

EDITORIAL

Editorial Articles Do Not Necessarily Reflect Or Represent The Views Of The Portland Observer

The purpose of JaxFax is to provide new information, to educate, to provide a progressive interpretation of issues, and to provide avenues for direct action.

This week a combination of all 46 Senate Democrats and 22 Republicans voted 66-34 to strip a section of a House bill passed last Spring that would have denied benefits to women who have additional children while on public assistance. The denial of the so-called "family cap" was supposed to be a victory for moderates and liberals.

The question of welfare reform is focused on the interconnection between poverty, welfare dependency and out-of-wedlock births. The Christian Coalition and its "Family Contract" supported the family cap. The micro debate over welfare reform limits our ability to see the macro possibilities—that for which we should really be fighting.

The real cure for poverty, welfare and the dependency syndrome is a full employment economy with adequate wages. We do need serious

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

Welfare Reform Requires Jobs For All

governmental social policies that support family life, but the current destructive and idiotic proposals before Congress are not them.

We need a family policy that says, if family members choose to care for the very young and the infirm themselves, they should be able to do so without undue financial hardship. JaxFax believes that it is the responsibility of government to provide support to family members who interrupt employment to perform work in the home. Government should also subsidize non-parental

child care for children in the preschool years. The recently passed unpaid family leave of 12 weeks is a step in the right direction, but falls far short of what other democratic industrialized countries are doing.

The next step toward recognizing the value of family care is to pay for family leave through income transfers. Germany now supplements paid parental leave with a paid child-rearing leave of 36 months, although at amounts insufficient for a single parent to support his or her family. In Sweden, either parent may have a

government sponsored paid leave at 90 percent of earnings (up to a limit) for 12 months, plus a flat rate for three more months. Ultimately, the goal in Sweden is for 18 months.

As part of a "Lifelong Learning" package, family care-givers should have opportunities for job training or education to minimize losses in occupational development and mobility as a result of their absence from the labor market.

The availability of nonparental child care reduces the interruption of employment and earnings.

Child care is essential if women are to participate on an equal footing with men in a full employment economy. Indeed, child care is a step toward reducing gender inequality in the workplace.

The Clinton Administration has favored the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), yet EITC offers no income support to the millions of persons who are unemployed, or who have left the labor force as a result of illness, family care responsibilities or to escape oppressive working conditions. There is no substitute for jobs and adequate wages!

perspectives

Anatomy Of A Language: Beyond The Dictionary

Last week I promised that, "we're going to explore some specific approaches to both receiving and disseminating information that will make the learning and communication process a breeze". Well, how about a couple of good strong gusts in a world where we are about to be overcome by the barrage of information (noise?) from media and cyberspace.

Let us begin with "Roget's International Thesaurus: Fourth or the Fifth Edition", published by Harper Collins, and available at



By Professor Mckinley Burt

most bookstores. A lot of us have had fun -- or pain -- using the dictionary to either shed light on some arcane statement of an author, or just to improve our vocabulary. Ha! but you haven't lived until you've learned to use and love Dr Roget's handy helper; for the reader, writer or speaker. There follows a passage from the foreword.

"The success of the thesaurus as a practical aid has been immense. Literally millions of people have put Roget's work to its widest proper use as a memory-jogger for words they know but cannot recall, or as a source of words new to them which, when the sense is confirmed by looking at the dictionary can become a part of their active vocabulary."

"Thousands, too, have used Roget's as a browsing book, a book that stimulates thought and exploration because it uniquely collects great semantic 'domains' under large conceptual headings -- and shows by the manner of organization the tracks the mind may take as it ranges about in a given territory."

Believe me, that is not an exaggeration; people to whom I've recommended the book have said they have not only found it of extreme value in improving their writing skills (and income), but have spent hours, entranced by the new dimensions of thought unleashed. The same holds true for the students I've taught, including the very young. As the publisher says, the 'dictionary' is just a starting place; do fly first class. In the section, "How to use This Book", you are directed as follows (That "Index"

is really a super-dictionary).

"The International is a 'true' thesaurus, compiled according to the plan devised originally by Peter Mark Roget. It has a text of about 150,000 words and phrases, arranged in categories by their meanings, and a comprehensive index. The search for a word that you need is a simple two-step process which begins in the index." (that "index" is actually a dictionary, but one like you never saw before).

"Suppose you want a word to describe something that is without a well-defined

shape:
1. In the index, look up the word shapeless and pick the subentry closest to the meaning you want. Shaped made 167.22 planned 654.13 shapeless abnormal 85.9 formless 247.4 inconstant 141.7 obscure 549.15 ugly 899.8 unordered 62.12 vague 514.18 shapely beautiful 900.17 well-shaped 248.5. 2. Follow its number into the text and you will find a whole paragraph of adjectives for things "shapeless" or "formless."

247. Formlessness

1 NOUNS formlessness, shapelessness; amorphousness, amorphism, amorphia; chaos, confusion, messiness, orderlessness; disorder 62; entropy; anarchy 740.2; indeterminateness, indefiniteness, indecisiveness, vagueness, mistiness, haziness, fuzziness, blurriness, unclearness, obscurity.

2 unlicked cub, diamond in the rough.

3 Verbs deform, distort 249.5; uniform, unshape; disorder, jumble, mess up, muddle, confuse; obfuscate, obscure, fog up, blur.

4 ADJS formless, shapeless, featureless, characterless, nondescript, inchoate, lumpen, blobby or baggy [both informal]; inform; amorphous, amorphic, amorph(o)-; chaotic, orderless, disorderly 62.13, unordered, unorganized confused, anarchic 740.6; kaleidoscopic; indeterminate, indefinite, undefined, indecisive, vague, misty, hazy, fuzzy, blurred or blurry, unclear, obscure.

5 unformed, unshaped, unshapen, unfashioned, unlicked; uncut, unhewn.

Civil Rights Journal: If Our Children Are Our Future

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON

If Jesse Jackson is right and the true measure of a nation is how we treat our children and our elderly, then recent statistics on U.S. children show that we don't measure up well at all. In a nation of great resources and great wealth, children in the United States are poorer than children in other Western, industrialized countries. Amidst great wealth our children suffer in great poverty.

The Luxembourg Income Study was recently released which showed that only in Israel and Ireland, two nations which have been caught up in war, are poor children worse off than our poor children. Indeed, the United States has the most prosperous children in the world, while having nearly the poorest.

The study measures the annual incomes of the poorest families, in-

cluding government benefits like food stamps and tax credits. But the study does not include free government services, like free medical and child care services available in many European countries, which would probably push the U.S. even lower on the list.

These figures come at a time when 22 percent of American children live in poverty. These figures come at a time when the government is about to dismantle food stamps, cut back tax credits for the poor and cut both child care and welfare benefits for single mothers.

As I write this debate on welfare reform is swirling around in the Senate, where Senator Dole is still trying to get enough votes to pass his reform, which reflects the Contract with America's positions. Meanwhile, others, including Senators Dodd, Kennedy, Hatch and Breaux, are introducing amendments to put back into the budget child care funds, and to eliminate some of the most dan-

gerous provisions of the Dole Bill. Still other Senators are introducing amendments which would further punish poor women and children, such as including foster care and adoption assistance programs in the sweeping cuts.

But where in the Congressional debate is the voice of poor women? Where are the voices and faces of the children who will be most impacted by these cuts? Where is the voice of reason which reminds the nation that we are all measured not by the strength of how much we are able to cut the budget or cut taxes for the wealthy, but by how we treat the most vulnerable?

The Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project has found that 13 million poor children under age 12 are hungry or at risk of hunger. Thirteen million hungry children in a nation of great wealth, in a nation that proposes to give tax money back to the rich. The Department

of Agriculture recently estimated that had food stamp programs been block granted as proposed, \$43 billion in benefits to needy people would have been lost and that states would have been forced to eliminate 17 million people -- half of them children -- from the food stamp program.

As a child growing up in the Nation's Capital, I vividly remember President Lyndon Johnson calling this nation to a War on Poverty. I remember his challenge that we as a nation must do better so that no child would be hungry, so that every child would have a bed and an opportunity to learn. How have we lost that commitment and that compassion in only a generation? If our children are our future, are we as a nation saying there is no place for poor children and, like the biblical Isaac, they must be sacrificed? Or, if poor children are to be part of our future, how can we sacrifice the future of our nation by not providing child care and food?

influenced and justified the tactics used against them.

According to the Canadian Alliance in solidarity with Native Peoples, the atmosphere in Canada is very tense. There is growing outrage at the government's use of force rather than diplomacy. At CASNP's request, I sent letters to the prime Minister of Canada, Jean Chretien; the Premier of British Columbia, Michael Harcourt; and British Columbia's Attorney General, Ujjal Dommanj, urging them to restrain the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and to desist in their campaign to demonize the Shuswap. But much more support is needed. The situation in British Columbia is still dangerous, and international pressure is critical to help avert a bloodbath. Please phone, or fax letter of protest to: Premier Michael Harcourt -- (604) 387-0087 FAX; or Attorney General Dossanj -- (604) 387-0087 FAX; or Prime Minister Jean Chretien -- (613) 941-6900 FAX; or RCMP Squad at 100 Mile HOUSE -- (604) 395-3605 Phone; or CASNAP (416) 972-1573 Phone / (416) 972-6232 FAX

THIS WAY FOR BLACK EMPOWERMENT

Canadian Government Repression Must Be Stopped

BY DR. LENORA FULANI

Last week, I was contacted by Kahn-Tineta Horn, a Native Canadian and President of the Canadian Alliance in Solidarity with Native People (CASNP).

She informed me of several confrontations that are currently taking place between Canadian police and Native peoples. On June 24th, a standoff had begun in British Columbia, Canada, between traditionalist members of the Shuswap Nation and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Currently, over 200 armed Mounties, armed with M-16s and 9mm automatic pistols have cordoned off a 5200 Square Kilometer section surrounding the Shuswap and are preparing for an armed assault.

In a separate incident, the most recent being September 7, 3 members of the Potawatami Nation in Ontario were shot by the Ontario Provincial Police at Ipperwash Provincial Park, located on the St. Clair River. One man, Dudley George, was killed.

Both disputes center around land rights. In British Columbia, at the

request of a white rancher, the government has attempted to evict the Shuswap from their sacred Sundance lands, on which the Shuswap have worshiped for centuries. The Government is treating them as trespassers and common criminals. The Shuswap maintain that they never ceded their land to the Canadian government, and therefore the government has no legal jurisdiction. They want the matter to be settled by an impartial third party.

The land at Ipperwash, which was usurped from the Potawatami by the Canadian Armed forces during the Second World War, was supposed to have been returned, but instead was turned into a national park. Last month, Potawatami men, women and children stormed the gates of the park to reclaim their land.

Such conflict is nothing new. The history of both the Canadian and United States governments is that of constant disregard for native peoples, and their land rights. When formal agreements and treaties are made, they are almost always violated.

One new feature of this current

situation is that the Canadian Government and Canadian media are trying to label the Native peoples as "Maverick Cultists" and "Terrorists." It is a part of a recent pattern in which small religions, non-mainstream political groups, and other anti-establishment organizations that oppose the policies of their governments are given the "Cult" label. In the 1950's, the term "communist" was used to demonize opponents of the U.S. Government. Now that the cold war is over, new labels are being used to dehumanize dissidents.

Here in the United States - a country founded by religious mavericks - the term "Cult", an unscientific and politically loaded term, is being used to tar and feather the very people and organizations that our Constitution is supposed to protect from persecution. Such demonization creates and environment where the violation of Constitutional rights - be they Canadian or Untied States Constitutional rights - becomes possible, if not probable. Witness the outcome in Waco, Texas, where the labeling of the Branch Davidians as a cult

"Along The Color Line"

Million Man March: An Analysis Of Black Protest , Part Two

BY MANNING MARABLE

The national mobilization to build support for the "Million Man March" on Washington, D.C., scheduled for October 16, is rapidly building momentum.

Led by Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam and former NAACP national secretary Benjamin Chavis, the march has captured the awareness and interest of thousands of African-Americans. The call for the Million Man march comes at a critical moment of crisis in the political history of our people. We can understand and appreciate the meaning of this mobilization, its possibilities and its problems, by grounding ourselves in the traditions of black struggle.

The best historical parallel with the Million Man March is provided by the famous "Negro March on Washington" mobilization of June, 1941. On the eve of the Second World War, black trade union leader A. Phillip Randolph issued a series of demands against the Roosevelt administration. His chief aims were: the outlawing of government contracts in defense-related industries which practiced racial discrimination in hiring; the abolition of racially segregated units in the US armed forces; and an executive order abolishing Jim Crow segregation in every department of the Federal government. To obtain these demands, Randolph promised to bring one hundred thousand black people to Washington, D.C.

The March mobilization was all-black. White progressives could offer political and material support, but they weren't allowed to join the protest. Randolph explained: "We believe that Negroes need an all-Negro movement, just as the Jews had a Zionist movement. We believe that Negroes should supply the money and pay the price, make the sacrifices, to break down the barriers to a realization of full citizenship rights of America." At the last moment, the Roosevelt administration agreed to sign Executive Order 8802, desegregating employment in wartime factories, an action creating hundreds of thousands of jobs for African Americans. The March was called off, but it achieved a major political objective. We must assess the current effort

to mobilize African Americans today against the historical standard of Randolph and the events of 1941. To date, the March has been endorsed by a broad spectrum of African Americans. On the left, Harvard professor Cornel West, author of Race Matters, has expressed solidarity for the March. West States: "this march is for anyone who has been disrespected, denigrated and disregarded. It's about us coming together for the sake of the true, the beautiful, and the good."

The 1941 all-black March on Washington tells us that struggle is the best and only means for an oppressed people to gain their freedom. Hopefully in 1995, we will struggle to achieve that same level of commitment to political resistance.

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