

The word "law" is almost a sacred word in the American vocabulary. Those who were afraid that law would somehow be abused and tarnished toppled a president from office in 1974. Some states go so far as to put criminals to death for violating certain laws.

No matter what law is, why it was made, or how it is administered, most Americans receive justice under the law. But some people have found that some laws are used to abuse and oppress them.

The groups who suffered more from abuse of the law have varied throughout American history. In the early 19th century it was the Indians, along with those of Irish, Chinese and Italian descent. Those of Spanish and Mexican origins began to receive abuse under the law in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The plight of blacks oppressed by the law has been constant since the landing of slave ships at Jamestown.

But no matter what group was affected or how

The Search for Justice In Black America

mala in sa

Part I By Clyde W. Pulley

much injustice it suffered, the United States has a better reputation for making, keeping and honoring the law than any other nation in history.

All nations, groups and societies have recognized the need for laws, made laws and made provisions for penalties of those who violated certain prescribed behavior. The most serious, unacceptable social behavior is imbedded in what is known as *mala in sa* laws, i.e., the behavior is inherently evil and repugnant in and of itself. Murder, rape, armed

robbery and kidnapping are typical of such behavior.

Even if one of these acts is committed by a member of one group against a member of another in the same society, that act is still evil and repugnant to everyone. And no responsible person in any group can morally defend anyone of any other group for committing one of these acts.

Eldridge Cleaver, in his book *Soul on Ice*, attempted to defend his rapes of white women as a

revenge against other whites who abused and oppressed him and other blacks under the law. Hundreds of other black inmates locked away in brutal prisons for having committed a *mala in sa* law also attempt to "justify" their socially unacceptable behavior after having committed such an evil act. But black people of character, integrity and responsibility cannot accept excuses for evil and repugnant acts.

Mala in sa transcend all nations, all societies and all groups. Bodies of governments will continue to make laws and punish those who commit acts of evil. Evil is evil whether it is practiced by blacks against whites, whites against blacks, whites against whites, or blacks against blacks.

For the safety, security, peace of mind and freedom from fear of bodily harm; everyone should hope there will be no change in the way our society and every other society views *mala in sa* laws.

Next Week: Part II - mala prohibitum

From time to time, North State Legal Services is contacted by clients who have returned home to their rented house or apartment to find that the landlord has changed the locks, or padlocked the doors.

In other cases, the landlord has convinced the tenant to return all the keys to the rental unit, before the tenant has even moved out! In some instances, the landlord does this only to evict the tenant, and will allow the tenant back in to remove personal belongings; but, in other instances, the landlord plans to hold the belongings "hostage" until past due rent is paid.

A landlord who does these things without the tenant's permission is clearly doing more than the law allows in North Carolina, and he may be setting himself up for a lawsuit for the damages he caused the tenant. That's what the North Carolina

Plain Talk About The Law

Tenant-Landlord Conflict

By North State Legal Services

Supreme Court decided in a case in June of this year. And, the North Carolina General Assembly agreed when, also this June, it passed a new law which took effect October 1.

This court case and this new statute both say that a landlord who wants to evict a tenant who is un-

willing to move out must take the tenant to Small Claims Court and obtain a judgment; and that if the tenant still won't move out voluntarily, the landlord cannot put the tenant out himself, but must call the sheriff to do it. Likewise, a landlord who has a claim for past due rent must ordinarily

enforce his right to rent by taking the tenant to court and obtaining a judgment which the sheriff can enforce. The landlord cannot seize and sell the tenant's belongings unless the tenant has moved out and left those belongings behind.

And, very importantly, the law now declares void any lease provision which says the landlord can lock the tenant out or can seize the tenant's property before the tenant has voluntarily abandoned it.

All this means that those few landlords who have taken unfair advantage of their tenants now must prove their cases in court, so now people who must rent their homes will have a chance to present their side of the dispute with their landlord. That is a victory for poor people and for everyone who believes that legal rights must be honored in our society.

For more information on your rights as a debtor, contact your attorney or North State Legal Services.

"The Sameness of Minister Gromyko"


Andre Gromyko, the Foreign Minister of Russia, also had a full house for his usual diatribe at the United Nations. Lots say he dealt in open antagonism on his adversary the United States of America. This is nothing new for he has been around for some time sputtering on the subject about American sins and transgression.

Since I am an advocate of Africa, Arab and Caribbean view, progress and reality, naturally I sought out several such diplomats. They felt his speech was simply a reply to the speech of Mr. Haig, when he was in the city of Berlin a few days before. There were others who say it is Mr. Gromyko's celebration of his 25 years as Minister of Foreign Affairs for the USSR. Some observed that it was a discussion of specific areas and situations where the Russians felt their interest was threatened. Afghanistan, El Salvador, Angola, Cuba were some of the places mentioned. These are areas of Russian involvement from which they have been getting much bad publicity worldwide. So, the Russian spokesman was obligated to try to justify South Vietnam presence in these places.

In this light, it was not surprising that Africa and the developing states were somewhat overlooked. For Mr. Gromyko saw all the issues of the world today wrapped up in the single issue of war and peace. After describing what the Soviets consider conditions for peace, his closing statement was "All nations, large and small, who will work for this will always find the Soviet Union at their side."

However, Mr. Gromyko was more detailed in his remarks as against the bread and butter (economic) issues posed by Secretary Haig. He did call for arms limitations; for the SALT II treaty talks. Negotiations on nuclear weapons and a host of other topics dear to his country. He hinted unkind words for China and some others — but mostly the United States.

Although he referred to other trouble spots, his



United Nations

From The Super Powers, Disturbing Utterances— From Africa, The Challenge Of President Moi

Part II By Curtis T. Perkins

remarks on Africa were more bountiful:

"Political means can also be effective in settling other dangerous situations and controversial problems, including the conflict between Iraq and Iran, the Cyprus problem, the situation in Western Sahara and that in the Horn of Africa. The indispensable requirement in this regard is that nobody be allowed to pit one State against another and to capitalize on conflicts between them. There should be no room for imperialist intrigues in those areas.

As is well known, the South African racist regime and its accomplices are engaged in maneuvers aimed at thwarting the decolonization of Namibia. It is a matter of honor and is the immediate duty of the United Nations to help the people of Namibia gain their freedom. The racists and all those on whom they rely must realize that the time of colonialism is past.

An end must be put to South Africa's aggressive gangster-like actions against the People's Republic of Angola and a number of other African countries. It is necessary to condemn those actions, to demand that South Africa cease its armed intervention and to adopt international sanctions against it.

It is precisely this approach that has recently been manifested by the overwhelming majority of members of the Security Council. However, the

United States has prevented that United Nations body from taking an appropriate decision, thus openly defying the African peoples and world public opinion.

The United States' support for South Africa constitutes direct assistance to the aggressor. Such a

How to get the most from your bank

SAFETY OF DEPOSITS

by Beunice Peterson

When you enter a bank, have you ever wondered what the FDIC sign on its door means?

For those who lived through the Depression, that acronym may mean more than to a younger generation. It means that the money they have on deposit with their bank, in whatever form, is insured up to \$100,000 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Customers can rest assured that if the bank fails, getting back their money will be no problem.



Beunice Peterson

But it wasn't always that way. In the four years after the crash of the stock market of 1929, over 8,000 banks closed their doors and depositors lost their money.

To help bail the country out of its economic quagmire, Congress passed the Banking Act of 1933 which did a great deal to restore public confidence in the banking system. The act imposed certain restrictions on banks, but most importantly it created a system of protecting deposits through federal insurance. Consequently, the FDIC was established and its functions are:

- to set standards of operation for its members
 - to examine them to ensure compliance with the standards
 - take any one of several actions designed to prevent a troubled bank from failing, and
 - pay depositors if an insured bank should fail
- National banks — those banks which have "national" or N.A. (national association) in their name — and other banks who are members of the Federal Reserve are required to join the FDIC. Today, over 98 percent of all commercial and savings banks in the United States are FDIC members.

A bank pays one-twelfth of one percent of its average total deposits annually to the FDIC fund. The fund built up from these assessments provides the insurance fund, and the FDIC is authorized to borrow directly from the U.S. Treasury if additional money is needed.

Every national bank in the United States is subject to a thorough examination at least once a year by one of three federal agencies, one of which is the FDIC. By keeping its finger on the pulse of a bank's operations, the FDIC knows well in advance if a bank is having problems. If the problems cannot be resolved the FDIC usually arranges for a healthier bank to take over the deposits of the failed one. The accounts of depositors at the closed bank will automatically shift to the new bank.

When a bank is forced to close, and there are no other banks to take over the deposits, the FDIC will usually begin payments to depositors within 10 days after the date of the final closing.

While bank failures are rare, it's important to your financial well-being to be sure that your deposits are insured.

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course must be resolutely condemned. The United Nations should do everything that is needed to put an end to the aggression and call the aggressor to order. The decision recently adopted by the General Assembly at its special session on Namibia is a step in the right direction."

Needless to say, many Africans saw a little sympathy for their fight for Namibian independence and against apartheid in South Africa and independence for the Polisario in Western Sahara.

His statement in behalf of Arab rights also received some favorable comments.

Here are Mr. Gromyko's words in this time consuming area:

"The struggle of Arab peoples to defend their legitimate rights, trampled underfoot as a result of Israel's aggression, elicits understanding and support on the part of an overwhelming majority of countries. If justice has not so far been restored and the situation in the Middle East remains dangerous, it is because those in Israel's ruling circles persist in their expansionist policies and do not stop their brutal terror against the people of Lebanon, while influential forces outside that area actually en-

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Close families should never let a few hundred miles keep them apart.



Whether your family is scattered across a county or across the country, you can still get together often. And inexpensively.

Just go Greyhound.

We can take you and your family to just about any city or town in America.

And we can take you there in style. In safety. And in comfort.

So next time you want to get the whole family together, leave your car at home. Leave your worries at home. And leave the driving to us.



Reward it with Touch Calling.

It points. It pokes. It scratches. And it does a million other things you just take for granted.

Do something nice in return. Give it a Touch Calling phone from General Telephone. It's faster and more fun to use than dial phones. (Not to mention more efficient.) You can choose from a variety of styles and colors. And your finger will absolutely adore the effortless calling.

All in all a really inexpensive way to express your gratitude.

Touch Calling available in most areas

