

# Navajo, Hopi fight for homeland

by Robert Lothian

A group of native Americans participating in the "Freedom Express" said in Portland last week that the U.S. government and big energy corporations are teaming up to relocate thousands of Navajo and Hopi people in Northeast Arizona.

After a five-hour program at the Northwest Service Center Thursday night, about 25 native Americans and supporters demonstrated in front of the Federal Building on Friday.

Their car caravan stopped in Portland on its way from Seattle to a gathering at the end of April at Big Mountain, Arizona.

Big Mountain is the focus of a dispute involving Navajo and Hopi land rights. The Indians say the government is trying to pit the Navajos and Hopis against each other as it attempts to determine reservation boundaries.

Meanwhile, companies like Peabody Coal Co. are taking advantage of the situation to exploit billions in coal and uranium deposits, they said.

The Navajo-Hopi Resettlement Act authorizes the relocation of thousands of native people from ancestral homelands by July, 1986.

A Freedom Express spokeswoman said that 14,000 native Americans living in this remote area face the loss of their traditional way of life as they are removed to urban areas. Many live as their ancestors did, in round skin-roofed hogans or stone pueblos, tending corn or sheep.

The Freedom Express is bringing relief supplies to the Navajo and Hopi, some of the poorest people in America, she said.

"All Reagan has to do is repeal the law and that would be the end of it," said Hopi elder Thomas Banyacya, speaking at the Northwest Service Center.



Thomas Banyacya, Hopi elder, spoke in Portland on threats to traditional homeland as Freedom Express passed through. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Banyacya, 65, dressed in a colorful vest with a red sash tied around his

braided hair, said he was sent on the car caravan by Hopi elders to educate

the public about the situation in Arizona. "Our elders are holding onto the land through prayer, meditation, singing and drumming," he said.

The Hopi area has been surrounded by the Navajo reservation since the late 1800s, he said. Before the white man, he said, the boundaries were known informally and the Navajo and Hopi lived in harmony.

But as the land became more valuable, the government has sought to move the Indians off and lease it to energy companies, he said.

The latest ruse is the resettlement act of 1974, which demarcates which land is for the Hopis and which is for the Navajos in certain disputed areas, said Banyacya. As the Indians are moved off, he said, some of the land is leased to the energy companies. Peabody Coal buys coal mined on Indian land at 25 cents a ton and then sells it for \$50 a ton, said the spokeswoman.

"They're trying to force us into a small area so they can take it over," said Banyacya. "We don't want any corporations coming in there. We had no part in making this law."

Huge fences are being built, but in the Big Mountain area, Indian women threw dirt clods at construction workers and drove them away. This is the only area which hasn't been fenced, said the spokeswoman.

"We almost stripped ourselves naked to welcome the white brothers," but the white brothers have always abused their power, said Banyacya.

Banyacya held up a drawing depicting "the story of the old people" — the grand design of the Great Spirit. We are now in the time of judgment, according to this plan, he said.

Banyacya then announced that in the event of nuclear war, the Hopi reservation would be open to everyone as a refuge.

# Reagan wants free hand in Central America

by Arthur Schmidt

The upcoming vote in the House and Senate on another \$14 million for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, or contras, may prove to be the single most important Congressional decision on Central America since Ronald Reagan became president.

What are the issues at stake in this vote?

Clearly they are much more than money. Since the United States has appropriated close to \$4 billion for Central America since 1980, another \$14 million cannot be a question of any monetary significance.

Nor is the Reagan administration really worried that the contras will die on the vine without these new funds. Whatever the outcome of the vote, the administration could continue to encourage private funding efforts and channel money through the governments of Honduras and El Salvador as it did during 1984.

Why then has the President, often against the wishes of fellow Republicans, gone out of his way to support the contras? Why has he lauded the contras as the "moral equivalent of founding fathers" and openly proclaimed his wish to "remove the present structure" in Nicaragua by making the Sandinistas "say uncle"?

The answer is that the President wants a totally free hand in Central America and intends to make the contra appropriation vote a ratification of his policies for the region.

Ever since the 1983 passage of the Boland Amendment, which prohibits the expenditure of U.S. funds for the purpose of overthrowing the Nicaraguan government, the administration has been frustrated by the depth of Congressional and public resistance to its policies toward Nicaragua.

Last fall, just weeks before the U.S. elections, Congress voted against re-funding the contras. Should the President now be able to reverse that

decision, he will have overcome the adverse political legacy of the Nicaraguan harbor mining, the C.I.A. psychological warfare manual, the U.S. withdrawal from the World Court, and the revelations of contra terrorist activities.

A favorable vote for the contras would be a defeat for those opposed to U.S. intervention in Central America. President Reagan would use an uphill victory in Congress on the contra issue to legitimize whatever future actions he wished to take in Central America, much as Lyndon Johnson employed the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution to expand the war in Vietnam.

The administration would be convinced that it had a mandate to achieve military victory in Central America. With such a mandate the President would likely move to escalate U.S. military activities in the region, including further aerial bombardment in El Salvador, a more extensive buildup in Honduras, new commitments in Guatemala, and new pressures toward militarization in Costa Rica.

Stronger measures to oust the Sandinistas could be expected including a termination of Nicaragua's access to U.S. markets, a naval blockade against Soviet and Cuban shipping to Nicaraguan ports, and the recognition of a contra government in exile. Senator Durenberger of the Senate Intelligence Committee has openly supported some of these options.

Administration success on the contra vote could also further increase the power of the executive branch, at the expense of Congressional prerogative and oversight, and give the administration a freer hand to intervene militarily anywhere in the world it perceives a threatened "vital" U.S. interest. While this could not necessarily lead to the prompt introduction of U.S. troops into combat against Nicaragua or against the Salvadoran guer-

rillas, it would heighten that possibility in the long run by killing present efforts to promote peace negotiations in Central America.

A reversal of current Congressional attitudes toward the contras would severely damage, perhaps fatally, the attempts of Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela to revive the Contadora peace process. Contadora was intended as a means of preventing precisely the type of outside intervention that U.S. funding for the contras represents.

Clearly, the Central America conflicts are sufficiently complex that one Congressional vote, however important, will neither reverse President Reagan's policies in the region nor destroy ongoing domestic opposition to them. However, members of Congress should be aware that a vote for contra appropriations is a vote against peace talks, not a form of "pressure" to encourage Nicaragua to negotiate.

The Reagan administration, not the Sandinistas, terminated the U.S.-

Nicaraguan meetings at Manzanillo. Nicaragua has long indicated its willingness to discuss U.S. security concerns. Nicaragua remains disposed to sign the September, 1984, Contadora treaty that would lead to the removal of foreign military advisers from Central America and to a reduction in the size of armed forces in the region.

Renewed contra appropriations can only constitute a signal to the Central American right that the U.S. is committed to military escalation and opposed to negotiations. This will encourage even wider violence and more opposition to internal political freedom and reform in the region.

Promoted by President Reagan as an inexpensive means to democracy and freedom in Central America, the contras are instead a costly instrument of terrorism and destruction. Congress has recognized this before. It must do so again by refusing any further appropriations for the contras.

## Black student achievement honored at awards banquet

The Oregon Alliance of Black School Educators will host its third annual Student Achievement Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1620 N.E. Hancock St.

This event was hailed last year as the "best local effort to recognize African American youngsters that a chapter of the national organization has," according to Dr. Asa Hilliard, consultant to the Portland School District.



DR. ALICE V. HOUSTON

The event is open to the public and will feature dinner and special guest speaker, Dr. Alice V. Houston, Assistant Superintendent for the Seattle Public Schools.

Dr. Houston is the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and In-

struction and has served in that capacity since 1982. Before coming to Seattle she held the position of Director of Curriculum in Oklahoma City Public Schools, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and teacher, principal and supervisor in East Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Houston received her B.A. in Elementary Education from Southern University, a Master's Degree from Louisiana State University, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas. She has served in various capacities at the local and national levels in educational organizations including the Executive Councils of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the National Alliance of Black School Educators. She was recently nominated as President-elect for the ASCD.

Tickets to the event will be on sale at the door for \$10, including the dinner and program. Students from throughout the Portland area will be presented with awards for outstanding school achievement. This promises to be a fine program and an opportunity to support achievement in education.

President of OABSE Terry Payne expects a large crowd and appreciates the "warm and growing support for educational excellence in our community."

## CASCADE NATUROPATHIC CLINIC

"Our Goal Is Healthy Families"

Safe, Effective Natural Therapies • Individualized Health Appraisals • Family Medicine • Herbal and Homeopathic Medicines • Athletic and On-The-Job Injuries • Women's Health Care Complete Laboratory and Diagnostic Testing

Phone 289-9914

Dr. Steven Bailey

Dr. Adam Ladd

Licensed Naturopathic Physicians

819 N. KILLINGSWORTH

## MRS. C's WIGS

Many wigs priced at \$5, \$10 & \$15

RED TAG SALE

Take an additio al 10% off already marked down wig prices.



Betty Cabine, Proprietor

Purchase your Ebony Fashion Tickets Here

Featuring wigs by NAOMI SIMS, ANDRE DOUGLAS, NATALIE COLE & MICHAEL WEEKS

Purchase your Ebony Fashion Tickets Here



K 1048

\$15<sup>00</sup> less 10%  
Now Reg. \$23.95



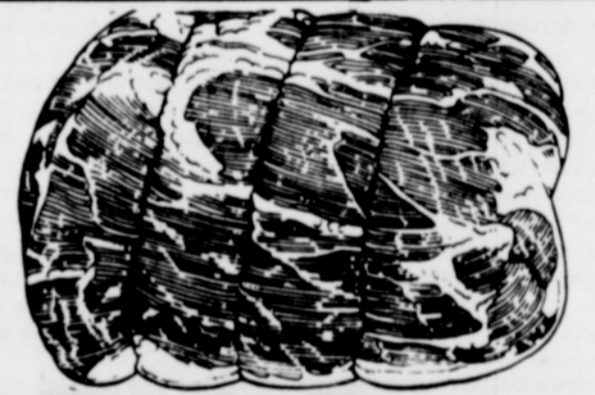
LAWRA

\$25<sup>95</sup> less 10%  
Now Reg. \$32.00

## MRS. C's WIGS

707 N.E. Fremont 281-6525

Closed Sun. & Mon. OPEN Tues. thru Sat. 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM



## Pork Roast

Fresh Shoulder Boneless Butt

lb. .99

Pork Blade Steak Fresh .....lb. 1.39

Sliced Bacon John Morrell, Regular or Thick .....lb. 1.59

Pink California Grapefruit ..... 3/99

Dole Snow White Mushrooms .....lb. 1.79

SE 20th & DIVISION Forest Grove - 2329 PACIFIC 14410 SE DIVISION  
SE 72nd & FLAVEL Oregon City - 878 MOLALLA 3956 SE POWELL  
NE 15th & FREMONT Canby - 1051 SW 1st NE 74th & GLISAN  
W BURNSIDE at 21st LLOYD CENTER NE 74th & GLISAN  
SAN RAFAEL - 1910 NE 122nd HILLSBORO - 960 SE OAK

TRADEWELL

## Oregon statewide PTA to meet

Two hundred delegates from around Oregon will attend the 72nd Annual Convention of the Oregon PTA set for April 19-20 at the Greenwood Inn, Beaverton, Oregon.

Two of the featured speakers will be Ellen Rosenberg, author of "Growing Up Feeling Good" and "What Your Child May Never Tell," and Bert Simmons on "Assertive Discipline for Parents." Some current State and National PTA projects will be workshop subjects including Alcohol/Drug Abuse Prevention, Child Abuse, Communicat-

ing With Our Children About Sexuality and Arrive Alive: The Seat Belt Project.

Shirley Cupery, National PTA Leadership Vice President, will be the keynote speaker on "Caution, Kids Under Construction." Also scheduled are workshops for units officers.

Convention delegates will elect a new president, vice president of leadership services and six service area representatives. A resolution on mandatory seat belts in school buses is expected to be presented.