

NATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

Jesse Jackson on the Persian Gulf and Social Security

PERSIAN GULF

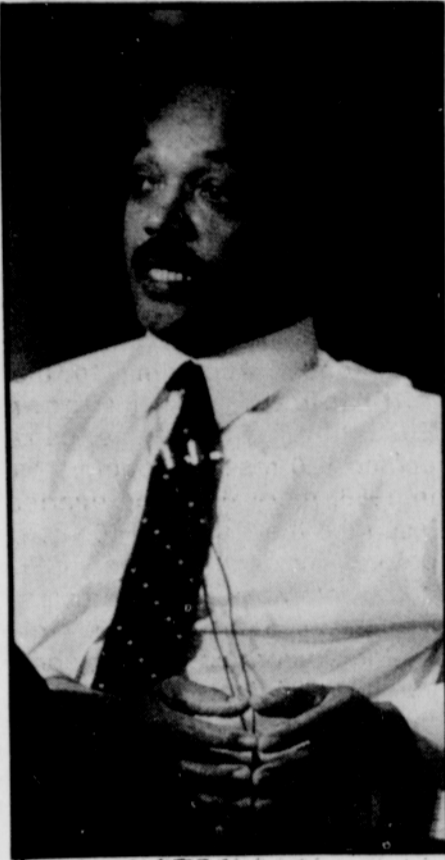
Bring Real Security to the Gulf

Resolving the war between Iran and Iraq is the key to security in the Persian Gulf. At best, the Iran-Iraq conflict turns the Gulf into a floating demilitarized zone. At worst, the war ultimately threatens the nuclear holocaust we all wisely fear and must work earnestly to avoid.

The United States is justifiably concerned about peace and stability in the region and must maintain a commitment to achieve these goals. Maintaining the freedom of people, oil and other commerce to peacefully travel in international waters is essential.

To bring security to the Persian Gulf, I propose we vigorously support UN resolution 596. My administration will call for an Iran-Iraq cease-fire. It will call for the withdrawal of all forces to internationally recognized borders. Also, it will call for an exchange of prisoners of war, the establishment of an impartial body to inquire as to who started the war, and reconstruction efforts.

If Iran or Iraq won't abide by a cease-fire, we must work with our allies and the United Nations Security Council to enforce an international arms embargo on both combatants. France, Britain, and Israel, as well as the Soviet Union and China, must be called to account for any further shipments. We cannot accept "business as usual" with China while young American soldiers are targets of Silkworm missiles supplied by the Chinese. We cannot accept defending the Gulf for our allies while they send weapons that continue the war.



We have much to lose if the battle in the Gulf continues. It can expand and ignite the flames of a major regional war. The economic impact of such a war would be disastrous. With American troops at risk and the countries of the region facing off with U.S.- and Soviet-made weapons, the increased possibility of superpower confrontation exists. The human cost of such a war would be incalculable. Peace in the Gulf is the imperative of the hour. We must be determined and active in our resolve to achieve such a peace.

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Take it Out of the Political Football Game

As president I will work vigorously to build confidence in the Social Security system, not to undermine public support for it every time the budget is debated in Congress. Striking fear into the hearts of the elderly every year by calling for reductions in the COLA or by suggesting that the program be needs-tested will have no place in a Jackson administration. We should even consider making Social Security into an independent agency to

take it out of the political spending game.

I want to improve on the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program as well. Currently only one-third of the elderly who are eligible participate, due to poor outreach and education about the program. Those who do participate are only brought up to 75 percent of the poverty rate. It will take about \$5 billion to bring the 3.3 million Americans on SSI up to the poverty level. Closing the estate tax loophole passed in 1981 would raise twice that amount.

Finally, legislation is needed to deal with the problems of private pension plans. Employer contributions to the Pension Benefits Guarantee Corporation must be increased to cope with underfunded plans and ensure a steady income for those who have earned it. We need new regulations to stop corporations from terminating overfunded plans. The merger mania on Wall Street is bad enough when you consider how harmful it is to the economy. But it is even worse when you consider corporations are terminating the pension plans of seniors to acquire more assets to fuel this unproductive activity.

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Economic Sanctions Campaign Announced in New York



Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

NEW YORK — The escalating racist violence in New York has prompted African American leaders here to return to an old but effective strategy of the civil rights movement — economic withdrawal. On Friday, February 19, the Committee for Economic Sanctions Against Racism in New York announced that two New York-based companies, Macy's Department Store and Sterling Drugs, Inc. (maker of Bayer Aspirin, Phillip's Milk of Magnesia and D-Con), would be the Committee's initial targets.

The targets were announced to an overflow crowd of more than 2,000, which packed Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn. As one member of the audience pointed out after the rally, "This is the first time I've seen this many people come out for anything besides a major racial incident. This group is serious." The meeting at Bethany was the culmination of a series of mass meetings which the Committee had held throughout New York since January.

The Committee is a coalition of over 40 African American leaders in New York from established clergy, business, labor, civil rights, community and youth organizations. They began plans for the economic sanctions campaign in December of 1987. The committee has called its effort an "economic sanctions campaign" to underscore its long-range scope and to indicate the broader purpose of the campaign.

The Committee's research revealed that both Macy's and Sterling Drugs maintain relations with South Africa, do not deposit in African American banks in New York, do very little advertising with Black media or Black advertising firms and make minimal use of African American contractors and vendors. Additionally, Macy's relegates most of its African American employees to visible but low-paying cashier and sales jobs, while promoting its white employees to executive management positions.

Referring to the broader goals of the sanctions campaign, speakers at the rally spoke of the escalating racist violence and what they called "the dehumanizing conditions which our people are forced to endure in New York." As Bob Law, a nationally syndicated talk show host and one of the organizers of the sanctions campaign, explained, "We are not saying that Macy's must take a moral position. We are saying that we, as a community, must take a moral position. We pump millions of dollars into Macy's and Sterling — and provide their margin of profit — yet they give

nothing back in return. Business will no longer go on as usual. We have a moral imperative to stop cooperating with our own oppression."

Scores of African Americans, organized by the Committee, recently picketed Macy's and spoke with customers. Many customers were persuaded to go, instead, to other stores, while others, who were carrying shopping bags full of purchases, reentered the store to return their merchandise.

The Rev. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Executive Director of the United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice, and another campaign organizer, while walking the picket line declared, "We have a profound responsibility to unite ourselves in a constructive way. And this is a strategy in which everyone in our community can participate. Macy's and Sterling Drugs are just the first targets. We intend to expand this campaign until we fundamentally change the power dynamics that have controlled and allowed this overt racism to continue."

This long-range goal was reiterated by another campaign organizer, the Rev. Calvin O. Butts, Executive Minister of Harlem's Abyssinian Baptist Church and president of New York's Organization of Afro-American Clergy. He noted, "African Americans spend over \$290 billion a year, yet we spend it primarily in communities other than our own and with those who do not support us. The business community will ignore us only as long as we permit them to do so. We understand that this is a long-range strategy, but we know from the response thus far that the people are ready to support us. And if we succeed here, it will send a message to the rest of the nation."

The Committee for Sanctions is hoping to nationalize its campaign in the coming months, particularly as the Easter season approaches. As one organizer declared, "We have a profound responsibility not only to struggle, but to win!"

National PTA Helps Parents and Youth Face Pressures of Drugs and Alcohol

CHICAGO, ILL — Stress and low self-esteem, as well as peer pressure, can cause children to decide to drink, says the nation's largest parent-teacher association, the National PTA.

"Preteens and teens with low self-esteem feel powerless and are more vulnerable to peer pressure," said Glenna Gundell, chairman of the National PTA's Health and Welfare Commission. "Telling kids like that to say 'no' is not enough. They may not have the inner strength to resist when peers ask them to drink or use drugs," she added.

The areas of stress and self-esteem will receive special emphasis from PTAs during the National PTA's fourth annual Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week, March 6-12. The theme of the observance is "Parents and Youth: Facing the Pressure."

Peer pressure isn't the only pressure that young people face, noted Gundell. She urges parents to learn how to identify the symptoms of stress in their

children and teens and how to help kids cope with stressful situations.

Experimentation with alcohol and other drugs is often related to stress, as are moodiness, insomnia, preoccupation with negative or angry thoughts or feelings, loss of appetite or eating disorders, and lowered body resistance to colds, the flu or other diseases.

The National PTA suggests that parents do the following to help reduce the amount of stress children and teens may experience:

- Set a good example. When you're under stress, don't take it out on your children.
- Have weekly family meetings to discuss family activities, routines and problems. Work at problem solving rather than confrontation.
- Show affection by hugging children often and letting them know you love them.
- Give children some undivided attention every day. Talk

about both the happy and the stressful events in their lives. Let them know you understand their concerns and take them seriously.

During the week-long observance, thousands of local PTAs across the country will hold meetings and sponsor events to help parents and the community be more responsive to the needs of adolescents experiencing peer pressure, stress or low self-esteem.

Information related to these topics is available in the National PTA's Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week planning kit and in its "Parenting: The Underdeveloped Skill" program box. In addition, the association is working with the Keebler Company to produce a self-esteem film, leader's guide and brochure for parents, emphasizing how it related to the use of alcohol and other drugs. The film and accompanying materials will be available in July.

Currently available are two

publications for parents on the subject of drugs. "Young Children and Drugs: What Parents Can Do," (available in English and Spanish) offers advice to parents on ways to develop children's self-esteem. The brochure suggests parents teach children how to feel good about themselves through honest communication, cooperation and personal responsibility and the ability to make judgements and decisions.

For parents of older children, the PTA has developed "Drug Abuse and Your Teens: What Parents Should Know." A single copy of each publication may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope to the National PTA, Drug Pubs, 700 N. Rush St., Chicago, IL 60611-2571.

For more information about Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week and year-round drug abuse prevention activities, contact Jeanne Koepsell in the Program Department at the National PTA.

1-800-GC-BUILT
1-800-632-FISH
1-800-423-WARM
1-800-852-SAFE
1-800-SPA-TIME
1-800-443-PUMP
1-800-722-WATR

We spell help in some very unusual ways.

For instance, the number above that ends in PUMP puts you in touch with all kinds of information on heat pumps. The number that ends in SAFE yields information on outdoor lighting. The number that ends in WATR covers electric water heaters. And the number that ends in WARM is for weatherization.

Fact is, we have a direct line for virtually every one of our services — so we don't waste your time switching you from line to line. To call, simply look us up in your local telephone directory.

There, help is spelled just like you'd expect. "Portland General Electric."

PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC

WOZA (wo'zuh)

To rise up.

WOZA RUTH

WOZA STEVE

WOZA LILIAN

WOZA ROBERT

WOZA BRAM

See Entertainment Page

DON'T WAIT TILL IT HURTS

Periodontal disease is painless. It affects 87 of the population, and often victims are unaware. There are warning signs, and the American Dental Association and our staff want you to be aware:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do your gums bleed when you brush your teeth or toothpick between them? | Yes No | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Are your gums red, swollen, or tender? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 3. Are your gums pulling away from your teeth? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 4. Do you see pus between your teeth and your gums when the gums are pressed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you owe it to yourself to bring it to the attention of your dentist or hygienist. Act now and keep your teeth for a lifetime.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5. Are your permanent teeth or separating? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Is there any change in the way your teeth fit together when you bite? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Is there any change in the fit of your partial dentures? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Do you have bad breath? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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