

# EDITORIAL/OPINION

## State Could Use Contra Funds

Now that the U.S. Congress has voted down President Reagan's request for \$100 million in humanitarian and military aid to the Contras trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government, government officials in Oregon should petition for the \$100 million.

The money could be used towards addressing the serious problems facing the State criminal justice system. Due to the lack of funding, police agencies are being forced to cut back on special mission operations designed to reduce the occurrence of crime. Because of the lack of jail space, dangerous criminals are being given written citations without being arrested. This procedure also applies to certain types of rape and assault cases.

The lack of adequate funding of the criminal justice system has resulted in another serious problem; disrespect for the law. Knowing there is not enough jail space and only those who commit serious crimes will be sent to jail; drug pushers openly sell their products on city streets; prostitutes openly

perform sexual acts in full view of neighborhood residents; criminals are repeatedly committing crimes over and over again. Such a situation results in an increase in crime.

President Reagan has argued that the \$100 million was needed to stop the threat of communism from destroying the United States. Despite the President's claims, many do not share this belief. The failure of congress to pass the President's Contra aid package is an example.

Continuing to underfund this nation's criminal justice system is eroding the livability of our communities. When individuals show no respect for the law, and are allowed to remain free to commit acts of lawlessness against decent citizens in society, law abiding people become hostages within the boundaries of their own self-styled enlightened civilized society. Lawlessness within the United States is a much greater threat to Americans than the Sandinista government.

### Statement of Thomas Novick Oregon State Public Interest Research Group Executive Director, March 19, 1986

In the last year, the insurance industry dramatically raised premium rates for a broad range of consumers. From 1984 to 1985, rates increased 70 percent for certain types of doctors. Lawyers and architect malpractice premiums jumped 300 to 900 percent while day care centers were forced to take 200 to 500 percent rate increases. The list goes on. These insurance consumers could be considered "lucky" as many other professionals and other consumers are unable to get coverage at any price. Many who were able to get needed coverage saw vastly increased premiums for far less coverage.

The insurance industry claims that it lost \$5.5 billion in 1985. When one looks closer at their claims we are reminded of the phrase "voodoo economics". In its loss columns the insurance industry conveniently ignored capital gains totaling \$6.5 billion and federal tax rebates estimated at \$3.5 billion. In addition, the industry includes \$2.1 billion in voluntary dividends paid to stock holders in their loss column. Through creative bookkeeping the industry has manufactured a crisis. It is using this manufactured crisis to enact a series of "tort reforms" in state after state. These so-called "reforms" make it harder, if not impossible, for victims of medical malpractice or dangerous products, such as the Dalkon Shield, to recover damages and hold guilty parties responsible.

In the next few days, "tort reform", or tort deform as it has been called, legislation will be proposed in Oregon. The legislation calls for caps on compensation for pain and suffering, restrictions on punitive damages and restrictions on contingency fees paid to attorneys. In addition, the legislation calls for the repeal of joint and several liability, a legal

doctrine in effect for over 300 years, which insures that injured people will be compensated.

Before the Oregon Legislature is blackmailed by the insurance industry into restricting the rights of victims, it is important to study the impact of "tort reforms". There is absolutely no evidence that "tort reforms" make insurance more affordable or available. Evidence points to the contrary.

In 1978, Pennsylvania enacted a law immunizing all Pennsylvania municipalities from most kinds of liability suits and limiting even catastrophic events to \$500,000 per occurrence. Yet Pennsylvania cities and towns are having their insurance policies cancelled.

Having been told that if joint and several liability were eliminated municipalities would be able to obtain insurance, Iowa abolished joint and several liability in 1983. Yet in 1985, 41 Iowa counties had their liability insurance cancelled.

Finally, virtually every "tort reform" measure the insurance industry is seeking, including caps on pain and suffering, the elimination of punitive damages and contingency fees, and penalties for frivolous suits, is currently the law in Ontario, Canada. Still, the insurance industry is raising premiums by 400 percent, cancelling coverage in mid-term and refusing to provide coverage at any price just as it is in the United States.

The insurance industry can not prove that "tort reform" has an impact on insurance rates or availability. Because of this, OSPIRG strongly urges the Oregon Legislature to reject proposals that will limit the rights of victims and to look for solutions which will make insurance affordable and available to all Oregonians.

## Jacob Lists Steps to Achieve Full Employment

On the 40th Anniversary of the passage of the Full Employment Act of 1946, John E. Jacob, President of the National Urban League, declared in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, March 6, 1986, that the promises contained in that act "have come to nothing" and "the promises of the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act of 1978 have been betrayed."

Speaking at a symposium on full employment sponsored by the National Committee on Full Employment, Mr. Jacob pointed out that there are one-third more people in poverty today than there were in 1979, the income gap between the top fifth of the population and the bottom fifth has grown to the point where this country has the most unequal distribution of income in the industrial world, and black unemployment is some 15% while black youth unemployment is over 40%.

"Some people think we have full employment because over a hundred million Americans are at work. But a fifth of them are part-timers, and over two million work full-time for less than poverty level wages. . . . You can't define full employment by white males alone. . . . Full employment is what it says it is — a decent job at a decent

wage for all Americans who want to work," he declared.

Surveying the overall employment picture Mr. Jacob said that over the past six years America has lost 1.6 million factory jobs, it incurred a trade deficit in manufactured goods of \$112 billion in 1985, and while three out of five white workers found new jobs, only two out of five displaced black workers did likewise.

"We have to get our economic house in order" to achieve the goal of full employment Mr. Jacob said as he listed five steps that should be taken.

1. "Rational trade policies that create jobs here at home and don't export them to East Asia and other parts of the globe. That doesn't mean protectionism. But it does mean helping our industries compete, it means forcing our trading partners to create jobs here in America if they expect to sell us their goods."

2. "An industrial policy that preserves our manufacturing base. . . . It means public policies that reward firms for job creation, that create an environment in which they can compete, and that helps them export goods made in the U.S.A. . . ."

3. "Investment in human resources. They are our most precious assets and the place to begin is by ensuring quality education for all American children"

4. "Affirmative action to ensure that blacks, women and minorities share in the benefits of education, training and job creation. . . . Without a strong commitment to affirmative action, even a full employment policy that creates millions of new jobs will leave blacks twice as likely to be unemployed as whites."

5. "A National Full Employment Policy. Not another broken promise, but a real program like the National Urban League's plan for a Universal Employment and Training System that guarantees productive work to all of the jobless and training to all who need it become productive."



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## Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

Last Sunday I attended one of the most stimulating lectures on health that I've ever experienced. The lecturer was Dr. Alexander Schauss, author, international expert on nutrition and behavior as well as Editor in Chief of the **International Journal of Biosocial Research**. He covered many areas of clinical nutrition, especially the role of diet and hyperactivity in children. I'll write soon on reported studies of the relationships of epilepsy and allergies, depression, and anorexia as well as many other international work on nutrition. Today I'll discuss one of the most exciting studies done in recent years.

Just completed, reported at professional symposiums and soon to reach major American journals is a New York School System study that proves conclusively that nutrition is highly related to academic ability. The New York study involved over 800,000 students over a 5 year period. The California Aptitude Test (CAT), was used as a measurement of academic ability, and the increased performance in the CAT scores of New York students was so significant that the statistical probability was less than .000. Never before have I seen a study that had a zero chance of error. The size of the group and the dramatic increase of test scores accounted for the zero chance probability.

What did New York do that so improved their student's scores? In the 1978-79 year the New York City board of education (being the second largest purchaser of food in the U.S., the Army being number one) informed their suppliers that they would no longer feed their 1,000,000 students

breakfast and lunches that contained any synthetic colors, synthetic additives, BHA, BHT or added sugar. The companies all responded that this was impossible, but when they realized that N.Y. was serious they changed their production. Each year the city instituted one change (in 1979 all lunches and breakfasts eliminated synthetic color, sugar in '83, etc.) and each year the city CAT average increased by 3-5%. Some districts removed all additives in one year and their scores reflected an even greater increase. By 1983 the average CAT score had increased from 39% in '78 to 54% in '83, whereas it had not changed by more than 1% in any year from 1969 through 1978.

It is clear that the chemicals and sugars added to our foods interfere with our children's ability to become capably educated members of our society. The evidence of late strongly points to hyperactivity and much violent activity also responds to an additive free diet. The New York school district reports no added costs to the chemical free products that they use, and they will provide a list of the foods to any school district. Presently over 100 school districts in America use this program, but the Portland Public School district is not one of them. I have recently spoken with their nutrition department to encourage them to contact the New York board of education. Our children are much too valuable a resource to waste with unnecessary chemical interference from the foods we provide.

## Letters to the Editor

To The Editor:

### We Must Internationalize Our Struggle

I believe, the whole community should be concerned about the recent Oregon National Guard mission to Honduras. The Editorial/Opinion Feb. 19, 1986 was right on time. Let us make no mistake about the recent Oregon National Guard mission to Honduras. If we allow the buds of fascism that are visible on the U.S. landscape to come into full bloom in this nation, the harvest will not be simply millions dead on battlefields in Central America, the Middle East or southern Afrika. The harvest will be the final Holocaust, a nuclear holocaust that will consume us all and destroy all life on the planet Earth.

Reaganism is an implacable foe of freedom. We must raise the issue of self-determination, justice and human rights for the people of Central America. The U.S. has cloaked itself in the mythology of Manifest Destiny.

The principled outspokenness displayed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X, and earlier by W.E.B. Du Bois and Paul Robeson, set the tone for the Black community to become more and more deeply involved in international affairs. They pointed out that such involvement is not only natural and proper but imperative because the international is more and more tied in with the domestic, all of humanity's condition more and more are tied in with each individual's condition. The leadership given by King and Malcolm has been carried forth in the current period by others, including a (very) few of our prominent church-people and elected officials who have publicly challenged Reagan policies in Central America. But along with our involvement, Afro-Americans should become knowledgeable about international affairs, educating ourselves beyond the information more often, mis-information provided by the establishment media or by the mis-education system. As we continue our centuries-long struggle for equality, let us not at the same time embrace the standard version of the American Dream which has really in large part been a nightmare of genocide, racism and exploitation. Pursuing that dream while burdened with reality, the U.S. has become a tribalized and psychologically unbalanced nation.

I'm inclined to believe, The de-tribalization and spiritual healing of the U.S. require the pursuit of an alternative American dream, one that gives the basic human rights of all human beings throughout the world the highest priority. Afro-American aspirations and interests are part and parcel of such an alternative vision since our own struggle against racism and economic oppression has always been, whether all of us have understood this or not, a struggle for an alternative, fundamentally different society than the one we know. As a visionary of a different and better society and world, I understand the connection between skyrocketing military expenditures, whether on the Pentagon's weapons or on military aid of the kind that goes to Central America, and the cutbacks in social services that adversely affect minority, working class, poor and elderly communities in the U.S. Understanding the connection, us poor folk discern no service to our interests of the interests of most Americans in U.S. military aid that enables wealthy, selfish and racist elements in other countries to keep the majority of the people down in Nicaragua, El Salvador, or Honduras, when families have been dispersed, dispossessed, and disunited. There are many amputees in Central America, shrapnel victims, dehydrated babies, and paraplegics. The ammunition that left thousands dead or maimed is labeled "made in U.S.A."

When you come up knowing oppression face-to-face, you can have more sympathy and understanding for the suffering of others. Those who are moved by a sense of urgency about the danger to world peace in Central America, should spend their next vacation there. You would no longer have to wonder what happened to some of the money that was taken from food stamps for our hungry, what purpose the money is being put that was taken from loans enabling our sons and daughters to attend College rather than end up in prison. Where is some of the money that's being taken from our elderly citizens who have worked all of their lives for just a little Social Security in the end? You will find some of it in Central America.

If Blacks in America would become more concerned with American foreign

policy, then perhaps, we could help humanize that policy. If Dr. King was with us today, he would tell us, Our nation is wrong, abroad and at home. There can be no peace without justice. Amerika needs to learn the Christian lesson that right is stronger than might. Poor people around the world, and in this nation are rising up and saying right shall win out. They are saying that the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "Deep in our hearts we do believe that we shall overcome," mean let there be peace with justice.

Dr. Jamil Cheroveg

To the Editor:

The Compromise of 1866, Indian say "white man must be stupid he build big fire, and sit way back, Indian build small fire sit real close, who could think a simple quote could mean so much in 1986. A fact Zachary Taylor 1784-1850, 12th president of the United States, and few presidents have entered office with less knowledge of what was expected of them.

I would like to persuade voters that I am their best choice for Governor of Oregon, and there are three specific reasons.

Reason one affirmative action: any action that is intended to correct effects of past discrimination, to eliminate present discrimination, or to prevent discrimination in the future.

Reason two environment: the coming together of all external and internal conditions affecting the existence, growth, and welfare of organisms.

Reason three environmental affirmative action: action which deprives an individual of employment or educational opportunities.

I would like to create adverse impact on environment by using 4/5 rule, 4/5 rule is 20% White, 20% Black, 20% Hispanic 20% Asian 20% Indian American. To house specific people for specific reasons in a place as large as the King Dome full of apartments, and heated by wind power, and to buy land from Bonneville Power Administration, for 4 Billion dollars.

Note: I would get Oregon out of the timber business, and into the farm business, if you want me as your Governor please write friends, relatives, and anyone who wants change, ask them to move to Oregon.

Robert Forthan

