

# Editorials & Comments

## A Question Of Survival Gun Or Butter?

In the largest increase in defense spending ever sought from Congress in peacetime, the Reagan Administration proposes to raise military spending for 1981 and 1982 by \$32.6 billion. The increase would be on top of the \$22 billion defense spending increase proposed by the out-going Carter Administration earlier this year.

The proposed increases, unprecedented for its planning time, will increase virtually every major category of defense spending. These proposals would increase the number of people in the military services over the next two years by 45,000. This would bring our total military personnel up to 2.1 million. In addition, about 211,000 defense related jobs would be added to the nation's workforce.

In its simplest terms, and in the language of economists, Reagan's defense spending proposals mean more guns (military spending) and less butter (consumer goods and human services). While the President claims his budget proposals would preserve the "social safety net" of income security and welfare for the neediest, the budget nevertheless proposes a \$13.8 billion cut in over 200 social service programs. These include jobs programs, housing production, education, food stamps, veterans benefits and water works projects.

In announcing these shifts from butter to guns, President Reagan said, "the plan I outlined will stop runaway inflation and revitalize our economy if given a chance." However, a closer look at how the U.S. economy really works would indicate that an expanded military-industrial complex may very well increase inflation, not reduce it. First, since the nation's medical doctors, nurses, engineers, city planners, and most of its teachers, are employed full-time, it is difficult to see how the nation can preserve the "social safety net" with already existing shortages in health services, education, housing and water projects in the face of the demand-pull for such manpower for military use. The end result of this demand for a limited supply of skilled and technical labor will be wage-price inflation.

## Hardware

Secondly, inflation pressures will build from what Seymour Melman calls "parasitic economic growth." This involves the payment for work whose product - military hardware - immediately leaves the marketplace. In effect the wages paid to produce military goods cannot be used to buy back such goods. Therefore, those wage dollars must be used

1969 reads as follows:

-By 1968 there were over 6 million grossly substandard dwelling units in the nation.

-In 1968-69 over 10 million Americans suffered from hunger.

-In 1966 the U.S. ranked 18th among nations in infant mortality rate.

-In 1967 40.7 percent of our young men were medically or emotionally unfit for military service.

-The number of medical doctors per 100,000 population declined from 109 in 1950 to 98 in 1966.

-About 30 million Americans continue to be an economically underdeveloped sector of our society.

## Attitudes

Furthermore, the priority given to our military-industrial complex has led to a deterioration of our civilian industrial technology. This was led to declining productive output and more negative attitudes toward the work ethic in our nation's labor force.

These observations are not to suggest that the nation should abandon its military preparedness. They are, however, to remind us of the social and human cost of failing to keep our military priorities in perspective. Furthermore, as Max Lerner has so aptly reminded us, like the Russians, we already have enough military fire power to destroy the earth seven times over. Therefore, building a bigger atom bomb accomplishes nothing. Would we not all be better off if equally as much human effort were devoted by all nations to preserving the peace?

After all, World War III, if it happens, will truly end all wars because civilization as we know it will no longer exist. Therefore, the only thing we stand to lose in the pursuit of world peace is the possible loss of self destruction and a civilization of ashes and dust.

Peace, brother, let us pursue peace.

## Something

### On Your Mind?

Something on your mind is the name of a column devoted to our readers of this newspaper -- as long as it relates in some way to young people, regardless of age.

It will be written by you and about whatever is on your mind! So, if you have something to say...WRITE ON!

Some subjects that may be of special interest to you are: Drugs, Generation Gaps, Welfare, Generation Gaps, Welfare, Gangs, School, Going Steady, Police Revolution, Whites, Blacks, Integration, Busing, Draft, God, Negro churches, etc.

## UNITED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP...NEEDED NOW



...LONG RANGE PLANNING SHOULD FIND BLACK BUSINESSES, PROFESSIONALS AND POLITICIANS TO THE FOREFRONT OF PLANNING IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY. IT IS ONLY BY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CLOUT THAT ETHNIC GROUPS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ADVANCE.

### Like It Really Is!

## History Belongs To The Winner

By Jim Ingram  
Special To The Post  
Years Upon Years of watching Black History Month come and go, and then seeing such history largely ignored the rest of the time and blurred, distorted and deleted by the dominant culture's literature, has taught me that History belongs to the winners.

+++  
..There has to be a better way of regulating those railway crossing signals.

+++  
Have you had to wait at one of those railway crossings lately, only to watch an invisible train pass?

+++  
..The smart husband always remembers that it's his wife's birthday, but forgets which birthday.

+++  
..I don't want to put anybody in the dozebox, but most men who run down women all the time are really running down one woman only.

+++  
..The guy who hollers constantly, "actions speak louder than words" usually is the same guy who, when his actions turn out badly, has to hire a guy with words to explain what went wrong.

+++  
..Why is it that so many motorists seem to think the term "obstructing traffic" is now obsolete? Maybe it's just the changing times, but more than every today I seem to notice drivers who will simply pull out into traffic whether they have the right of way or not, and most times they do not. Then when their actions cause an accident, they act as if they had no fault in the collision.

+++  
..Those who give, hoping for some reward at a later time, are not giving. They're bargaining.

+++  
..If we wish to know the force and power of human political genius, we ought to watch Coleman Young. If we wish to see the insignificance of human learning, we may study his critics.

+++  
..Why is it that the American male, so obsessed with photos and figures concerning the female breast, is always shocked or embarrassed when a foreign woman begins breast-feeding her baby publicly? The American culture is absurdly pro-breast except when that breast is being used for the function God intended.

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..Those who incorrectly compare the breeding of humans with that of gods and horses might do well to

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consider that the only "purebred" people known to the modern world are the Tasmanians, and they are the only ones to become fully extinct.

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..At a round table there's never any dispute about "place."

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..From local promoters, a pet peeve: It's the so-called "high class" people to whom you have to give free passes. The poor always pay.

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..Blessed are they who have nothing to say, and who cannot be persuaded to say it.

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..Not too long ago we just finished wishing everybody a happy New Year. But have you ever thought about just how much it would take to make some of those people happy?

+++  
Those racists who always contend that we should "deserve" our freedom, or that no people should be

free (as in newly independent nations in Africa) until they are "fit to be," remind me of the fool in the old story who vowed never to go into the water until he had learned how to swim.

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..Man must surely be mad; he cannot make a flea; yet he attempts to create Gods by the thousands.

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..A conservative believes that nothing should be done for the first time.

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..A minority is always compelled to think. That is one blessing of being in the minority.

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..If so-called Christian nations were nations of Christians, there would be no bombs and no wars.

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..Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable we have to change it every six months.

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..Before acting, President Reagan begins making all his "cuts," somebody ought to tell him that people don't miss what they lack half as much as what they are deprived of. Nobody misses having an eye in the back of their heads, but we all would feel deprived if we lost one of the eyes we have in front of our heads. It's the taking away that upsets people rather than never having it in the first place.

+++  
..Why is it that people who cannot keep a secret always expect you to?

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..The most dangerous lunatics in our society are those who cannot be committed. They would pass any medical-psychiatric test for insanity, yet they suffer from a deep sense of persecution or from grandiosity.

# Affirmative Action

## KNIGHTS OF THE KKK

J. W. Thompson, in a sense, looks like a Klansman. He's balding, speaks with a syrupy Southern drawl and has two chins and two bellies. And for a while J. W. was a Klansman; that is to say, as a reporter for the newspaper Nashville Tennessean, Thompson was assigned to infiltrate this secretive, violent organization and report his findings. And report he did. In fact, not only is Thompson being touted for the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism, his adventure is also thought to be a likely candidate for a major motion picture.

Yet the picture he reported was not a pretty one. Posing as "Jerry Thompson," an ex-military man, now a cabinet-maker, he settled in Birmingham and infiltrated the Alabama Knights of the KKK. At meetings firearms were much in evidence. Their activities included picketing local TV stations to affect their coverage of certain issues (Anti-Klan activities would do well to put the pressure on similarly); they marched frequently to protest the stricter firearms policy proposed for the police force. Though the Klan's campaign to place Grand Dragon Don Black in the mayor's chair was unsuccessful (well-known black scientist Dr. Richard Arrington won the race), they were successful in electing a close relative of the Exalted Cyclops to the post of judge in Cullman County, Alabama.

Thompson's story is fascinating but from the welter of detail, a few broad trends emerge. First of all, there is the increasing tendency for the Klan Klavern or chapter to be a family affair. The camps for kids, where they are taught how to strangle and shoot, is well known. Women are playing an increasing role in the Klan, with one elected to deputy president of "Special Forces" in Alabama. Clearly, this is an issue the organized women's movement must address. Generally, the crowds at KKK rallies are youthful, with teenagers about 15 percent of the crowd, and 60-80 percent in their twenties or early thirties. Many are hirsute with beards, long hair and drooping mustaches. This last broad point should come as no surprise to those who attended the Republican National Convention last year in Detroit. According to the New York Times of July 31, 1980, Bill Wilkinson at that time endorsed Ronald Reagan and said that the Republican platform "reads as if it were written by a Klansman." According to the Times: "The endorsement was made in an editorial in the Klan group's newspaper, The Klansman, which produced a letter from a collection agency that threatened her for payment. She informed them that she would send them one or two dollars a month from her allowance.

Amy, a 20-year-old former drug addict, who is enrolled in a drug rehabilitation program, is now in school. She had a \$200 a day habit; money gotten by any possible means. She made a strong appeal to the committee asking that they prevent the cut-off of funds for the drug and alcoholic programs. Amy said that if the program is stopped now while she's going to school enabling her to become a productive citizen of society, and since at this point in her life, she is not able to do that without the care and training that she is getting, she would return to drugs and eventually die.

Ed Menken, a rehabilitated alcoholic, is director of Project Return, a drug center in New York City, stated that to cut off funds for these rehabilitation centers will prove far more

written by Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson and distributed today." Wilkinson went on to add, that he would vote for any candidate "opposed to forced busing and affirmative action." The Times of the same day reported that Speaker of the House, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. had stated at his daily meeting with reporters that, "...the John Birchers are now in control of the Republican Party. He singled out GOP House Leader, John H. Rousselot, a former leading member of the right-wing, racist John Birch Society, for particular attention.

Though O'Neill's party could well be subjected to some old fashioned "physician heal thyself" medicine in light of the Democrats' long-standing flirtation with the organized right-wing, his basic point is unassailable. Historians often discuss the point of "continuity" between the Progressive Movement of the turn of the century, which fought for regulation of big business, public ownership of utilities, child labor laws, etc., and the New Deal of the 1930s which helped to bring on social security, unemployment compensation, rights of unions to organize, etc. The point is that many of the same figures who were fighting for progressive reform at the turn of the century, were doing the same during the Great Depression.

Historians of the future will no doubt observe that those who helped to bring on the Cold War and lead the campaign of "massive resistance" to desegregation during the "Silenced 1950s," are now pulling the levers of power in Washington in the 1980s. A case in point is Republican Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, who, as head of the Agriculture Committee, has declared war on food stamps. His baptism of politics came in the early 1950s when he played a pivotal role in the defeat of "liberal" Frank Graham in a race to the Senate in a campaign characterized by red-baiting and race-baiting of the vilest sort. His resume also notes that he wrote editorials for the notorious Mississippi-based "Citizens Councils," that were widely known then as "Klansmen in three-piece suits." Today he is darling of the so-called "New Right" and a powerful GOP Senator who has the ear of President Reagan. "Continuity" is again the by word.

Hence, those who are counselling allowing the new administration some kind of honeymoon are either terribly naive or conscious deceivers. In any event, they should be roundly ignored.

Senator Reigle stated that since Amy's habit cost \$200 a day, closing the center and turning out the 400 addicts there, could cost \$80,000 daily. He said that the rehabilitation centers prove that government can do some good and to walk away from this program now is saying, "...go away and die."

## From Capitol Hill

# Who Determines Who Should Live Or Who Should Die?

Alfreda L. Madison  
The Democratic members of the Senate Labor committee, chaired by Senator Kennedy has begun hearings on President Reagan's budget proposals to assess their impact on human needs.

Kennedy says all members of congress agree that there should be a budget cut. He stated that they are pledged to do all they can to cooperate with the President. Yet, they are questioning Mr. Reagan's budget cuts. They neither mean to be obstructionists for rubber stamps. In referring to the President's statement that selfish interest group opposes his budget recommendations, the Senator asked if the following were being considered in that category:  
1. The middle class family whose children will no longer be eligible for college loans?  
2. The fourteen and a half million children who will lose their lunches?  
3. The millions of senior citizens who will find health care beyond their



Alfreda L. Madison reach?  
Kennedy said the oil companies and nuclear industry are not complaining because they have not been cut at all.  
The entire education panel rejected the idea that the November election was a mandate to cut everything that the Administration has proposed. Contrary to this belief the recent Harris Poll shows that only 15 percent of the American people favor education cuts. Public education cannot afford an education reduction of funds diverted to private and parochial schools,

elimination of programs that greatly aid the poor, handicapped, those who need bilingual education programs that are to be Stockmanized out of existence.  
The education group stated that the cut in granted student loans represents a serious restriction of opportunities for many young people to get a college education.  
The senior citizen panel said that the President's economic recovery program is based on two incorrect assumptions: (1) That federal spending is the primary cause of inflation. (2) That massive cuts in federal spending will control inflation and strengthen the economy. Medicaid has had an annual increase of 15 percent because of inflation. One out of every five medicare recipients is a senior citizen mostly over age 75. Without medicare basic health needs would be inaccessible to these people. The panel emphasized that the government should not be investing scarce reven-

ues in human services where the cost-benefit to taxpayers exceed the benefits obtained from the expenditures. "The social safety net is filled with holes and the cut package is not a scapel but a meat axe that will kill the patient."  
Mrs. Richard, a 70-year-old senior citizen, said that she gets \$306 a month. Her mortgage is \$134, she gets \$70 for food stamps and \$80 for her grandson. She goes to the Central Virginia Health Center for health care. This costs her \$5 a trip which also includes medicine.  
Mrs. Kenny receives \$282 plus a \$99 supplementary and her sick husband receives a small 20 percent disability check. Out of this she pays rent, utilities, food and all other necessities. Mrs. Kenny is a diabetic and she would be entirely unable to get health care without the health center and medicare. However, recently she was hospitalized for a kidney operation, and there were some things for which she was charged.

She produced a letter from a collection agency that threatened her for payment. She informed them that she would send them one or two dollars a month from her allowance.  
Amy, a 20-year-old former drug addict, who is enrolled in a drug rehabilitation program, is now in school. She had a \$200 a day habit; money gotten by any possible means. She made a strong appeal to the committee asking that they prevent the cut-off of funds for the drug and alcoholic programs. Amy said that if the program is stopped now while she's going to school enabling her to become a productive citizen of society, and since at this point in her life, she is not able to do that without the care and training that she is getting, she would return to drugs and eventually die.  
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