

EDITORIAL/OPINION

U.S. Senate Vote, Bad Decision

The U.S. Senate's vote to terminate next year's \$4.6 billion revenue sharing program was a bad decision.

Revenue sharing provides cities, towns and counties with funds to help pay for police protection, road repairs and other basic services.

Thanks to Senators Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood (who voted against continuing the program), Oregon cities will join other cities nationwide that will be forced to cut back vital services to its citizens.

The action by the Senate was irresponsible. Many cities across the Nation are in urgent need of

funds. This is due to an eroding tax base as a result of President Reagan's tax cut.

Eliminating the revenue sharing program will force local governments to increase property and sales tax in most states. This is an unfair burden to put on local officials and citizens. Especially when this country gives billions of dollars a year in foreign aid. Most of it in the form of weapons of death.

The U.S. Senate should be concerned about the livability of our cities. Judging by their vote to eliminate revenue sharing, this is not their concern. Voters should remember this on election day.

Attack on Black Educator

Along The Color Line by Dr. Manning Marable

What do Black parents expect from a teacher or professor in the field of Black Studies? We would expect, foremost, excellence as a classroom instructor and an ability to spark in students the desire to perform at full potential. We would want an individual who is well-read, who is engaged in scholarly research and related activities, and who exhibits a deep commitment to the intellectual and social growth of our children. More than almost any other professor I have encountered over the years, Dr. Mary Hoover of California State University-Long Beach fills these qualities.

Dr. Hoover received her B.A. degree from Howard University and her Ph.D. in Educational Linguistics from Stanford University in 1975. During Dr. Hoover's career, she has published over 20 scholarly articles and two books on literacy education. Professor Hoover has served as a professor at University of Pennsylvania, Edward Waters College, and in 1984 was appointed chairperson of the Black Studies Department and Associate Professor at Cal State. Professor Hoover combines the rare characteristics of being both politically and academically involved. Professor Hoover is a member of the national NAACP's testing advisory board, and has been active in anti-apartheid demonstrations.

Cal State-Long Beach was truly fortunate to recruit Dr. Hoover. Instead, she has been made a victim of one of the most incredible vendettas I have witnessed in higher education in recent years.

When Professor Hoover became chairperson of Black Studies, the department and Black academic community had been under attack for some time. An external review committee reviewing the department states that based on the number of students served, Black Studies should have 11 to 15 faculty. Instead, the administration had hired only six teachers. Between the spring of 1984 and early 1985, Black Studies classes were cut back by one-fifth. Overall Black enrollment at the Long Beach campus also fell from 2,400 in 1981 to 1,800 four years later. Only one in eight Black students at Cal State earns a degree after five years.

Hoover pressed the administration to make long overdue changes. Immediately, the white academic hierarchy criticized her work, and started a campaign of harassment against the Department of Black Studies. Last year, the Cal State adminis-

tration removed Hoover from her post. Inexplicably, the university dean appointed a new chairperson of Black Studies without the department's formal vote during the summer absence of the faculty. One Black Studies faculty member, Amen Rahh, termed the move "the most unprofessional posture that could be employed. It was reminiscent of slavery . . . we're under attack by the white, right wing of the Cal State system." One student publication noted that Dr. Hoover "had majority support of the faculty, but she was passed over for someone who would not rock the boat." By writing anti-racist articles and engaging in anti-apartheid demonstrations, Professor Hoover was "not endeared (by) the administration."

Dr. Mary Hoover's next "mistakes" concerning her role as Director of the Language Skills program at Cal State, where she designed language skills courses and assisted students to study for their writing proficiency exams. Under her guidance, Black students in the Language Skills program performed better than white students in English classes. Instead of being praised, she was demoted from the directorship. The reason? White administrators claimed Dr. Hoover has an "arrogant" attitude! Perhaps they are upset because white students failed to match the standards of Black undergraduates trained by Dr. Hoover.

The assault against Black students and Black Studies at Cal State has become worse. Dr. Hoover stated recently that white administrators "are trying to keep outspoken, political, Black-conscious faculty out of Long Beach." Several "controversial" Black professors were not rehired, despite the fact that they had "the largest attendance in classes." New strict admission requirements which will take effect in 1988 will result in severe reductions in the total number of Black students. Protesting the institutional racist attack at Cal State-Long Beach is absolutely necessary, but not enough by itself, because similar situations are occurring all over the nation. If we value Black scholarship, teaching and service to students, we cannot afford to sacrifice any of our best teachers or programs in Black Studies and higher education generally.

Dr. Manning Marable teaches political sociology at Colgate University. "Along The Color Line" appears in over 140 newspapers internationally.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY

"The Archetype Of A Colonial Society"

"A better word to use than separation is independence. This word separation is misused. The thirteen colonies separated from England but they called it the Declaration of Independence; They don't call it the Declaration of Separation. . . . When you're independent of someone you separate from them. If you can't separate from them it means you're not independent of them — Malcolm X

In any analysis or discussion of the urban crisis in Amerika, our point of reference must be the inherent economic and political contradictions caused by race and class oppression and exploitation of Afrikan people in the U.S. For the dialectic of these contradictions have moved Black people on the East Coast to a struggle to confront the specific social and economic relationships on which the Amerikan political structure and economic system is based. The history of racism in Amerikan life reveals that there has been an elaborate conspiracy to deprive Afrikan people in this country of political rights and economic security through the control of land.

In reconstructing and defining the nature of the Black man's condition in Amerika, the U.S. must be seen as a colonial oppressor and Blacks, as a colonial people within the territorial confines of the most powerful capitalist country in the world. However, in order to understand the situation of the Afrikan colony in this country, today, it is necessary to understand the nature of colonialism. I'm using the term colonial people rather than colonial territory since territory may be developed while the people become less developed.

There is a kind of development, throughout Amerikan history, Blacks were never given access to large amounts of land, rural or urban. The essential social relations between a colonial people and a metropolitan people preclude the development of the colonial people until the relationship is ruptured, since the colonial people do not receive enough goods, services, education, health resources, etc., to produce and reproduce themselves in a fashion that conduces to an accumulation of wealth within the colony. In fact, the separation of the people of Afrika from their territory, the separation of a whole people from the means of production makes Black people in this country the Archetype Of A Colonial Society.

I'm inclined to believe, Oppression can occur in one's homeland or in the homeland of the latter has been suffered only by two great people — the Jews and the Amerikan Blacks. The most conspicuous and significant historical factor relating to the system of exclusion and exploitation of Black people has been the calculated design to maintain them exclusively in a property-less status. In such a position, Black people have always had to turn to and depend upon caucasoid people for every single one of their needs. This situation confirms the colonial captive position of the Black population. Without control over any significant portion of the Area they occupy, and not having ownership of any capital instruments or means of production, Black people are not simply oppressed but are the victims of super-exploitation. The lack of command over land left them without any basic resources essential for self-

sufficient development or the ability to exercise political influence to protect their social interests or even their lives. Ghetto schools are institutionalized agencies for the perpetuation of ignorance. The conditions in big City Black Colonies is a classical reflection that Blacks have become the great surplus of labor. There has been a vital shift in the dynamics of our situation from the economics of exploitation to the economics of uselessness which poses crucial questions of survival. The destiny of Black people has always been tied to our value of Amerika as a profit-making investment. The modern urban dwelling Afrikan population is rapidly outliving its usefulness as a source of cheap industrial labor, and, furthermore, corporate capitalism is not willing to train Blacks for productive use. This is a dangerous situation.

Black leaders should know, that without control over land, resources and production, there can be no self-determination for a people. Every Black person in Portland should read, "The Choice." The Issue of Black Survival in Amerika by Samuel Yette. The works of Frantz Fanon, should be a must in reading for all Black High School and College Students. He deplored a European culture that was imperialistic in its economic, social, and psychological relations with the colonized people of the world. Fanon criticized psychoanalysis in the process of acknowledging that it substituted an ontogenetic perspective for a phylogenetic one, when the reality of colonial oppression necessitated a "socio-diagnostic," or in essence, a sociogenic perspective.

Dr. Jamil Cherovec

Healthwatch

by Steven Bailey N.D.

AIDS Update

Last week's New England Journal of Medicine vol. 314 #17 April 24, 1986 featured a special report "Occupational Risk of Acquired Immune Deficiency Among Health Care Workers" by Eugene McCray M.D. from the center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia. I was particularly interested in this article as I had recently given a lecture to the St. Paul society on the contagiousness of AIDS and had down played the risk of contacting AIDS within the health care industry. This article goes far to alleviate the fears of working with AIDS patients.

AIDS has been shown to be a disease which is transmitted via intimate contact, either through intercourse or by sharing needles in street drug use. This is similar to the method of transfer of hepatitis B virus infection. But this report offers a substantial support to the theory that it is extremely difficult to contract the AIDS condition.

Where as 19-27 percent of health workers who accidentally contaminate themselves with needle or serum from positive Hepatitis B carriers will come down with the disease, the rate of similar

transmission from AIDS is under 1%. In other words fewer than 1 in 100 healthy people who accidentally expose themselves to the AIDS virus will test positive for the HTLV III.

This is a comforting rate of transmission, especially in light of recent studies that suggest the HTLV III virus can survive for long periods outside of the body. What has shown in this study is again the fact that a disturbed immune system is an initial risk for susceptibility to viral infections.

The study suggests that health care workers still use extreme caution in working with AIDS patients. The study also goes far to substantiate the still predominate theory that casual contact with AIDS patients is an extremely low risk situation. The extremist views that we need to quarantine AIDS patients appears to be without any scientific base, and is founded more on fears and prejudice than fact.

We as general public must look at this like other diseases. We must refrain from unsafe sex (use of condoms, and decrease in promiscuity), avoid sharing needles and maintain sane health practices, so we do not individually become more at risk.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Henderson,

We are in the process of getting a petition to change the distribution of 34% of the lottery funds from economic development to primary and secondary school support, as an offset to property taxes. The money, including interest, would be distributed according to school district per capita, and would be in addition to the basic school support allocated to the school districts by the state legislature and administered by the State Board of Education.

We feel that this change would help support the schools, as well as give property tax relief, which in turn, should help existing Oregon businesses and draw new businesses into our state.

We realize this is not the complete answer to the major problem of school support, but it is a beginning. Many people have told us they would buy lottery tickets if the money was going for school support; others have said they would buy more tickets.

The initiative petition has been sent to the Attorney General for a ballot title. After that, there is a period of ten days that written opposition can be sent to the Secretary of State. We were advised by the legislative council that it would be to our benefit to write an argument in favor of the initiative. We are asking anyone who agrees with what we are doing to send a written comment telling why they favor the initiative to the Secretary of State, Barbara Roberts. The address is: 141 State Capitol, Salem, Oregon 97310-0722.

Time to attain 83,361 eligible signatures is going to be limited. To put the initiative on the November General

Election, we must have the signatures in Salem by July 3rd. Not knowing exactly how long the government process will take, and because time is of the essence, we are compiling a list of names and addresses of persons who are willing to circulate the petitions so that we can rush the petitions into circulation just as soon as we can legally begin getting signatures.

We do not plan fund raising for advertisement so we are depending on word by mouth and/or letters. It's important that you tell anyone who will listen about this. If you know any person or group that might be interested in helping circulate the petitions, please ask them to contact us.

Any suggestions or ideas on anything you feel we could do to further our cause would be gratefully accepted!

Thank you,

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Dear Editor:

May 1 means many things to many people. To me it brings happy personal memories.

First, of my mother helping us children to make little paper baskets, and then candy for them. On May Day she took us into the woods gathering yellow violets to top our baskets — which we hung on friends' doors.

So, when my husband-to-be and I announced our engagement, naturally we hung little May baskets on the doors of college friends!

Historically, May Day is a very old people's holiday — greeting the Spring — in Western Europe and the British Isles. Celebrated by great country fairs, with music, dancing and feasting.

Happy memories of May Day were brought to our country by many Europeans in the 1800s, along with their trade union traditions. By the 1880s the 16-hour day had mostly been brought down to 12 hours — two shifts a day in the steel mills.

In the 1870s the American Federation of Labor grew from the old Knights of Labor. A main concern of the members was a shorter working day. So they chose May Day in 1886 — 100 years ago — to "down tools" and march to start their campaign for an eight-hour day.

A few years later a world conference adopted the "made-in-the-U.S.A." holiday, May 1, to work for the eight-hour day. They called it International Workers Day — the gift of the people of our country to the world.

Yours very truly,

Violet Orr
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