



CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

A NEWS SERVICE
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

"Keep Your Eyes On The Prize"

So many strong, moving images are contained in the TV series, EYES ON THE PRIZE, that one is hard-put to isolate just a few. This magnificent 6-hour documentary of the Civil Rights Movement shows, more than anything else, how the people of this nation, and particularly the African American community, became the best that they could be during this time. Personal courage and sacrifice, intelligence and fortitude—all are represented here, not only in the leadership, but in the regular people who sustained the Movement.

In the first segment we are shown Mose Wright, the elderly uncle of 14-year-old Emmett Till. Till had been taken from his bed one night for saying, "Hey, baby" to the wife of a white store owner. Till was later found floating in the Tallahatchie River. This was Mississippi in 1954 and no one expected the white men who killed him to be convicted, and in fact they were not. What made this case so different was the personal courage of both Till's mother and his uncle. Under threat of death and with no protection, Mose Wright stood in a tense courtroom and pointed to the white murderers. In this lone act of personal courage he foreshadowed the kind of strength and commitment which would indelibly mark this period.

In the Montgomery Bus boycott segment we are shown an entire Black population which refused to ride the busses for 381 days because they would no longer be pushed to the back of the bus. They walked 6, 7, and often 8 miles a day, through two winters. Mrs. Georgia Gilmore, who walked those many months, explained the unity of the people in this way: "They had been mistreated, and mistreated in so many different ways, until I guess they were tired and decided they just wouldn't ride."

In the school desegregation segment we hear from the Little Rock 9, now adults, but then only teenagers. We hear them speak, almost off-handedly, of the threats and the physical violence that they were subjected to every day when they integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957.

We hear that same courage in the voices of Black

Mississippians as they explain why they continued to try to register to vote, even as their leaders were assassinated, their homes and churches burned to the ground. As Unita Blackwell, now mayor of Mayersville, Mississippi notes, "I guess our courage came out because we didn't have nothin', so we couldn't lose nothin'. But we wanted something for ourselves and for our children, and so we took a chance with our lives."

This deep commitment is echoed again and again throughout the series. But it is particularly evident in the young people. You see it in the eyes of young demonstrators in Birmingham, you see it in the stride of the student sit-in leaders in Nashville. Young people are not only the followers, they are the leaders—the strategists—of this Movement.

For this reason it is crucial that young people, particularly, see "EYES ON THE PRIZE". They must know of the courage and commitment of others their age which produced significant changes in this society. They and their adult counterparts must also understand that this kind of Movement is possible again, and that they must take an active role in sustaining it.

As the Rev. C.T. Vivian notes at the beginning of the program: "[The Movement] was a clear engagement between those who wished the fullness of their personalities to be met and those who would destroy us physically and psychologically. You do not walk away from that! This was what Movement meant. Movement meant that finally we were encountering on a mass scale the evil that had been destroying us on a mass scale. You do not walk away from that! You continue to answer it."

As this country experiences a level of racial violence the depth of which we haven't seen since the 1960's, we would all do well to heed those words. EYES ON THE PRIZE will air for the next few weeks over PBS television stations nation-wide. Call your local station for day and time. Then tell your friends and your churches—for the role of the church is everywhere in evidence. And join the family around for a program whose power and joy you will not soon forget.

EDITORIAL/COMMENTARY

Drug Testing of Transportation Good Idea

The recently announced plan by Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole calling for stiff drug testing rules for transportation workers is a good idea.

The drug testing program calls for random screening of airline pilots, railroad workers, air traffic controllers and other selected transportation employees. Presently, testing policies are limited to pre-employment, post-accident or "reasonable suspicion".

Secretary Dole called for a sweeping drug-testing shortly after the Jan. 4 crash of an Amtrak passenger train and a Conrail locomotive in which 17 people were killed and 174 injured. Drug tests conducted after the crash turned up traces of marijuana in the blood of the two Conrail engineers involved.

The public, who use private and public transportation, are entitled to know that the people who are serving them are free of drugs. Nowhere does the private choice to consumer drugs have more devastating public consequences than on our nation's roads, rails, water- and airways.

No only will stiffer drug testing of transportation workers prevent future accidents from occurring, random testing and screening will save hundreds of lives and reduce injuries. Citizens who're concerned about the safety in public transportation, should urge their elected representatives to support legislation supporting random drug testing and screening of transportation workers. We, the public, are entitled to a safe, drug-free transportation system.

Freedom and Social Justice

by Alexander R. Jones

Children Hooked on Drugs

If you have a child who is very active, or not doing well in school, or giving you problems, you must understand that there are psychiatrists out there just waiting to do what you would allow no street pusher to: get your child hooked on drugs. Dangerous, addictive drugs.

The psychiatric industry has shifted its income base in the past ten years from treating adults to treating children. The result is that the number of children in psychiatric hospitals has gone up nearly 400% in just the past five years. The number of children being diagnosed with "mental illness" is up over 1000%!

Many of these children are being put on Ritalin, an amphetamine; a type of drug known commonly on the street as "speed". It can have very serious side effects when the child is on the drug, and also during withdrawal.

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) has published an information letter which outlines many of the adverse and oftentimes frightening effects of this drug. This list of adverse effects was compiled from authoritative medical and pharmaceutical references.

They include:

- During withdrawal or reduction of dosage, children can become very agitated and even suicidal. SUICIDE IS A VERY REAL RISK DURING WITHDRAWAL OR REDUCTION OF DOSAGE.

- Ritalin must not be used on children under six years old. This is a manufacturer's warning since one of the long term effects of Ritalin use on children is stunting of growth (both height and weight).

- Ritalin apparently lowers the "convulsive threshold." This means children with no previous history of seizures may become epileptic with seizures, convulsions or fits. All such seizures cause permanent brain damage.

And there is more. If you would like a free copy of the CCHR information letter, write to Alexander R. Jones, Church of Scientology International, Suite 200, 316 Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

Alexander R. Jones is the Director of Minority and Third World Affairs for the Church of Scientology (R) International.

Alcoholism—The Quiet Epidemic of Ruined Lives

by Dr. William Tutman, Ph.D.

While AIDS and the "new war" on illegal drugs continues to occupy media headlines as two of the nation's most pressing social problems, another more widespread epidemic quietly eats into the heart of the American culture. Its tentacles reach into all levels and classes of society—from the rich and the famous, through the middle class and down to the homeless poor. Victims of this deadly disease come from Black, White, and virtually all the races that make up our social fabric.

Alcoholism is so prevalent in our society that we sometimes tend to overlook it as a social and medical problem, at least until a close acquaintance falls prey. It is when we see first hand the terrifying effects—families torn apart, individual careers ruined, and an untimely death—that we suddenly realize just how real the situation is.

We might also come to appreciate how many of our other pressing social problems are frequently linked with the addiction and misuse of alcohol—child abuse, unemployment, and divorce, to name but a few.

Which is not to suggest that alcoholism is the sole factor contributing to the increase of these. But at the same time, the irresponsible and often violent behavior which accompanies alcoholism very often manifest itself as other additional social problems.

How many people have worked hard to build a decent career and a family only to have it all come crashing down because of a drinking problem? According to

statistics, as much as 10 percent of the general population are alcoholic.

There is a tendency that I have observed for people to look upon alcoholics as simply weak personalities, people who try to bury difficulties rather than deal with them. Yet new research is showing that the nature of alcoholism is far more complex. A recent study of adopted children in Iowa, for instance, showed that rather than the 10 percent general population statistic, 1 out of 4 sons of alcoholic fathers became alcoholic.

This study, as well as similar statistical research in Denmark and Sweden, has prompted more intense investigation of the possibility that alcoholism might be inherited. Meanwhile, a lack of understanding of the actual causes of the affliction has meant that even some of the most successful alcoholic rehabilitation programs in the past have had a heartbreaking problem with the large numbers of people who revert back to alcohol afterwards.

Research determined that all alcoholics are so because of past moments of pain and unconsciousness which adversely affect them below their awareness. Such incidents, which are called "engrams", frequently occur while a baby is still in the womb. These discoveries, verified by a high rehabilitation rate in rehabilitation programs, show that even if children are separated from their parents at birth, they often have deeply hidden "engrams" involving an alcoholic biological mother or father.

MONEY MANAGEMENT

A weekly column on personal finance distributed by the Oregon Society of Certified Public Accountants

Tax Preparation And The Senior Citizen

When taxpayers reach the age of 65, they become eligible for several special tax benefits. Knowing about these credits and other tax tips can help seniors avoid paying more taxes than necessary, according to the Oregon Society of CPAs.

One very important source of income to most senior citizens is their Social Security benefits. But, just because they decide to retire and collect Social Security benefits does not mean that they have to stop working altogether. Senior citizens can continue to work and collect these benefits as long as they do not exceed income requirements. Persons between the age of 65 and 70 are allowed up to \$7,800 of income in 1986 while still collecting full benefits. Those age 70 or above can work and earn as much as they want and still receive full benefits.

When seniors receive money from sources other than wages they might find that it will affect the taxability of their Social Security benefits.

Single taxpayers 65 or older do not have to file a tax return unless their gross income is \$4,640 or more in 1986. Married couples where one spouse is 65 or older do not have to file unless their joint gross income is \$6,910 or more. If both spouses in a married couple are 65 or older, together they can earn up to \$7,990 before they have to file a return. In any of these situations, taxpayers must file a return to receive any refunds. They must also file a return to receive any re-

funds. They must also file to qualify for any deductions or credits.

If you are 55 years or older and sold your home in 1986, you may avoid taxes on profits of up to \$125,000. To qualify for this exclusion, not only must you or your spouse be 55 years or older at the time of sale, but you must elect to take this exclusion, which is only offered once in a lifetime, and have lived in the home as a principal residence for three out of the past five years.

There are other tax benefits available only to older Americans. If you are 65 or older, or if you are under 65 and totally disabled, you may qualify for a special tax credit. Known as the credit for the elderly or disabled, qualified individuals can reduce their tax bills depending on the amount of tax-free Social Security benefits they receive, their adjusted gross income and their filing status.

Along with these credits, seniors are eligible for an exemption simply based on their age. All taxpayers are entitled to take a personal exemption worth \$1,080. However, taxpayers 65 and older on or before January 1, 1987 qualify for an additional exemption. Joint filers can take two additional exemptions if both are 65 or older.

Looking for a certified public accountant in your community? Call the Oregon Society of CPAs, (503) 641-7200.

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Portland Observer

The Portland Observer (USPS 959-980) is published every Thursday by Eze Publishing Company, Inc. 1463 NE Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97211. Post Office Box 3137, Portland, Oregon 97208. Second class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

The Portland Observer was established in 1971.

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.

288-0033

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER Association - Founded 1885

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

National Advertising Representative
Amalgamated Publishers, Inc.
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