more when including the cost of gas. We should support our Black entrepreneurs in our community for no other reason than our children. The jobs created in the community make an excellent training ground for children on their first jobs. And the role models give them a sense of pride.

If you have a problem with shopping at a particular business, write the owner a letter explaining the problem instead of avoiding the situation. He or she would be appreciative of your concern because this first step could only improve their business.

Gina Woods

Fair Share wrong

To the editor:

Recently a consumer group based in Portland, Oregon Fair Share, voiced its opposition to Pacific Northwest Bell's alleged

plan to force its residential customers to mandatory measured rates for monthly service. The group's leaders held a press conference in the state capitol and staged a demonstration at PNB's Portland offices.

Most of those who participated in the demonstration were senior citizens. They've been told they need to protect their peers and others from this "plan". Their energy could have been better spent in questioning their leadership.

Does PNB have a plan to put all residential customers on measured rates, as Fair Share alleges? The answer is emphatically no. The truth is that PNB offers three choices for monthly home telephone service. At today's rates, prices range from \$6.90 to \$15.88. We offer both flat rate and measured rate plans, and we've made a commitment to our customers to maintain those choices in the future.

Can customers save money with measured service rate plans? The answer is emphatically yes. Today, about 50,000 Oregon households have either budget measured or basic measured service. They've chosen it. Why? Because they're saving money. Who's saving money? Seniors, and low and moderate income citizens.

In public forums before Fair Share members, senior citizen groups, and church and civic groups all across the state, PNB representatives such as myself have stated PNB's commitment to options for residential customers. We've also stated our position in public hearings before the Public Utility Commissioner, and discussed it with

the representatives from groups such as the Oregon Consumer League, Oregon State Council for Senior Citizens, Consumer Credit Counseling, League of Women Voters, and Urban League of Portland who make up PNB's Consumer Advisory Panel.

But Fair Share's leadership ignores the facts. To support their claim of measured residential rates for everyone, they show a Bell document. The truth is that document is about business service.

Quite frankly, why a consumer advocacy group would oppose a payment plan that provides choices for residence consumers and helps some telephone users reduce their phone bills baffles me.

With choices, customers can select the service plan that best fits their needs and their budget. Low to moderate users of local service can save money with measured rates. For households with heavy local calling, the flat rate service plan is the best buy.

We invite our customers and consumer groups to call for the facts: toll-free 1-800-555-5000.

Ron Allen
State Manager
Community Affairs

The Observer welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters should be short, and must contain the writer's name and address (addresses are not printed). The Observer reserves the right to edit for length.

Role of press questioned

(continued from page 1, column 6) director of the State University of New York's Institute for Studies in International Terrorism, is quoted, stating the U.S. will be threatened at home in orchestrated civil disorders or even terrorist incidents involving nuclear or biological weapons. "And," he states, "we are not prepared. There is almost a complete ignorance on the subject."

The administration tested the waters last week through a sanctioned leak to the *Washington Post* that "hit squads" are under consideration. Shortly before that "leak" was printed, Jack Anderson discussed in his column the fact that a network of death squads operating through Central America were established and are financed by the CIA.

Since the "hit squad" proposal

received no outcry from press or public, the administration goes on with its planning.

"The proposal generated little controversy, perhaps an indication that fear of proliferating terrorism outweighs the public aversion to such extreme measures," the Newhouse article says.

The Reagan Administration has moved quickly to gear up for the "new warfare". The Army is improving its special operations and counterinsurgency capabilities; a new office has been created to oversee special operations forces, money has been appropriated for developing biological warfare capability; the CIA has been given new power for internal surveillance; the FBI has been authorized to do domestic infiltration; there is a concerted attack on Freedom of Infor-

mation rights; the reinstatement of the death penalty for treason is under consideration by Congress; etc.

On the news front, the people are being prepared. Intensive publicity is given to the Army's new anti-terrorism squad to be tested at the Olympic Games; rumors of foreign terrorists (i.e. Libya) are given undue publicity; individual acts of terror are major news items; the discussion of terrorism and the need for deterrence are given much more importance than the extremely few cases of organized political terrorism that have occurred in this country should warrant.

Is this "reporting" and "analysis" of the news and the trends, or is this, as Aronson says, creating public opinion to insure the "national interest" as the corporate press sees it.

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