

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Reagan anti-affirmative action movement finding participants

by Jerry Garner

Last week I reported that the Reagan Administration is considering rescinding Executive Order 11246. This order was signed in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson to require employers who do business with the federal government to make positive affirmative action efforts to hire women, Blacks, Hispanics and members of other minority groups in representative numbers. Executive Order 11246 has been a vital weapon in the battle against discrimination in employment.

Since the Reagan Administration's inception, it has been trying to dismantle this nation's civil rights laws and, in the process, has created an increase of racial tension in this country. An example of this can be seen in the drive by an organization called the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC). A few days after the Administration announced its intention of rescinding Executive Order 11246, AGC announced they would lobby Congress to discontinue Section 105(f) of the 1982 Surface Transportation Assistance Act. Section 105(f) requires that at least 10 percent of federal funds for highways and mass transit be expended with businesses owned by minority group members.

The AGC has sent a new publication to every member of Congress entitled, *Stop Legislated Discrimination: The Case Against Section 105(f) of the 1982 Surface Transportation Assistance Act.*

The publication contends that Section 105(f) threatens the very existence of small White specialty subcontractors in every region of the country. The accusation made by the AGC is false, for the simple reason there are not that many minority contractors in this country. The few minority contractors that do exist are often victims of discrimination, the very reason why Section 105(f) was passed in the first place. AGC and the Reagan Administration is trying to convey the message that Civil Rights and Affirmative Action Programs are discriminating against White males. Nothing could be further from the truth. Minorities are still victims of employment discrimination in the United States. Affirmative Action Programs are needed to insure that minorities are given the opportunity to compete for certain jobs in the labor market.

The Reagan Administration and groups such as AGC is trying to move minorities backward, by attempting to rescind the past Affirmative Action Programs that help to prevent widespread employment discrimination.

If Executive Order 11246 and Section 105(f) of the 1982 Surface Transportation Assistance Act is rescinded, discrimination in employment opportunities for minority groups will result in many minority companies going out of business or suffering severe financial problems.



Reagan and apartheid: rhetoric vs. reality

Along the Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

Part Two of a Two-Part Series.

The Reagan Administration has been more successful in recent months in undermining anti-apartheid forces in southern Africa through different techniques. The key to the strategy is the separation of South Africa's current unrest from the political dynamics of the region's neighboring states. The rhetorical condemnation of Pretoria is followed by political and military aid to South Africa's allies.

The best example is that of Angola. In early June, Lewis E. Lehrman, a millionaire Republican, caucused with South African-supported terrorists in southern Angola, led by Jonas Savimbi. Technically, the meeting was set to initiate a "Democratic International" of anti-Soviet groups. Representatives from Laos, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua were in attendance to sign the so-called "pact." Lehrman claimed he was not a personal spokesman for President Reagan — however, he stated that the new alliance was "an expression of the President's sentiments." All parties vowed to "cooperate to liberate our nations from Soviet imperialism." Reagan has also stated of Savimbi's group: "Their goals are our goals."

The significance of Lehrman's little excursion was not lost in Washington and Pretoria. Lehrman was narrowly defeated in New York's gubernatorial elections in 1982, and it is an open secret that he plans to run for President, probably in 1992. His private organization, "Citizens for America," has members in over 300 Congressional districts. One week after Lehrman's visit, the Senate voted to repeal the Clark Amendment, a nine-year-old ban on armed aid to South African-supported terrorists

inside Angola. In July, the House also voted to repeal the act by a vote of 236-185. Many liberal Democrats were stamped into supporting the measure, fearful of being called "pro-Communist." But as Senator Edward Kennedy observed, "the constructive engagement policy of the Reagan administration has failed and the administration knows it — so they want to abandon the peaceful route of negotiations and resort to a military one."

The Congressional repeal of the Clark Amendment sent a "green light" to Pretoria. The apartheid regime understands that the overthrow of the Marxist Angolan government and the suppression of neighboring Namibia are crucial to its continued existence. Thus when Black workers inside South Africa staged demonstrations this July, the regime responded by a national state of emergency. Apartheid's leaders are correctly convinced that Reagan's verbal jibes are meaningless, and that the suppression of human rights throughout the region had the administration's continued blessings.

The U.S. State Department has recently confirmed this analysis. In a recent official study, the Reagan Administration stated that the racial unrest inside South Africa "is not a revolutionary or a prerevolutionary situation." Economic boycotts would "not stop foreign investments," according to one State Department official quoted in the *New York Times*. "People who want to invest always find a way to do it." And as for the recent uprisings of Blacks, the real position of the State Department is one of contempt: "Sharpeville blew over, Soweto blew over, and even though this is worse, there's nowhere it can really go."

The strategic considerations of Pretoria and Washington are based on the erroneous assumption that protests against apartheid can be "managed" or "manipulated." But throughout the summer inside the U.S., protests and rallies against South Africa have continued. In late July, over 2,000 delegates at the National Urban League's 75th annual conference demonstrated at the South African Embassy in Washington, D.C. On July 24, demonstrators picketed the Federal building in Seattle, Washington, demanding the end of U.S. investments and loans to South Africa. On August 2-4, an anti-apartheid regional conference was held in Chicago, with Chicago mayor Harold Washington and a leader of the ANC. Even the AFL-CIO released a press statement attacking South Africa's state of emergency as "the most extreme violation of all basic rights." Organized labor has called for the use of "economic and diplomatic" pressures to halt racist violence within South Africa.

The only hope for a peaceful solution in South Africa is the release of Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners; the immediate negotiations between legitimate Black leaders and the white minority regime with the stated goal of the abolition of apartheid; and the extension of democratic rights to the nonwhite majority. Neither Reagan nor the leaders of South Africa are willing to accept these terms — and protests from Americans and Black South Africans will continue to escalate until these conditions are met.

Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University, Hamilton, New York.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY



By John Trever

Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

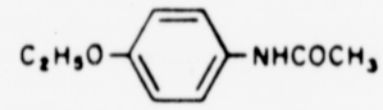
FDA testing procedures insufficient

A few weeks ago new research was released that revealed that phenacetin intake was highly correlated with an increased risk of developing bladder cancer. This pain medication had, until recently, been available as an over-the-counter (OTC) product, including its use in the product Darvon.

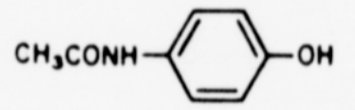
In the early 80's, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) placed this substance in a more restricted category, requiring a doctor's prescription, and the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR) warned that phenacetin "if taken in large doses for long periods in combination with other analgesics, is associated with severe kidney disease and with cancer of the kidney." The most recent research shows cancer potential with as little as three doses per month for one year. As a product used for menstrual pains this is by no means a "large dose."

Why do we continue to find so many "holes" in our drug testing processes? Last year's Senate revelation that over 4,000 drugs were available in the U.S. which had not complied with FDA safety standards reveals one of the major holes. More relevant to the phenacetins, D.E.S.'s, acetanes, etc., is the basic tenet of toxicity studies which assume that all test animals are similar and equal to humans, who of course are all alike.

The LD50 (lethal dose 50 percent) which involves drugging dogs, monkeys or other species with sufficient levels of the test substance to kill 50 percent of the population proves only the toxicity levels relevant to that species. While human cell cultures may eventually make the LD50 obsolete, the stubborn self-interest of the research community will fight tooth and nails to preserve this practice of "horror" which has shown far too many "green lights of safety" for products



PHENACETIN



ACETAMINOPHEN (Tylenol)

which when experimented on humans have been proven as unsafe.

Another important factor which accounts for much error is the fact that humans are often given numerous chemical substances which may interact with each other. It is impossible to provide a matrix of drug interactions in animal studies which completely investigate the possible adverse reactions among different chemicals.

Finally, one of the single most important reasons that we continue to kill and injure thousands of people with our "safe new" products is that like most regulatory agencies the FDA and National Institute of Health are comprised mostly of industry (pharmaceutical), and research personnel who like "old dogs" are quite disinterested in new approaches to drug development and safety standards.

Phenacetin which is converted into acetaminophen (Tylenol) through normal metabolism has a long history of health concerns. In the early 70's, a group of Oregon researchers sent findings to the FDA that showed measurable levels of phenacetin in patients' serum who had not taken the drug for 3-4 months. The FDA returned the findings without taking any substantive action on these dangers.

If the FDA were more willing to pull suspicious drugs out of the market instead of waiting to "prove" the

dangers with human tragedy we undoubtedly would be a healthier and safer society. Ironically most drug manufacturers feel current regulations are much too restrictive and that standards should be lowered.

While the close association with Tylenol does not mean that Tylenol will cause cancer, Tylenol is also not a benign substance. The PDR says that "acetaminophen in massive dosage may cause hepatic toxicity" (hepatic = liver). Massive in this case means around 20 OTC Tylenols, which has always seemed to me a relatively low level for possible lethal consequences.

The best recommendation I can make, is to limit your intake of medications. My article on the importance of fever reported recent research that holds the fever process as essential to complete resolve of some illnesses (first reported in *Science 84*, Nov.). Many of the symptoms that our drug indulgent society wish to eliminate are the results and byproducts of an active and healthy immune system. When we prevent their completion through drug interference we may actually worsen our long-term health. Learn what your symptoms mean and what makes them worse or better, and change the habits that may contribute to your health concerns, exercise and eat more whole grains, fiber and green leafy vegetables.



The Dallas Morning News

Portland Observer

The Portland Observer (USPS 959-680) is published every Thursday by Exie Publishing Company, Inc., 1463 N.E. Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97211, Post Office Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

The Portland Observer was established in 1970.

Subscriptions: \$15.00 per year in the Tri-County area. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Portland Observer, P.O. Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208.

Alfred L. Henderson, Editor/Publisher
Al Williams, General Manager



288-0033

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
New York



USPS 959-680-085
©Exie Publishing Co., Inc. 1984

MEMBER

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER Association - Founded 1885

PORTLAND OBSERVER — \$15 for one year — \$25 for two years

Box 3137, Portland OR 97208

Mr. _____
Ms. _____
Miss _____

Street _____ Apt. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CLIP IT

TO START THE PORTLAND OBSERVER COMING EVERY WEEK