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

id to Dependent Corporations costs U.S. taxpayers at least \$250 billion a year-yet has avoided the scrutiny of the 104th Congress. The Boston-based Share the Wealth Project believes this is a key time to talk about how the sacred cow of "corporate welfare" has gone completely untouched and that the wealthy are sacrificing absolutely nothing in Congress' proposals to balance the budget. Billions upon billions of taxpayer dollars go towards increasing the net profits of big business, while communities across this land are forced to do without even the most basic of necessities.

As economic insecurity and job loss has crept up the economic ladder, citizens are demanding that state and federal governments eliminate handouts to corporations who propose to give nothing back to communities in return.

An example of this was last Super Bowl Sunday in Boston, January 28, 1996, where nearly COALITION

Share The Wealth

1000 people packed historic Fanueil Hall for three hours to tell five congresspersons and Senator John Kerry (D-MA) their concerns about the state of working America. This event deemed a "Public Hearing on Economic Insecurity" was a dramatic effort from the grassroots to show that 1996 would not be the year of business as usual.

Citizens demanded their elected officials break with the status quo saying enough is enough when it comes to "corporate wel-

fare" and giveaways to the wealthy. They urged them to support two pieces of legislation including the Corporate Responsibility Act (H.R. 2534), introduced by the Congressional Progressive Caucus, an omnibus bill taking direct aim at over \$800 billion in federal corporate welfare giveaways over the next seven years. No more will companies like McDonalds and Sunkist be given direct checks from the Agriculture Department to advertise overseas or millionaire

ranchers get subsidies to raise their cattle on federal land if this bill had its way.

Forum participants also advocated for the Income Equity Act (H.R. 620) introduced by Representative Martin Sabo. The Income Equity act corrects a major wrong by boldly raising the federal minimum wage to \$6.50 an hour and while also linking executive and workers' pay by limiting the tax deductibility of executive compensation to 25 times that of the lowest paid full-time workers at the same organization.

These two legislative efforts will not by themselves stop the tide of corporate greed that flows in our land, but they are a bold start. For more information on these two bills or to purchase an Organizing Kit (\$6 including postage) telling how your organization can join the fight against Wealth-fare contact: Marc Bayard at Share the Wealth, 37 Temple Place, 3rd Floor, Boston, Ma 02111, 617-423-2148, Fax 617-695-1295 or E-Mail stw19@nfi.com.

erspectives

Floods:

Black History Records Ancient Triumphs - Accommodations

he devastating rampage of the Willamette and Columbia rivers and their life-threatening tributaries serves to remind us that man has long sought to occupy the lush flood plains of the earthbut with varying degrees of success.

Just a few years ago, this fact was most forcibly impressed upon us by extensive media accounts of

the destructive rampaging of the mighty Mississippi River. A full century of dam-building, levee construction and other hydraulic enterprises by the famed "U.S. Corp. of Engineers" was to no avail against natures fury. Man's arrogance reaped a bounty measurable in the loss of scores of human lives and scores of billions of dollars in farm lands, crops and other flood plain property.

Yet again in modern, times, we may recount the experience of the Bureau of Reclamation (U.S. Dept. of the Interior) when its massive Teton Dam in southeastern Idaho failed on June 5, 1976. As a member of the City of Portland, Water Quality Committee, in 1994 I was able to obtain from the Water Department Library a copy of the massive "Final Report" on the disaster. We will soon see how this relates to ancient African History.

Constructed in the same manner as the Idaho dam, the oldest archaeological remnant of a massive rock and earth filled dam in the world is in Egypt, some 30 miles south of Cairo. The "Saddel-Karara" (Arabic for 'Dam of the Pagans) is 4 1/ 2 thousands years old, with a crest Part of this process must cer- length of 348 feet and rock base of 348 feet, and height of 37 feet. Between the walls was 30,000 cubic yards of rubble masonry, 78 feet thick. This structure was then duplicated 118 feet away and the intervening space was filled with 60,000 tons of gravel. See first chapter of "A History of Dams", Norman Smith, Citadel Press, 1971-72 (History reveals the African dam held intact for centuries.

As we shall see, this was not an extraordinary accomplishment for Africans of the time; not for a culture that developed technical and administrative skills that surpass those of some 'modern' European countries. We are indebted to Dr. Karl W. Butzer of the University of Chicago a magnificent piece of research into the driving force in the development of early Africa in the Nile Valley; "Early Hydraulic Civilization in Egypt: A study In Cultural Ecology", Karl W. Butzer,

etal, The University of Chicago

"On several flood plains of the Old World, the development of irrigation farming and urbanism appear to have gone hand in hand to produce a number of 'hydraulic civilizations." (Dams canals,

Professor

Mckinley

levees, other channeled waters, sophisticated bureaucracy). We learn from such authors as Tompkins. Breasted

Erman, etal--and from university research of the last two decades-the contrary to earlier prejudiced scholars these structures were not constructed by vast numbers of slaves. Recent excavations have revealed that adjacent to all large public works (including the pyramids) were housing developments for paid workers, foremen and supervisors. Records show that each year the astronomers forecast the date for the rising of the Nile, where upon the quite sensible people moved to higher ground where they worked on other building projects until the waters subsided (including livestock).

Many left their graffiti, as well as etchings in stone; grumbling about the pay scale, challenges to other shifts to meet their production goals and praises to the gods and to the "Minister of Public Works." This was the usual title of the Kings Vizer or Architect. Especially see accounts of Egyptian Queen Hatshepsut's Chief Architect, Senmut, who is responsible for the queens magnificent temple, admired all over the world, yet today. And for the "modern urban design" of her cities with their broad boulevards, city squares, public buildings, municipal gardens and a zoo. Napoleon's expedition brought back to Europe documented evidence of all these and many other brilliant accomplishments in science, technology, etc.

Readers and students interested in illustrations and photographs of how the Africans forecast and controlled flooding should see the modern material available: "Stevens Water Resources Handbook"; get latest edition; my 1978 copy shows how modern 'Nilometer' evolved for ancient Egyptian model (Leupold & Stevens Inc., Beaverton Oregon manufacturer of water control devices). See pp. 47848 of "Secrets of The Great Pyramid", Peter Thomkins, Harper & Row, 1978 See "Ancient Egyptian Architecture & Construction," Clarke and Engelbach, Dover, 1990.

"Along The Color Line"

Black Liberation: Where Do We Go From Here? Part One of a Three part Series

BY DR. MANNING MARABLE

s we enter the 1996 presidential election campaign, African-Americans are confronted with a series of candidates who can not or will not address our interests.

More than ever before, we need to evaluate what happened to the black community-politically, economically and socially-over the past few years, and map a strategy which will lead to greater empowerment. Black liberation will not be achieved by some pleasant-sounding phrases of white politicians, either Democrats or Republicans. Black liberation must instead be based on a critical analysis of the social forces which have divided our people, and what political steps can bring us together.

Many of our current political dilemmas can be traced back to the collapse of Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition as a national, mass political force after the 1988 presidential election. As extreme conservatives seized power in the 1994 elections, millions of African-Americans felt that their interests were unrepresented and unheard. Conditions in US central cities, and particularly for blacks and Latinos, reached a critical state. As corporations relocated jobs and capital investment from urban centers, unem-

ployment became widespread. Social services, health delivery systems, public housing and public transportation all experienced sharp cutbacks. The quality of urban education seriously declined. Increasingly, the criminal justice system and prisons became the chief means for warehousing unemployed black and Latino young people. By 1995, thirty percent of all black males in their twenties nationwide were either in prison or jail, on probation, parole or awaiting trial. The Los Angeles social uprising of April-May 1992, symbolized black collective outrage against the brutality of the police and racism of the legal system, with the festering grievances of inferior schools, poor housing, second class health care, and widespread unemployment. As racial polarization and reaction increased throughout white political society, African-Americans were forced to reevaluate sharply their strategies for political and social change. In 1993 the position of NAACP national secretary was narrowly won by Benjamin Chavis over Jesse Jackson. Chavis pursued a complex agenda: advocating liberal and progressive public policies and social programs; building strong

logues between all representatives of the black community, including Louis Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam; encouraging productive contacts with the alienated Hip-Hop generation urban black gangs and young people inside the criminal justice system. Chavis's approach briefly won the remarkable support from a broad spectrum of black activists, from nationalists like Maulana Karenga and Haki Madhubuti, to black socialists such as Angela Davis, Cornel West and Charlene Mitchell."

But within one year, a campaign to oust Chavis was orchestrated in the media, supported quietly by more moderate, oldstyle Civil Rights leaders and many "post-black" elected officials. The political space which remained was quickly seized by Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam, advocating a socially conservative agenda markedly to the right of both Jackson and Chavis.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., once asked, "Where do we go from here? We must recognize that there is an alternative to Farrakhan's black nationalism. It is the politics of "democratic transformation": challenging the real structures of inequality and power, restricting the power of corporate capital, expanding social programs to ensure greater opportunities for human development, and building multicultural, multi-class resistance move-

The politics of "democratic transformation" must be grounded in the real struggles for empowerment by African-Americans around day-to-day issues.

A political culture of resistance must be constructed around practical concerns: health care, the environment, reproductive rights, housing, and education. As the practice of coalition building occurs in communities, different groups of people may learn to overcome their stereotypes and fears of each other.

tainly occur within electoral politics, both through the support of progressive Democrats who are committed to this agenda, and more decisively, by the development of independent politics represented by the New Party, Labor Party Advocates, the Green parties, the Campaign for a New Tomorrow led by activist Ron Daniels, and other organizations.

But the next decisive struggles will be waged at the community level, in thousands of neighborhoods, through efforts to transform the consciousness and political practices of those who are most oppressed by the sys-

Civil Rights Journal **A Call To Stand For Children**

BY BERNICE POWELL JACKSON his has been a tough year for our nation's poor children. Their welfare has been teetering like a seesaw on the edge of Congressional rhetoric and political expediency. Millions have almost lost their health care, their school lunches and food stamps and the much-needed dollars which their unemployed or under-employed parents have received.

After several months of political games and stalled budget negotiations, no one is quite sure yet what the Governors' proposed solutions to the welfare and Medicaid stalemates will actually mean for the poorest of the poor or whether those proposals will actually be accepted by the Con-

gress and the President. While President Clinton had seemed to hold the line against the harshest welfare and Medicaid "reforms," both the President and Congress are under increasing pressure to solve the budget problems and get on with life as usual in Wash-

black institutions and coalitions,

establishing cooperative dia-

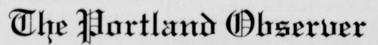
Meanwhile, those who are concerned about children - about poor children and not-so-poor children -- are taking our children's future into their own hands and calling for a National Day of Commitment to Children. This day, to be held on June 1st, will be a day of family and community renewal, celebration and commitment to our nation's children - all of them. Called Stand for Children. It will be held in Washington, D.C. at the Lincoln Memorial, the site of the historic 1963 march on Washington.

"This will not be a partisan or political day, "said Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children's Defense Fund, in announcing the day. Rather, it will be "a sense of fairness, a loving desire to raise moral, healthy, and educated children; a belief that in the richest and most powerful nation on earth no child should be left behind," she added.

This massive day of commitment for children and with children is also designed to send a message to Congress and the President that the fundamental moral principle of doing no harm to children is a line which must not be crossed. It is designed as a day to hold ourselves and our elected leaders responsible for

putting children first. This national day of commitment will be a day for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, advocates and providers, educators and students to come to Washington and participate in this historic day. It is being sponsored by a number of national, state and local groups who are hoping that thousands of their members will participate. If you care about our children, then be prepared to take a stand for them. Be Prepared to come to Washington on June 1st.

(For more information, contact Stand for Children, 1832 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washing ton, DC 20009, 1-800-233



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Letter Co The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to: Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

Dear Ms. Washington: I was recently in Portland attending an affair of the Oregon Black Lawyers. While visiting your city I came across your newspaper. I just wanted to commend you on an excel-

lent newspaper. Keep up the great Sincerely,

James M. Finley Vice President National Bar Association