

"Well, at least I know that my speech was stime

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC admits to torture and execution in prison camps

PRISONERS held by the African National Congress (ANC) were ill-treated, tortured and summarily executed, according to an Al report published in December*. These findings accord with those of an internal ANC commission of inquiry, whose report was made public in October.

For more than 10 years, prisoners held in ANC camps in Angola, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda suffered torture, ill-treatment or summary execution. In the Quatro prison camp in Angola, prisoners were routinely beaten, humiliated and forced to do hard labour. At houses run by ANC security officials in Zambia, prisoners were beaten with bicycle chains and rubber hoses and had molten plastic dripped on them. A number of prisoners were reportedly tortured to death or summarily executed. The ANC has described the prisoners it held as agents of the South African state. but a number of the victims appear to have been members of the

The ANC commission of in- comb said. quiry recommended that those responsible for abuses be identified and barred from holding positions of authority. While the ANC was taking steps to establish accountability for human rights abuses, the South African Government was introducing a law which would shield security officials from prosecution for torture and political killings. The Further Indemnity Act. signed into law in November, establishes a National Council on Indemnity to consider applications for immunity from any person who has "advised, directed, commanded, ordered or performed... acts with a political object". The Council's proceedings will be secret.

The Act has been widely criticized within South Africa and was rejected by Parliament, but the Government forced the measure through by referring it to the 60-member President's Council, which has a built-in majority for the ruling National Party. *South Africa: Torture, ill-treatment and executions in African National Congress camps (Al Index: AFR 53/27/92 December 1992)

THE CHOICE WAS MADE

Do you want a government that comes by the people puters, word processors, typeand for the people, or a government that comes at writers, copying equipment and the people. Your choice the people. Your choice.

- H. Ross Perot two words added to the Pledge of Allegiance - UNDER GOD. Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That's a prayer" and that would be eliminated from schools too?

The Southern Libertarian Messenger Rt. 10 Box 52-A Florence, SC 29501

A newspaper is not for fust reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something. Unit to the testing the testing the new testing testing the new testing testing the new testing testing testing the new testing testin

1993

Vol. 21, # 11

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DAVID MORRIS POS 2297 WEST COLUMBIA, SC 9304

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FLORIDA: Beating of girl called hate crime. Five black women arrested in the beating of a 14-year-old white female runaway were charged under the state's hate crime law after telling Largo police they were "looking for a cracker to beat up." "The ANC's military wing. Umkhonto victim, while she was being beaten, asked why. Someone in the we Sizwe. Spear of the Nation. group - and it was a whole group beating her - yelled, 'Because held for challenging ANC policy. you're white, and we don't like white folks,' "police Sgt. Don Hol-

Taxpayer money being wasted

I was gratified to learn from recent news reports of the efforts of the Honorable William D. "Billy" Boan (D-Lancaster), chairman, South Carolina House Ways and Means Committee and a member of the State Budget and Control Board, to hold down state agency expenditures.

My concern is that during these times of tight money, the South Carolina Department of Corrections regularly hauls prisoners hither, thither and yon for the purpose of the prisoners' pursuing their private lawsuits, litigation having nothing to do with habeas corpus or post conviction relief or the constitutionality of their incarceration. The taxpayers are thus involuntarily providing the prisoner with a vehicle and an expensive personal chauffeur to drive it and keep him company, and to guard him "against all enemies, foreign and domestic," just like the governor. In addition, the department provides him with other assistance for the purpose of aiding and abetting his lawsuits against citizens and taxpayers, including a law library rivaling that provided to a Supreme Court Justice, comtax-paid eye examination and the eyeglasses over which he peers.

When questioned, the department in unable to point to a single case decided by our courts or statute enacted by our elected lawmakers, requiring these expenditures. Moreover, the department is unable to produce an

order signed by any judge directing it to make these expenditures.

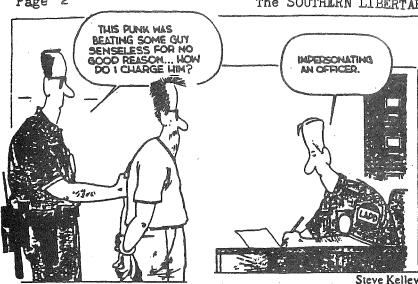
While a breakdown showing the amount of money spent by the department for these purposes is hard to come by, it seems to me that if the department is spending one dime of the taxpayers' money on such bases, its hand should be called - by our attorney general, our statewide grand jury, our state budget and control board, our lawmak-

Recent press reports indicate that due to fund shortages, the department has about 200 unfilled positions for correctional officers; that overworked guards are being overwhelmed while taking prisoners to court; that prisoners are breaking out of maximum-security prisons; and that the department's proposed solution is to use welfare mothers to guard these men. Meanwhile, according to published statements by our state's chief justice, judges may no longer be transported across the state for the purpose of holding court, due to a shortage of funds.

It seems to me that in our zeal for the protection of prisoners' rights, we may have overlooked the necessity to also protect victims' rights, the victims being the citizens and taxpavers.

Chairman Boan and others in Columbia who think as he does ought to be supported in their efforts to put some brakes on this wasteful, if not illegal, expenditure of the public's money.

Mordecai C. Johnson



the Southern Libertarian

ROUTE IO BOX 52 A FLORENCE SOUTH CAROLINA

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John T. Harllee Bob Brakeman

Editor Assoc. Editor

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PHILIPPINES

asks schools to ban 'lewd, indecent' Bible

By Kevin Diaz Staff Writer

Some said censorship would inevitably come to this — and it has.

A 55-year-old Brooklyn Center man, citing various book challenges in Minnesota public schools, has asked that the Bible be removed from the Brooklyn Center Independent School

The grounds: Obscenity.

"The lewd, indecent and violent content of that book are hardly suitable for young students," wrote Gene Kasmar in a July 19 petition to the district. "The Bible quickly reveals its unsuitability in a school and learning environment. . . . [Its] passages have no historical, scientific, literary, artistic or political value,

The New GUN WEEK

Japan Repo Import O

In late August, the German Press Agency noted that there was a time when Japan was considered one of the safest countries in the world, with a remarkably low incidence of violent crime.

But guns and shootings are no longer confined to the shady Yakuza gangster underworld, and there has been a recent spate of violence involving firearms.

The general public is not allowed handguns for self-defense, but the incidents of late indicate that more guns are being smuggled into Japan, reports say.

they would be offensive to even the average adult, and only have appeal to prurient interests.'

INS official investigated

MIAMI — A high-ranking immigration official in Washington is under investigation for allegedly accepting \$5,000 bribes from illegal aliens seeking permanent residency cards, The Miami Herald reported Thursday. Luis Del Rio, director of foreign operations for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, is accused in federal court papers of accepting the payments from Chinese. Colombian and Venezuelan nationals for the so-called green cards, which aliens need to get jobs.

MAN CHARGED: A

federal grand jury indicted an informant blamed for leading federal agents to raid two San Diego homes in search of drugs that didn't exist. An innocent man was critically wounded during one of the

Cat Food Relabeled As Tuna for People

NEWARK, March 23 (AP) - Federal agents seized 38,640 cans of cat food today that they said had been relabeled as tuna to be sold for human consumption.

The six-and-a-half-ounce cans labeled Ocean King Chunk Light Tuna in Water contained decomposed tuna fish unfit for human consumption, the Food and Drug Administration said. United States marshals seized the cans at a warehouse in Teterboro.

Children murdered

Five sleeping children in a village in the southern Philippines were killed in February when uniformed men, reportedly soldiers from the 55th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, arrived at their home and fired at all the occupants.

Teodoro and Demetria Andilab had left their former home in a nearby village when neighbours with whom they were involved in a land dispute accused them of supporting the rebel New People's Army (NPA). The local military then alleged that they were NPA tax collectors.

When the armed men arrived at their home in Upper Calolot, I in hospital.

Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental, on 5 February, Teodoro and Demetria Andilab jumped out of the window and fled to safety.

When they returned, four of their children, Jo Ann, 3; Dina, 4; Margie, 7; and Arnel, 11, were dead. Their two other children. Teodolisa, 11, and Albert, 16, were wounded. Albert later died

GUN CONTROL

As you know I am for gun control: Reasonable citizens being able to hit what they aim at with the first shot - that's my kind of gun control. I want you to be able to have that degree of control regardless of your current level of expertise. Maybe you are already an expert shot, but how is your confidence using all firearms from pistol through rifles to shotguns and assault weapons?

Children

Number of children living in poverty, 1991: 14.3 million Decline in median income of young families headed by a parent under 30 from 1973 to 1990: 32%

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The SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER

Them as can't do, teach. Them as can't teach, teach teachers. - Traditional saying

Officially, America is almost 100% literate; for all practical purposes, every single child goes to school. In reality, though, a large number of adults who have gone through this school system either are not literate at all, or are "functionally illiterate" — they can read and write, but not well enough to do any good. How has this come about?

The most common reason given, especially by the education establishment, is lack of money. (No doubt the fact that more money for education means more money to the education establishment has nothing to do with their claims.) The problem is that spending on education has been increasing signficantly (even after allowing for inflation) the last few decades, and the number of students has decreased, yet the quality of education has declined. America spends more money per pupil than almost any other nation, yet many get far better educated students. No doubt there are some schools which lack money, but on the whole that isn't the answer.

Thomas Sowell, one of the best social researchers in America, has studied the problems of education, and reported the results in Inside American Education. From first grade to post-graduate studies, he has analyzed what we do right and what we do wrong - and why.

One of the biggest problems is tenure (lifetime jobs). It is almost impossible in many systems to get rid of incompetent teachers; nearly all professors are equally secure in their positions (except for the relatively junior ones, who are in fact extremely insecure). Though one can easily think of advantages for tenure in terms of academic independence, it also means insulating educators from the consequences of their actions — so that society pays for their incompetence or misdeeds, instead of the educators themselves. Not everyone is corrupted by this, but a large number are.

Even worse, at least at the pre-college level, is the pernicious effect of education courses. Most states require that teachers take a certain number of education courses, which intelligent people usually regard as total bullshit. They must continue tak-

ing such courses to keep up with their field (studying their academic subject is not required). The result is that intelligent people rarely go into education (education departments have the lowest reputation on any campus), and they are steadily driven out over the years. As a result, we have large numbers of increasingly mediocre teachers.

Naturally, the mediocrities want to minimize competition from the competent, so they lobby (and teachers' lobbies are among the most powerful) to continue the requirements for education courses. In addition, teachers who are of limited intelligence are extremely vulnerable to teaching fads, most of which are worthless, and unable to judge the effectiveness of these fads (and, because of their job security, they have no reason other than pride to be effective).

The result is that our public schools (private schools don't have the same requirements, so they often get better teaching for less money) are busy propagandizing the students, concerning themselves with all sorts of weird psychological theories. (These have the additional advantage of making it hard to evalute their results.) Often the methods bear a close resemblance to classic brainwashing techniques. One of the most important aspects of this is keeping parents uninformed about what is happening to their children; in fact, hostility to parents is a major part of modern education.

One result of this is the increasing popularity of home schooling. I would be very interesting in seeing a comparison of how children taught at home fare relative to children taught by the "professionals".

Many of these same problems turn up in college, though at least the professors usually are competent. (Of course, many of them are spending less time on classwork. Partly this happens because most of their money comes from research, partly because they don't like teaching lower-level courses and tenure largely frees them from having to do so. So student TAs do a lot of the teaching, and their ability isn't as good — many are foreigners with poor communication skills, at least in English.) But colleges have additional problems.

"Man, biologically considered,..... is the most formidable of all the beasts of prey, and indeed the only one that preys systematically on his own species."

Money is one problem. Not that colleges don't have it, but that the sources and uses often have little to do with teaching. Research colleges have very high reputations, but because they devote most of their effort to research (their main income source; Johns Hopkins gets 5 times as much money from research as from tuition), the teaching is often inferior (except at the graduate level, where the students will be research assistants as well as students). Sports also drain money from colleges (except in a very few instances) — and since colleges don't like to admit this, they engage in statistical tricks to hide the fact.

A major problem in colleges is the proliferation of affirmative action programs, especially those involving quotas. The various methods colleges use to evaluate prospective students, such as the college boards, tend to be reasonably accurate for people of all races; but because blacks tend to fare worse than whites, these tests are accused of being culturally biased even though no evidence supports this.

As a result, many colleges admit large numbers of black (and often Hispanic) students who are not qualified by other standards. This results in large numbers of blacks who flunk out of college but who > would have been capable of graduating from a less rigorous one. (It is interesting that this was predicted 23 years ago, and has been observed to happen, yet these programs continue despite the fact that they often harm their supposed beneficiaries.) A wide variety of ra-

cial problems on campus result from this - and these problems happen most frequently at campuses with liberal affirmative action policies (conservative campuses have far fewer such problems even when they nevertheless have many blacks).

I will add an important point Sowell makes on this subject. Racial affirmative action is not the only to form of preferential policies used by various colleges. Many choose similar forms of over-lenient admission standards for other groups, such as children of alumni; the results for these people are similar to those for blacks. The disaster of preferential policies isn't really a racial issue.

Another major problem in college is that attack on academic freedom known as political correctness. (Similar behavior is occasionally found among conservative professors; it's equally wrong in both situations, but the liberal form to is far more common and therefore a greater O

threat.) Cowardice plays a role here; no historian of ancient Egypt believes the "black Egypt" mythologizing which has become a fad among certain black groups, but they won't admit it in public because it's politically incorrect to contradict the blacks. Liberal colleges establish speech codes to fight racial harassment but they usually define them loosely, in order to declare certain viewpoints illegal (which is what many liberals think anyone who disagrees with them should be). A good example is Donna Shalala's University of Wisconsin, which has had two different speech codes thrown out by the courts.

Related to this is the oversensitivity to certain groups. When a student at Harvard (Samuel Burke) saw some people trying to find a place to eat in a crowded lunchroom, he found them a place by removing a sign which said that a table was reserved for a group called the HRGLSA. He probably didn't know what the group was, but he soon learned: they were a homosexual group, which meant that he was a vicious homophobe. Burke was severely pressured by officals who knew that he was having severe personal problems (including the recent death of his father). Eventually the case was a triumph of academic liberalism: Burke went home for holidays, and killed himself. Meanwhile, violence by blacks or homosexuals is ignored, even in

cases of knife-wielding blacks raiding a sorority. After all, blacks are Victims, so nothing they do can really be their fault.

Is there hope for American education? Plenty of things could be done, even aside from shooting every education major. Vouchers for private (and parochial) schools would allow all parents to do what only the prosperous can do today: send their children to schools not afflicted by the self-inflicted ills of public education. In theory, of course, these self-inflicted ills could be removed, but the education establishment will fight ferociously against any reforms (and there are lots of reforms that would be needed). There is nothing wrong with education in America that can't be fixed, but it will never happen as long as our political leaders are beholden to the opponents of reform, and as long as we let education be a place for doubtful experiments the value and effectiveness of which is never judged.

In December of 1992, police and FBI officials raided the regional offices of the ADL in Los Angeles and San - William James Francisco and found classified police intelligence files on Arab-American groups.

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Taking a swig of castor oil

As a boy I must have consumed a gallon of castor oil.

It was my father's miracle drug of the '30s. Cough, cold or croup and here came that viletasting slimy slop clased by orange juice or coffee-flavored milk. More modern medicine tells me all that castor oil did nothing for these childhood ailments. I am sure, however, it gave Daddy the sense he was doing what was right and best for his son. And as much as I hated the medicine, I loved the man who inflicted it upon me.

I got to thinking about the castor oil when I read Monsignor Thomas R. Duffy's letter of Jan. 22 lamenting the fact that U.S. missiles had destroyed some of Saddam Hussein's ability to kill helpless civilians. The target was just one of the Iraqi dictator's violations of the United Nations treaty he agreed to.

This letter and others from the monsignor protesting capital punishment and denying parole to convicted felons is, I think, analogous to Daddy's castor oil — it produces the same results but at least gives Msgr. Duffy the sense he is doing some small thing to improve the world.

Jimmie Howle Quinby

Laws no good if not enforced

People need more than a hand slap for breaking the law and where animals are concerned should not be an exception.

The humane society investigator, Barbara Burns, stated "people need to be aware there are state laws regulating animals." I not only question what good are the laws if they are not enforced, but what good is the humane society if they do not serve in the best interest of the animals.

What makes things worse is this was not the first offense for the owner of the so-called "puppy mill." Is it not the responsibility of the humane society to ensure "breeders" and I use the term lightly, are held responsible for their actions.





IMMUNE DEFICIENT METAPHOR: After the outing of Phyllis Schlafly son, Randy Shilts, gay historian and writer (And the Band Played On, etc.) had this statement: "All these people have gay kids, and they know the line against gays is complete nonsense. It's like being the piano player in the whorehouse and pretending you don't know what's going on upstairs."

CARTOON CRIME: The locksmith of the University of Northern Arizona was recently fired by Affirmative Action police in the administration for having a newspaper cartoon on his office wall. The cartoon pictured three dogs in an alley watching a cat, tail in the air, saunter in their direction. The caption: "She's looking for trouble."

KUDOS TO KAZIN: While many of the second raters in the nation's English departments plow the party line, the distinguished literary critic Alfred Kazin puts political correctness in perspective: "In the name of class-race-gender equality, teachers and students all over America are now being trained in intolerance to defame and exclude those who do not follow the party line. The cultural damage seems irrevocable."



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Mario's Guns

Rep. Mario Biaggi's two federal indictments on unrelated charges for his involvement in the Wedtech scandal and obtaining government contracts for a failing ship repair company have brought to light an interesting fact about the New York congressman.

It seems that the staunchly anti-gun Biaggi, the legislator who tried to wreck the Firearms Owners' Protecttion Act, the man who brought us scare tactic phrases like "cop-killer" bullet and "hijacker special," owns a couple of revolvers.

But, under city law, he has had to turn them in to police while he shoots it out with the U.S. District Attorney in his bribery, racketeering, obstruction of justice, etc., cases.

Poland's Solidarity has created a fund to aid activists who are levied heavy fines for their activism, a tactic increasingly used by the Polish state. Due to impoverished conditions, Solidarity addresses this appeal to its friends in the West:

"The Coordinating Office Abroad of NSZZ 'Solidarnosc' has been authorized to collect donations for the fund to be transmitted to the Commission in Poland. Anyone wishing to help may do so by sending his/her contribution to the Office's account with the CGER Bank, Brussels-Schuman agency, account no. 001-1129179-78; USs account no 005-4335080 (010-13). Checks should be made out to N522 'Solidarnosc.'"

HUNGARIAN CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR IMPRISONED

Zsolt Keszthelyi, 23 years old, was arrested on February 25, 1987, after he refused to serve in the Hungarian army. Zsolt said that "I am not inclined to put my trust in a 'people's democratic' army which is not placed under the control of a government elected by universal suffrage involving competing political programs."

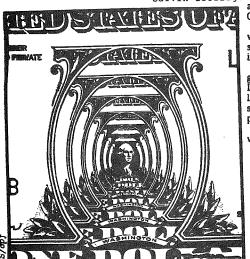
Zsolt Keszthelyi was tried and sentenced in a two-and-a-half hour trial on April 27 to three years in hard-regimen prison. An Amnesty International lawyer who had intended to observe the trial and BBC correspondents were not allowed in the court-

Please write in protest of the imprisonment of conscientious objectors, particularly Keszthelyi, and urge that alternative service to the draft be provided.

Janos Kadar General Secretary Hungarian Workers' Party

choice of schools "THE MEANING OF AMERICA IS NOT TO BE FOUND IN A **Treedom** LIFE WITHOUT TOIL. FREEDOM IS NOT ONLY BOUGHT **Treedom**

WITH A GREAT PRICE; IT IS MAINTAINED BY UNREMIT-TING EFFORT."



Everyone who wants to have their -- Calvin Coolidge children educated in English should be allowed to do so, Quebec Liberal leader Claude Ryan has repeated.

Ryan again pledged that the Liberals would eliminate everything that restricts individual liberty from the province's French-language charter.

In an open letter explaining his language policy, Ryan promised that a Liberal government would open English-language schools to all Englishspeaking children, regardless of their place of origin.

The letter was circulated among voters in Argenteuil riding, where he is running for election to the national assembly in an April 30 byelection.

Provincial legislation now limits access to English schools to children with at least one parent educated in an English-language elementary school in Quebec or those who already have brothers or sisters in the English sys-

Ryan also promised he would allow commercial signs in English, permit the use of either official language in the courts and make all government services and publications available in Eng-

What is a rebel? A man who says no, but whose refusal does not imply a renunciation. He is also a man who says yes, from the moment he makes his first gesture of rebellion.

Albert Camus, The Rebel

When Congress talks of tax reform, grab your wallet and run for cover.

He reiterated the promises later at a sparsely-attended campaign rally where he attacked the Freedom of Choice Party, which is contesting the byelection along with the Parti Quebecois and Union Nationale.

Ryan accused the group of trying to attract the English vote with radical and ridiculous proposals and of setting citizens against each other in the riding.

He said the Freedom of Choice candidate in Argenteuil was trying to make language the principle issue in the

Ryan said he believed the "real and and only challenge" of the election was whether Quebecers could afford to "be run by the PO.

Ryan said the Freedom of Choice Movement had decided to run a local town councillor, Gordon Nesbitt, after the Liberal leader refused to discuss the language issue with regard to the

Dollar falters amid slowing economic growth

publicity everywhere.

One machine can do the work of fifty ordinary men. No machine can do the work of one extraordinary man.

Elbert Hubbard

RON HOLLAND'S REPOR'

A revolutionary age is an age of action; ours America lives in the is the age of advertisement and publicity. Nothing ever happens but there is immediate

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By Ron Holland

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WE. THE UNDERSIGNED SOVEREIGN CITIZENS. agree with millions of our fellow Americans that federal taxes are too high and must be reduced; excessive federal spending must be brought under control; America's greatness is due to rigid constitutional law that provides freedom from arbitrary governmental interference; and violation of that principle has resulted in thousands of federal corporate activities now competing with private enterprise of the American people. Such activities are costing billions of tax dollars.

Expensive giveaway programs, foreign and domestic, are wasting our substance and creating new problems without solving the old ones:

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- "Sec. 3. The activities of the United States Government which violate the intent and purposes of this amendment shall, within a period of three years from the date of the ratification of this amendment, be liquidated and the properties and facilities affected shall be sold.
- "Sec. 4. Three years after the ratification of this amendment the sixteenth article of amendments to the Constitution of the United States shall stand repealed and thereafter Congress shall not levy taxes on personal incomes, estates, and/or gifts."

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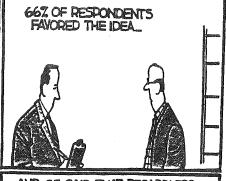
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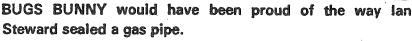
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For Steward plugged the disconnected pipe in his kitchen with . . . a CARROT, a court heard yesterday.

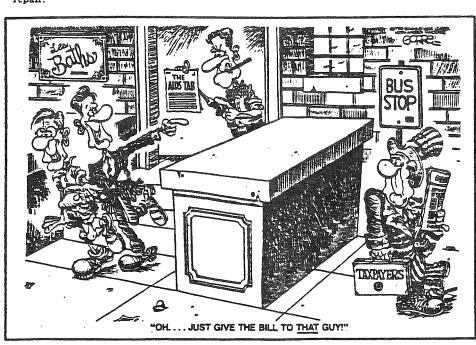
And his wedge with a veg left a big impression on the neighbourhood, too—when his flat exploded. The area was showered with debris and police had to evacuate four nearby

houses.

Steward's flat was so badly damaged by the blast on Christmas night, 1978, it took ten months and £7,500 to

Prosecutor Richard Small told South Shields Small told South Shields magistrates that a fire-man found the charred carrot still in the pipe. Steward, 32, who was at his parents home at the time of the blast in Mowbray Road, South Shields, allegedly told police: "I put it there as a precaution."

He said he might have forgotten to switch off



Robertson, self-confessed male chauvinist pig, was in clover yesterday.

For the discount store boss, who pays women £3 a day less than men, was described by girls working for him as "smashing." a "real gentleman" and "one of the best."

The praise came a day after Mr. Robertson, 58, told a Plymouth industrial tribunal: "Men come first—sex equality laws are nonsense."

At Mr. Robertson's main Trago Mills store in Liskeard Cornwall, Marje

MILLIONAIRE Mike department said:"I don't mind being freated in the old-fashioned way.

DAILY MIRROR,

And, in the tools department, Ruth Manning said: "My old man works here, too, but it doesn't bother me that he gets paid more."

Mr. Robertson is still waiting for the tribunal's decision on a complaint of sex discrimination.

His wife Pam, 52, said yesterday: "His bark is worse than his bite

There is no time more fitting to say Thank You

By Dale McFeatters

A two-hour Moonlighting episode was on TV, and I was on the couch when it first became evident that a new breed of villain was stalking our melodramas.

The villain was a pudgy, middle-

aged white man who threatened to fry Cybill Shepherd on an electric stove.

Upon examination, 95 percent of the villains on TV and the movies anymore are pudgy, middle-aged white men, a group whose numbers include myself.

Look at the summer's hit movies, especially those like Short Circuit and Ferris Bueller's Day Off aimed at kids all the bad guys are pudgy, middleaged and white. Even the films aimed at older audiences, like Heartburn, have as their lead scoundrel pudgy, middleaged white men.

What's more, these bad guys don't hold the traditional jobs associated with villainy — gambler, Mafia don, Soviet leader, cattle baron, mayor.

Instead, they hold middle-management jobs in large institutions — the government, the military, corporations, the public school system.

I think I know why all the heavies are pudgy, middle-aged white men: They are the only remaining minority group that can be offended with impunity. Offending anybody else is racist, sexist, agist, or imperialist, and if you offend the kids they won't go to see your movie.

Almost every advocate of "social justice" has roundly condemned the Reagan Administration's "budget cuts" in the past three years. What these enraged souls fail to ask, however, is whether social spending has actually helped the poor. Has welfare improved their welfare? How much happiness has billions of public expenditures bought? One of the foregone conclusions of contemporary American politics is that Government provides for and assists the disadvantaged class. Quite on the contrary, Government has created the disadvantaged class, and has caullously entrapped it in a perpetual cycle of dependency, hurting the very people it claims to help.

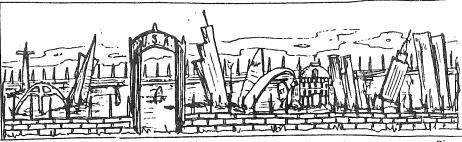
With so much misfeasance to criticize in the Government's billion dollar budget (ranging from the barbarous aid for El Salvador's military to an elitist National Endowment for the Arts), why take aim at something as seemingly bearable as social welfare programs? The poor are, after all, the most missortunate members of our society, with the least options available to them. But this is precisely the point! Most middle-class Americans manage to get by with (relatively) minimal Government intrusion in their lives—they can afford to be cheated now and then by the State. But the financially disadvantaged have no buffer zone against the system that they have been forced to rely upon in the last twenty years.

In his recent book Losing Ground: American Social Policy, 1950-1980 (due this September), Charles Murray, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, has demonstrated persuasively how the perverse effects of Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society" worsened the lot of society's worst-off. Look at the figures: from 1950 to 1966, poverty nose-dived from 45 million persons (30% of the population) to 28 million (or 14.7%), despite rapid population growth and negligible Government expenditures. But from 1966 onwards, at precisely the point that massive social programs were being initiated, the gains against poverty rapidly eroded. And where were we by 1980? Twenty-nine million people—a whole 13.0% of America-below the poverty line: no progess in fifteen years.

This was not just the result of poorly implemented programs (although they are part and parcel of any bureaucratic effort), or an aborted economic recovery (growth in the 1970s averaged 3.2% per year, surpassing the annual growth rate of 2.7% in the 1950s), but the forseeable consequences of Government-created incentives to fail. Unfortunately, it is possible that even with a 13-fold increase in public assistance, a 27fold increase in social insurance, and a 129fold increase in housing, poverty actually increased. If all'the money used in poverty programs today were directly dispenced to the poor, they would each receive \$34,000. And if the poor are not the recipients of these funds, who is? We all know where it goes-

NEITHER RIGHT NOR LEFT/BY DREW CLARK

Great Society, R.I.P.



to the middle-level bureacrats with their pet programs, to the corporations that receive million-dollar H.U.D. grants to build luxury hotel parking lots in the name of "urban developement," or to the professors who take Government-subsidized trips to Miami to study Hunger. These are the poverty pimps: they prey on the wasteful "public" expenditures that patently cheat the poor first through taxation and then through distribution.

Let's take a look at another startling statistic: teen-age unemployment. In 1952, both blacks and whites had high levels of participation in the labor force: unemployment rates were 8.9% and 9.0%, respectively. By 1980, white teenage unemployment hovered at 16.5% while black teenage unemployment jumped to 35.3% and above: it has since passed the 50% mark. Certainly there are many factors responsible for this incredible increase, but it is not difficult to identify the chief culprit-the minimum wage law. As George Mason University Economist Walter Williams has movingly documented in his book and television show, The State Against Blacks, it is precisely those Government manipulations of the labor market like the minimum wage that have effectively eliminated the the bottom rungs of the economic ladder for the poor and minorities. Williams points out that when he was growing up in the 1950s, when the minimum wage was low and seldom enforced, miscellaneous jobs (from movie theather ushers to grocery store sweepers) existed in the inner city that have been either mechanized or eliminated today. They gave Williams and others young blacks in his predicament a chance to learn responsibility while earning an honest buck. But if it is illegal for an employer to pay less than \$4.00 an hour (\$3.35 plus Social Security and other payments) for a job worth only, say, \$2.00 an hour, whom will be the poorer for it? The Government has once again effectively priced poor blacks out of the economy.

All of the depressing accounts of decay and poverty raise the question, of what, if anything, can be done to ameliorate the

condition of the least fortunate. Since government is a part of the problem, it follows that the solution is to eliminate its: presence in whatever form possible. Stifling restrictions on voluntary agreements (like the minimum wage law) should be abolished, or at the very least, a subminimum wage should be allowed for teenagers (a proposal that has recently received the formal endorsement of the Black Mayor's Conference). Occupational liscencing laws (like taxicab medallions that regulate the number of cabs in a given city) restrict competition and monopolize power in the hands of a few established professionals. This process hurts both the consumer and the producer: the taxi patron must pay higher prices for poorer services, and the would-be cabbie is denied the opportunity to enter a promising profession with a low capital start up cost.

But most importantly, people must stop perceiving and using Government as the solution to all their problems. For whenever the political process is used to "benefit" one group of people, another group always losses out—usually the minority, but always the minority political power. It may be deplorable that some people have more resources than others, but more often than not, this is caused by the State's constant interference people's personal and economic lives. And any attempt at Governmental "redistribution" merely seizes from those who have little power and gives to those who have much. It is thus Governnment, in it many forms and many tyrannys, that truly makes a mockery of "Social Justice."

A MAN who spent three weeks in custody after he was found carrying a CS gas canister and a cosh at the Trooping the Colour ceremony last month was given a suspended two-month jail sentence yesterday. Jobless Glenn Edwards, 27, of no settled home, told Bow Street magistrates in London he had brought the gas from Germany for a friend, and had no idea it was illegal here.

He said a policeman had given him a Trooping the Colour ticket as he was passing the gate. Two army Redcaps overheard him criticise the monarchy and told police, who stopped and searched him. Edwards added: "I've no sympathy with the monarchy — but I wouldn't do them harm.