



conference on ALTERNATIVE state and local PUBLIC POLICIES

May 1977

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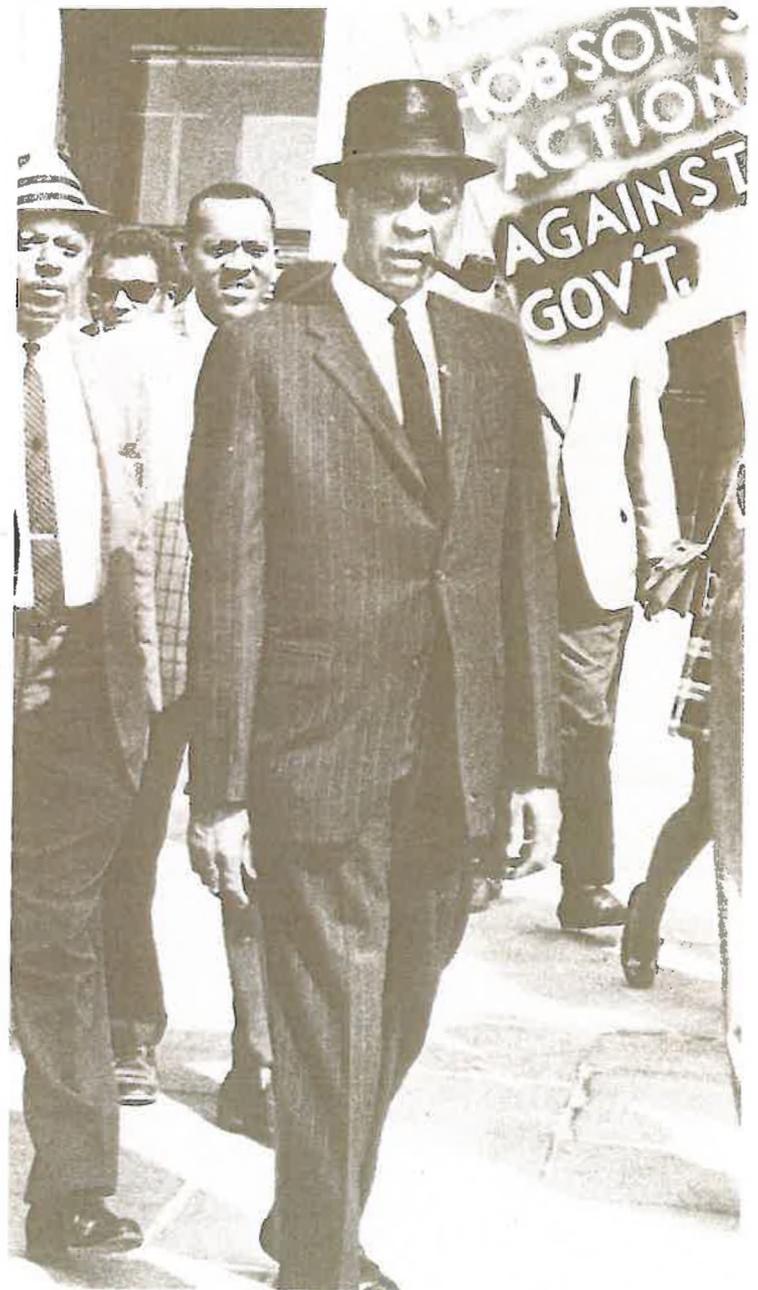
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Minnesota Farm Loan Fund — A Model Act

By Catherine Lerza

In an effort to encourage new farmers to purchase agricultural land, Minnesota has enacted a Family Farm Security Act (see Newsletter 4) which guarantees bank loans to farmers seeking to buy land. The cost of prime midwestern farm land has tripled over the last five years, with land in Minnesota now selling for about \$1200 to \$1400 per acre. This has made the initial investment in farm land prohibitive to most potential farmers.

The new Minnesota law, passed in April 1976 and put into operation this past February, deals with this dilemma by creating a Family Farm Security Board which administers a \$10-million loan fund that will guarantee 90% of bank loans to farmers who might not otherwise be eligible for a loan. When a farmer goes to a bank for a loan to purchase farm land and the bank decides the applicant is not a good credit risk without additional financial help from the state fund, the credit application is sent to a seven-member Farm Security Board. The Board, made up of four farmers, two bankers and an agricultural extension agent, reviews the application and determines whether or not to guarantee the loan.

According to Dan Garry, director of the program, the Board puts no age, dollar or acre limits on loans. Each loan is dealt with on an individual basis, Garry explained, and "repayability is the only limitation." The Board has so far approved four loans, denied two and, Garry said, "I couldn't even guess how many applications are on the way."

Other agricultural states are faced with land inflation as serious, and even worse,

than that which Minnesota faces. As Susan Sechler and Susan DeMarco of the Agribusiness Accountability Project explained in a recent article in *THE ELEMENTS*, "With the average age of farmers at 50 and the competitive entry level of financing for new farmers at about \$50,000, there is a real question of who the next generation of farmers will be." Minnesota's new fund is an attempt to give small, individual farmers a chance to compete with capital-rich institutions, corporations and banks, for example, who will otherwise be the only buyers of farm land in the future.

Garry says that he receives two or three information requests about the new program every week and that "other states are watching us closely." He believes that other Midwestern states may enact similar legislation in the next couple of years, depending on the success of this program. The only real problem the fund faces is a technical one: no nationally-chartered banks can participate in the program because of legal problems arising from the regulations under which the fund operates. Until the state receives a positive decision from the office of the Comptroller of the Currency in the Treasury Department, nationally-chartered banks will not take part in the loan program, although state-chartered banks will.

Senator Hubert Humphrey has introduced into the U.S. Senate the Family Farm Security Act of 1977 (S.598) to create a federal program modelled after the Minnesota plan.

Catherine Lerza is a Washington writer specializing in food and agricultural policies

Alternative Legislation Continued . . .

Nuclear Safety Bill

A strong new anti-nuclear bill was introduced into the Massachusetts House by Rep Richard Roche, Entitled "An Act Relating to Land Use and Nuclear Fission Power Plants Safety", HB 1200 would lift the limits of insurance liability in case of nuclear accidents and require that those suffering from nuclear accidents be compensated fully for their losses. Under the Price-Anderson Act of 1956 passed by the U.S. Congress there is a top limit of \$560 million on the amount that utilities would be liable for in case of a nuclear accident.

Another part of the bill would create a "nuclear Advisory Group" to study the safety of various nuclear power plant operations, and would have the authority, if the industry wasn't properly protecting the populace of the state, to gradually restrict the power plants operations.

Economic Agenda

Economic issues promise to be the hottest question confronting the Massachusetts Legislature this year. Numerous progressive bills have been introduced, many concerned with banking and finance, including S. 29 which creates a State Bank for the deposit of state funds; S. 49 which creates an Economic Development Bank; H. 1363 which provides for the issuing of state and municipal bonds in small denominations; H. 1754 which links deposits of state funds to local community investment by the individual banks; and H. 3141 which establishes a state auto insurance company.

Two bills are aimed at creating jobs. S. 51, filed by Sen. Jack Backman and Rep. John Businger, would establish the right of every Massachusetts resident to meaningful work and would provide \$30 million of public service jobs funded through an expanded lottery system and other sources. A bill by Rep. Mel King, H. 3258, would provide some 90,000

jobs for unemployed Massachusetts youth in the next year. The jobs would be in state promoted and financed construction projects including schools, hospitals, recreation facilities, day care centers, residential housing, mass transit, alternative energy, and marine services and recycling. Funds for the King bill would come from increases in the taxes on stocks and bonds over the amount of \$150,000, a raise in the tax of property assets over the amount of \$250,000, and a raise in the tax of corporate profits over the amount of \$100,000.

Battered Women Bill

Women beaten by their husbands or lovers would, along with victims of fires and disasters, get priorities in emergency public housing if a bill filed recently by Massachusetts State Rep Elaine Noble is passed. "A lot of women will not leave their homes even if they are incredibly battered, unless they know there is a bed for them somewhere," Noble said. "They are victims of a domestic disaster" she added, and should be given the same aid as victims of natural disasters.

Fed "Lifeline" Bill

State Utility Regulatory Commissions would be required to enact "Lifeline" electric rates if the "Lifeline Rate Act of 1977", introduced in Congress by Rep William Lehman of Florida wins approval. Under Congressman Lehman's bill, state regulatory commissions would have to establish the quantity of kilowatt hours which is the subsistence level for residential use in each state. The rate charged for that amount would have to be the lowest charged to any class of consumer, thus eliminating the breaks presently enjoyed by industrial and other large users. Copies of H.R. 469 can be obtained from Rep. William Lehman, U.S. House of Representatives, D.C. 20515.

Julius Hobson:

Champion and Legislator for Human Rights

By Barbara Bick

A singular legislative legacy was left to the people of the District of Columbia when City Councilmember Julius Hobson died of leukemia on March 23, 1977. The nine bills which he submitted to the council in January included a measure that would make Washington D.C. a city/state, a Youth Employment Act, an Initiative and Referendum Act, and a Non-Criminal Police Surveillance Act.

Washington D.C., which was granted a limited form of self-rule only three years ago, has probably the most activist city council in the U.S. The 13 member council numbers 11 blacks and five women. But every councilmember has a staunch history in the civil rights, peace, poverty and/or reform Democrat movements. No councilperson, however, equals the remarkable record of Hobson.

Hobson's national reputation goes back to the 1950's when he led the successful desegregation of road houses and gas stations on Route 40. This was the infamous stretch of highway where black diplomats made international headlines when they were unable to get gas or food service during trips between their UN missions in New York and their embassies in Washington. Hobson was also widely known for his early and long leadership in the peace movement, as well as in police and transportation issues that went far beyond the limits of D.C. In 1969 he filed a major suit that accused the federal government of bias against blacks, women, and Mexican Americans.

But mostly Hobson was known as the pressing, abrasive, deeply respected gadfly of the nation's capitol. His solid achievements on behalf of the city's people, before the advent of electoral politics in the District, were diverse. As President of CORE Hobson ran more than 80 picket lines on approximately 120 retail stores in downtown D.C., resulting in the initial employment over a four-year period of 5,000 black citizens. His benchmark court case in 1967 resulted in the outlawing of the rigid track system in the newly desegregated school system.

In part, surely, due to Hobson's agitation and court actions against the school system, Congress in 1968 permitted election of school board members — the first D.C. local elections since the previous century. Hobson won a seat on the school board with the largest plurality. Then in 1971 the District of Columbia got, first, the right to elect a non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives and, finally, in 1973 the right to elect its own city council. However, the Home Rule Charter, which went into effect in 1975, is only partial self-rule since Congress retains a veto power over Council legislation.

Hobson was a founder of the District of Columbia Statehood party, which began as a small and seemingly unrealistic group but which today is one of the three major parties of the District. The Home Rule Charter that Congress approved prohibits any one party from holding more than two of the four At-Large seats. Hobson was elected twice, representing the Statehood Party, to fill one of the At Large seats. His D.C. Statehood Act would provide a process for Washington to be admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other states. True home rule, according to the Statehood Party, would have to see the end of the congressional veto. It would also mean voting representation in both houses of Congress. That can be accomplished either through a constitutional amendment, which is "too much of a hassle," or through an act of Congress, which is the basis for Hobson's bill. Hobson's foreword states: "Changes in our local government that take place under the present home rule structure are only colonial reforms. Half freedom is half slavery and we should not accept it. Partial self-government is no answer. Equality is not divisible."

Another piece of Hobson's legislative agenda is the Initiative and Referendum Act, which would amend the Home Rule Charter to permit a voter approved initiative measure to become the equivalent of an Act passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor. In addition, Hobson introduced the "Recall of Elected Officials Amendment Act." The stated purpose of the bill declares, "In a democracy an elected officer serves at the will of the people. When an official ceases to be responsive to that will, there should be adequate legal remedies for his removal. A recall procedure is such a solution."

Hobson's "Educational Accountability Act of 1977" calls for the Board of Education to design and implement minimum standards of student competency for promotion and graduation. It is a commitment to young people that public education can and will provide them with the reading, writing, communication and mathematical skills to effectively compete in today's world. Through provisions of the bill, citizens and taxpayers would also know how well students are learning such "demonstrated competencies."

The "Non Criminal Police Surveillance Act of 1977" is designed to protect the basic rights of privacy, freedom of expression and association, and the redress of grievances. The Act establishes specific safeguards against police surveillance activities aimed at the lawful political activities of

Continued on next page

Hobson Continued . . .

individuals and organizations in D.C. It specifically outlines the type of police intelligence activities that are illegal — such as unauthorized wiretapping, inciting people to engage in unlawful activities or interfering with the lawful activities of individuals or organizations.

Hobson was given six months to live — in 1971 — when he was told that he had multiple myeloma, a spinal cancer. Although the illness shrank him into a wheelchair, Hobson lived, worked and fought for five more years. This January, Hobson called a press conference to say his doctors had once again given him six months to live because of acute leukemia.

In the next three months Hobson worked hard on his legislative agenda which is now his last testament. Copies of the nine bills can be obtained from the National Conference office or from his Statehood Party replacement on the City Council, Hilda Mason.

On Hobson's office wall there was a poster quoting Frederick Douglass:

Those who profess to favor freedom, yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing the ground, they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.

Hobson said of himself,

Ideologically I consider myself a Marxist . . . I believe in socialism; I believe what we're fighting over is the distribution of goods and services and the production of them; and I believe that everybody on earth has the inalienable right to share in them."

In his book "Captive Capital: Colonial Life in Modern Washington" published in 1974, Sam Smith, editor of a local newspaper, wrote about Hobson,

With such a record, one might have expected Julius Hobson to emerge as a national civil rights leader. His record of achievement was as impressive as the best of them and if he had wished to he could have drifted into the more comfortable world of semi-acceptance enjoyed by (these leaders) . . . a world achieved by exchanging effectiveness for respectability and progress for power. Hobson eschewed power and he refused respectability. But Hobson changed the face of modern Washington as much as any single person.

Criminal Justice Tied to Economic Justice

By Richard Hongisto

In every such poll, crime shows up as the first or second priority on people's minds. If countries were rated by their peacefulness, specifically their murder rate, the Scandinavian countries would lead with a murder rate of one-half of 1% per 100,000 per year. In England, it is 1½ or 2%, and in Western Europe, about 5%. Below that is the U.S. with a murder rate nationally of about 8%.

A traditional law enforcement answer to that problem would be, "permissiveness." In those countries with a low murder rate, how would you measure permissiveness? Let's say a country that legalized pornography or maybe a country that has decriminalized prostitution, the way England and Scandinavia have.

The point is that the most peaceful countries in the world are the most libertarian. So much for the collective wisdom of our law enforcement leaders. Their argument on permissiveness only reveals their collective ignorance.

Those countries with the least crime are also the most socialized, i.e. they have the greatest equitable distribution of wealth for all their citizens.

We're told that in the U.S. we should accept our myriad problems because the free enterprise system maintains economic incentive. But we have been surpassed by a number of industrialized countries. Sweden and Switzerland can each claim to be more successful with a per capita GNP 20% above ours. We have also been surpassed by Norway and West Germany. Relative to achievement in the rest of the world, the U.S. economy no longer delivers the goods. America's poor are no longer middle class abroad. They are poor.

We have a system of criminal justice because we don't have a system of distributive justice.

One study, across the whole U.S., showed that for 1% increases in unemployment sustained over a five year period, there'll be a 1.9% increase in cardiovascular diseases, 1.9% increase in cirrhosis of the liver from alcohol, 3.4% in state mental hospital admissions, 4% in prison admissions, 4.1% in suicide, and 5.7% in homicide. Crime is a symptom of a problem that is an economic problem above all.

Can traditional law enforcement methods combat the social ravages induced by a sick political economy that doesn't meet the needs of its own people?

Recently, the Law Enforcement Administration revealed that for several years it had pumped millions and millions of dollars into a crash effort, a tour de force, to fight crime with technology and money. The result? Crime went up dramatically, over 100% in all jurisdictions.

We have organized our political economy around the pursuit and accumulation of wealth instead of taking care of ourselves. Now we are faced with a dilemma. Do we want to have economic democracy, equalize the distribution of wealth, and protect ourselves from the predatory tendencies of money-hungry money-makers? Or are we going to be content with high levels of unemployment to keep people in line, with lots of prisoners, lots of jails, lots of police, and of course with a steady erosion of our civil liberties?

Richard Hongisto is the Sheriff of San Francisco County. The above was excerpted from a speech he gave at the Santa Barbara, CA. Conference on Economic

Penal Reform: a Matter of Will

By S. Brian Willson and Andy Hall

The present repressive components of crime control, initiated in the mid-1960's, continues to expand and become more deeply entrenched. An integral feature of that regime is the most massive wave of prison and jail construction in the world's history.

The proposed 1978 Federal Budget includes \$346,615,000 for the Bureau of Prisons. Of that, \$67,588,000 would be used to plan or construct new prisons.

These construction funds are in addition to a recent \$22 million supplemental request to construct a new youth prison at Ray Brook, N.Y. which would first house 1980 Winter Olympics athletes.

In addition the Bureau of Prisons is currently constructing new youth prisons in Memphis, TE., Bastrop, TX., and Talladega, AL., and an adult prison in Otisville, N.Y. A 1976 draft federal prison system report "Long Range Facility Analysis" describes plans to build 10 more prisons and to open two more camps — in addition to all of those listed above.

U.S. history shows that as dependence on prisons has increased, the rate of reported crime has grown steadily as a broad social response. If anything, the use of prisons seems to produce, not reduce crime.

What then lies behind the continuing drive for more

penal facilities? There are two clear factors. The first is the function of the crime control industry as a growth market which now employs over a million persons in approximately 50,000 agencies. The other is the need of the non-poor to maintain sanction over those held hostage within class boundaries due to disparities in opportunity, wealth, income and influence. What is equally clear is that incarceration holds no promise of crime reduction, promotion of social order, community tranquility, or criminal justice.

Given the public clamor for "get tough" policies what alternatives can be found in city, county, or state legislatures? Certainly no jurisdiction can afford the literal pursuit of the get-tough/lock 'em up craze. The most practical and morally correct stance is to refuse to submit to the pressures for building more jails and prisons. This would provide time for pursuing systemic alternatives which are not only more just but are also more cost-effective. If removal and isolation were reserved only for the heinous offender whose actions have grievously threatened public safety, the 500,000 prison beds already in existence throughout the U.S. would be more than sufficient. By local legislative initiative on a proactive model, rather than the customary reactive posture, a progressive public policy could be developed that would no longer be subservient to judiciary and other pressures.

In the short run, emphasis should be placed upon practices which shorten the average number of days spent in jail or prison. This would free existing beds and preclude the need for acquisition or construction of new spaces to relieve temporary population pressures. Expediting release of pre-trial detainees too poor to afford

bail, by granting freedom on personal bond or promise of supervision, would greatly decrease the cost of maintaining detainees. Increasing and vesting good time, expediting parole, and implementing other forms of "rehabilitative" releases would shorten the number of prison person-days served. Pardons or clemency for most offenders within a certain number of months of parole eligibility would also decrease the need for more prison spaces.

In the long term a drastic reduction in our dependence upon prisons can be achieved by educating the public to understand the large amount of prison intake which is irrelevant to the offense (or non-heinous) and thus cost-defective to the taxpayer. Probation subsidies would induce jurisdictions to retain offenders in their communities where they would be required to make restitution to victims, pay fines to the community, and be engaged in mediation of disputes. The decriminalization of consensual acts between and among adults, as well as most property offenses, would reduce the numbers of persons in prisons, jails and training schools. Another overdue reform is substantial cuts in the length of penal sanctions.

The entirely destructive policy of dependence upon prisons must be abandoned. New public punishment policies must reflect the idea that punishment and resolution of social problems must be borne by the entire community rather than the individual alone.

J. Brian Willson and Andy Hall are coordinators of the National Moratorium on Prison Construction. For more information or to receive their bulletins and JERICO, their newsletter, contact NMPC, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St., N.W., D.C. 20010. (202) 483-7080.

Community Organizers

ACORN, a community organization which works for political and economic democracy for its low to moderate income membership, has openings for organizers in six southern states. Issues range from neighborhood problems to utility rates, unfair taxes, redlining, etc. Long hours, low pay. Only those mobile and interested in social change need apply.

Contact: Carolyn Carr, ACORN, 523 W. 15th St., Little Rock, AR. 72202 (501) 376-7151

Development Planner

Responsible for planning, development and evaluation of new work/training program designed to increase job capture rate of Hartford residents. Program is being developed jointly by school system, business community, city government, labor unions, and community groups. Job includes business planning for small business ventures operated by the school system. Salary \$18,000. Begins July 1, 1977. Send letter of intent, resume, list of employer references, and writing samples, to Office of Personnel and Labor Relations, Hartford Public Schools, 249 High St., Hartford, CT 06103. (203) 566-6056. Deadline: 4 P.M., June 3.

Urban Planner

Master of Urban Planning April graduate from University of Michigan looking for full time position. Skills include legal aspects of planning, public speaking, audiovisual presentations, some statistical analysis and fortran programming. Resume and references supplied upon request. Contact Bob Tessier, 424 N. State St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Democracy, Feb. 18-20. A full report, with transcripts of speeches by Tom Hayden, Cesar Chavez, and U.S. Rep. Ron Dellums can be obtained from THE CAMPAIGNER, P.O. Box 22699, San Francisco, CA 94122. In addition a 159-page set of "Working Papers on Economic Democracy", prepared for the conference, is available for \$10 from the California Public Policy Center, 304 S. Broadway, #224, Los Angeles 90013.

What's Happening?

Soglin Reelected Mayor

Good news first. Paul Soglin was reelected on April 5 to a third term as mayor of Madison, WI. In a primary contest seven weeks earlier, Soglin had finished behind conservative Alderman Anthony Amato. In that race Soglin's student and leftist base had been eroded by the third place finish of Socialist Party candidate, Alderman Michael Sack. However, following the primary most of the left, together with formal support from COPE and a big absentee ballot push in the university area, combined to give Soglin a 29,000 vote margin and 64% of the turnout.

Soglin attributed his victory to the return of the "golden coalition" of labor, students, and professionals which first put him in the mayor's office in 1973, as well as his social and economic development program begun in the first two terms. Soglin had previously served five years on the Madison City Council and was known as a student activist. An issue raised in Amato's conservative campaign was Soglin's trip to Cuba during his second term as mayor.

Immediately after his campaign victory, Soglin hosted a two-day energy conservation conference. The first day was aimed at Madison's 40 biggest commercial and business users with workshops that considered highly technical and computerized conservation systems. The second day featured workshops aimed at the ordinary citizen and discussed alternative energy sources, such as solar, the correct way to use wood-burning furnaces and fireplaces, as well as home appliance, home lighting, and water conservation. For information about the conference, write to Jim Rowen, Assistant to the Mayor, City Hall, Madison.

Berkeley Citizens Action Slate Trowned

And now, for the bad news. The long-term organizing effort of the progressive coalition in Berkeley, CA., which has been a model of citizen accountability and participation, received a severe set-back when its entire slate for city council was defeated April 19. At stake were four council seats that could have shifted the balance of power away from the Democratic Club which has run Berkeley for years with the support of Republicans and business interests. The critical issue in the contest was a rent control initiative, supported by many community organizations as well as the Citizens Action group. The race was so close that an election eve poll taken by the opposition indicated that the rent control measure was within a 1% chance of passing, and that the council race was too close to call.

A lurid campaign of distortion around the rent control measure was used to defeat the BCA candidates. Over \$150,000 was known to have come into Berkeley from real estate interests all over California. According to Councilmember Loni Hancock, who along with BCA Councilmember John Denton was not up for reelection, it was similar to the November campaigns waged against Proposition 15, the nuclear initiative, and Proposition 14, the farm worker initiative. In that election massive amounts of money from all over the country came into California, leaving local coalitions without adequate resources to combat the fear and hate campaigns.

On the evening before the election many homes in Berkeley had two and three pieces of hate literature. Material supporting the Democratic Club candidates warned voters that they would be "robbed" by a BCA majority "determined to rape the city treasury, foment antisocial attitudes and wreak financial vengeance upon responsible citizens."

Ying Lee Kelley, one of the BCA leaders, who was running for a second four-year term, was defeated by about 300 votes.

Santa Barbara Coalition Drubbed

A progressive and environmental coalition which had held a four to three majority on the Santa Barbara CA. City Council for the past four years lost two of their four seats in the last March 8 city elections. The victory went to a heavily financed slate backed by developers, real estate interests and other local business groups. The irony of the election results is that Proposition A, supporting recently adopted measures on population limitations, won overwhelmingly but two of the three candidates which supported Proposition A were defeated and two of the three candidates who most opposed Proposition A were elected. The incumbent mayor, an opponent of the progressive coalition, was reelected by a scant 34 votes.

The coalition analysis of these contradictory electoral results is that voters are concerned about uncontrolled growth and environmental issues but they are also anxious about economic factors such as property taxes. Hence they tend to "balance out" their votes. According to professor Dick Flacks, Santa Barbara activist, the coalition is going forward despite their defeat. They are discussing ways to improve their organizing capacity and hope to be able to employ full-time staff in the near future.

More on page 11



CONFERENCE/ Alternative State and Local Public Policies

7/8/9/10 July
Denver, Colorado

Two years have past since the beginning of the National Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies. The hundreds of public officials, scholars and community activists who have worked with the Conference during that period are eloquent testimony of the enormous resources available to making state and local government a major instrument for social change in America. Our many conferences, publications, and task forces have been part of, and in turn have helped to create, the movement to increase the role of state and local government in progressive political thinking. No longer do most modern Americans see state and local governments as just passive providers of sewers, schools and highways. Instead they are seen as instruments for dealing with problems of citizen participation, social planning, regulation of business, neighborhood decay, and the distribution of income and power. A new provocative and forward looking agenda is emerging for state and local government.

The National Conference has correctly seen its role as encouraging communication about specifics of innovative programs among public officials and others throughout the country. We have concentrated our resources and work around the questions of what specific alternative policies for states, counties and cities can be implemented now.

Our third annual conference in Denver, CO., will carry that work forward in a new and challenging way. We hope that you will join with us in that work at Denver July 7 through 10, 1977.

Lee Webb
Director, National Conference

3rd Annual National Conference Host Committee

Chairman: Regis Groff, *Assistant Minority Leader, State Senator*
Roy Romer, *State Treasurer*
Kathy Oatis, *Colorado Committee on Political Education, AFL-CIO*
Cathy Donahue, *City Council, Denver*
Michael Henry, *President, Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods*
Bob Scarlett, *Steelworkers Committee on Political Education*
Dennis Gallagher, *State Senator*
Nancy Dick, *State Representative*
Rubin Valdez, *Minority Leader, State Representative*
Paul Danish, *City Council, Boulder*
Polly Baca-Barragan, *State Representative*
Tom Hale, *San Mateo County Commissioner*
John Stencil, *President, Rocky Mountain Farmers' Union*
Michael Kinsley, *Pitkin County Commissioner*

CONFERENCE / Alternative

7/8/9/10 JUL

THURSDAY, 7 JULY 1977

6:00 P.M. / REGISTRATION OPENS

Colorado Women's College, Houston Fine Arts Building, Corner Quebec and Montview Blvd.
(Reception, Cash Bar)

8:00 P.M. / OPENING SESSION

Welcoming Remarks

Regis Groff, Assistant Minority Leader, Colorado State Senate Chairman, Conference Host Committee

Chick St. Croix, Organizing Director, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, Colorado

Pat Roach, City Council, Dayton, Ohio

8:30 P.M. / PLENARY:

"Democratic Visions: New Directions for Public Policy"

Panel—

Lee Webb, Director, Conference/Alternative State and Local Public Policies

Loni Hancock, City Council, Berkeley, California

Byron Dorgan, State Tax Commissioner, North Dakota

David Smith, Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston

FRIDAY, 8 JULY 1977

9:00 A.M. / PLENARY SESSION:

"Building A Political Movement"

Mickey Flacks, Chairperson, Affirmative Action Commission, Santa Barbara, California

Ron Dellums, U.S. House of Representatives, California

10:15 A.M. / WORKSHOPS

Introduction to Development Finance

Affirmative Action Strategies for State and Local Government

Taxation of Natural Resource Development

Budgeting and Finance for Public Officials

Effective Lobbying for Progressive Policies

The Public Balance Sheet: Criteria for Evaluation of Public Investment

Feminist Issues: Legislative Strategies at the State and Local Level

12:00 / LUNCH

1:30 P.M. / PLENARY SESSION:

"An Alternative Energy Policy: Implications for Cities and States"

Mary O'Halloran, State Representative, Iowa

Barry Commoner, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

3:45 P.M. / WORKSHOPS

Federal Energy Policy: Power Lost, Power Gained?

Introduction to State and Local Tax Policy

Intervention Strategies: How to Establish Public Control of Investment Monies

The Defense Budget: Impact on State and Local Governments

How to Run an Issue-Oriented Campaign: A Workshop for Potential Candidates

The Politics of Water and Natural Resources

Being an Effective Staff Person

Strategy in the Legislature: The Experience of the NDP

6:00 P.M. BUFFET DINNER

7:30 P.M. / PLENARY SESSION

Introductions:

Barbara Bick, Editor, National Conference Newsletter

Paul Soglin, Mayor, Madison, Wisconsin; National Conference Coordinating Committee

"Towards a Progressive Federalism"

Leonel Castillo, Director, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service; former Comptroller, Houston, Texas

Sam Brown, Director, ACTION; former Treasurer, Colorado; National Conference Coordinating Committee

9:00 P.M. / ENTERTAINMENT

State and Local Public Policies

977 Denver, Colorado

SATURDAY, 9 JULY 1977

9:00 A.M. / PLENARY SESSION

"Life With the Democrats: The Impact of the New Administration on State and Local Policies"

Bill Winpisinger, President, International Association of Machinists

Nicholas Carbone, City Council, Hartford, Connecticut

Bennie Thompson, Mayor, Bolton Mississippi; Chairman, Mississippi Conference of Black Mayors

Barney Frank, State Representative, Boston, Massachusetts

John Alschuler, Assistant City Manager, Hartford, Connecticut

10:45 A.M. / WORKSHOPS

Women in the Workforce: Implications for Public Policies

Basic Tax Enforcement

Democratic Management of Public Agencies

History of Municipal Reform Movements

What's Wrong with American Agriculture

Federal Strategies that Support Community Economic Development

Creative Program Alternatives at the Local Level: Manpower Monies, Tax Strategies and Regulatory Agencies, and their Role in Economic Development

The Future of Public Employee Unions

12:30 P.M. / LUNCH

2:00 P.M. / REGIONAL MEETINGS

4:00 P.M. / WORKSHOPS

Review of Alternative Economic Policies: Bank of North Dakota, Link Deposits, CDFCs, Community Development Corporations and the NDP Experience

Speculation, Farmland Preservation and Controlling Growth

Base Building for Electoral Action

Counter Budgeting and Whistle Blowing

How to Work as a Progressive Minority in a Legislative Body

Community Control of Economic Development

Local Political Organization

6:00 P.M. / RECEPTION — CASH BAR

7:00 P.M. / BUFFET DINNER

8:15 P.M. / PLENARY SESSION

Introductions:

Kandra Hahn, Court Clerk, Lincoln, Nebraska

Si Galperin, State Senate, West Virginia

"Public Involvement in Natural Resource Development"

Sidney Green, Minister of Mines, Resources and Environmental Management, Province of Manitoba; National Vice-President, Canadian New Democratic Party

10:00 P.M. / PARTY — MUSIC — DANCE

SUNDAY, 10 JULY 1977

9:00 A.M. / WORKSHOPS

Economic Democracy; Issues and Strategies

The California Experience: Tom Hayden

Controlling Urban Growth

Property Taxes

State Strategies to Protect the Family Farm

11:00 A.M. / PLENARY SESSION

Introductions:

Kathy Oatis, Colorado Committee on Political Education, AFL-CIO

Marion Barry, City Council, Washington, D.C.

"How to Build Coalitions for Progressive Policies"

Ruth Yannatta, Candidate for State Assembly, Los Angeles, California

Ira Arlook, Director, Ohio Public Interest Campaign

Ron Asta, Former Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors, Tucson, Arizona

Dennis Gallagher, State Representative, Denver, Colorado

12:30 P.M. / CONCLUDING REMARKS — REPORTS AND PLANS

Lee Webb, Director, Conference/Alternative State and Local Public Policies

Paul Soglin, Chairman, National Conference Coordinating Committee

3RD ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Colorado Women's College
Denver, Colorado
July 7 - 10, 1977

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Fee:

Pre-registration fee (for participants pre-registered by July 1) \$20
Registration fee (for participants who register at the conference) \$25

Registration fee includes a copy of *New Directions for State and Local Public Policies: A Resource Manual for Public Officials and Political Activists* and participation in all conference sessions, workshops and entertainment.

Partial registration fee scholarships are available. Please make arrangements with Ann Beaudry.

Please use the form below to register for the Conference and to reserve housing accommodations. Return to:

National Conference
1901 Que Street
Washington, D.C. 20009

Meals — Housing:

Single and double rooms with private baths are available in dormitories on campus.

Rates include breakfast, lunch and dinner each day, served in college dining room:

Single — \$17 per person, per night
Double — \$15 per person, per night

Rates for room only:

Single — \$12 per person, per night
Double — \$10 per person, per night

Tickets for individual meals will be available on a limited basis.

THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE — REGISTRATION

NAME _____

POSITION OR ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: HOME _____ WORK _____

Enclosed is a check for _____. Payable to: National Conference

PREREGISTRATION FEE \$20.00

HOUSING (Check one):

With Three Meals Included:

Single — # _____ Nights at \$17 = _____

Double — # _____ Nights at \$15 = _____

Room Only, Meals Not Included:

Single — # _____ Nights at \$12 = _____

Double — # _____ Nights at \$10 = _____

Double Rooms: Please indicate the name
if you have a roommate preference _____

TOTAL _____

If you will be unable to attend the conference, but would like a copy of *New Directions for State and Local Policies: A Resource Manual for Public Officials and Political Activists* which is being prepared for the conference, please indicate below:

PRICE: \$7.50 ___ check enclosed
Number of copies ordered _____ ___ please bill me

What's Happening? Continued . . .

Amherst Coalition Wins Partial Victory

A coalition of university students, tenants, and environmentalists won one-third of the seats in the April 5 race for the 240-seat Town Meeting in Amherst, MA. Over one half of the residential units in the town of 23,000 are rental, many to students. The Amherst Tenants Association was perhaps the strongest organized group behind the progressive coalition which is preparing strategy to support numerous warrants they put on the Town Meeting Agenda. Articles include mandating the Selectmen to actively oppose the planned nuclear power plant in Montague, MA; rent control; establishment of a town administered fund for rental security deposits to end the landlords' abuses of deposits they hold; removal of gender from description of all town offices and jobs; and opposition to the diversion of water from the nearby Connecticut River to supply future water needs for the City of Boston.

Northeast Cities Follow-up

The Northeast Cities Conference, held in Hartford, CT. last December has generated a great deal of interest. A conference continuations committee met, March 26, to review several proposals for new projects and to consider a draft fund raising plan.

Work in four areas were agreed upon: to publish a regional newsletter which would focus on critical analyses of alternative legislation which conferees have worked on, to hold a series of educational sub-regional conferences, and to convene working groups to develop model new proposals in high priority areas. It was hoped that these new proposals would serve as the basis for a series of issue meetings. It was also agreed to operate a technical assistance clearinghouse in Hartford that would respond to the growing volume of requests.

A fund raising plan to support this level of activity was also approved.

New Public Resource Center Started

Three of the people most involved in conceptualizing and carrying through the work of the National Conference during the past 2½ years are separating from the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), the institution which provided support for the Conference in its initial phase. Barbara Bick and IPS Fellows Robb Burlage and Leonard Rodberg were part of the group which first undertook to survey political activists who had developed state and local electoral constituencies. They, along with IPS co-Director Marcus Raskin and Goddard professor Lee Webb, a long-time associate and Trustee of IPS, provided much of the staff work which led to the first conference in Madison, WI. in June 1975.

Burlage, Rodberg and Bick, along with six other former IPS Fellows are setting up the Public Resource Center which will undertake research and education on the use of human and natural resources in the public interest. All of the new Center associates are members of the IPS Union of Fellows and Faculty which was formed in the late Fall of 1976. The subsequent attempt to bargain collectively with the IPS co-Directors and Board of Trustees failed and a settlement was negotiated that included a sufficient grant to establish the new institution.

The work of the PRC will stress two themes: *community federalism*, which is seen as the linking together of democratic communities of various kinds in struggle for justice and liberation; and *political ecology*, which is the bringing together of political power, economic democracy and decent respect for the integrity of the biosphere.

The new Center associates are committed to the development of alternative public programs which support the best of progressive local movement toward a new national agenda. Some will continue to work with the National Conference. Specifically, the PRC will analyze and report on the uses of public lands and mineral resources; on the networks of cooperative agriculture; on ways in which new religious communities can receive spiritual and economic sustenance; on the community-based economic development of cities and regions toward full employment; and on community-based national health programs.

Others in the PRC include Arthur Waskow, Jim Ridgeway, Charlotte Bunch, Frank Smith, Bettina Connor and Cynthia Washington. For more information, write to Public Resource Center, 1747 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington D.C. 20009 (202) 483-7040.

Executive Director is Sought for National Conference

The National Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies is looking for an Executive Director, who will serve as the primary administrator of the organization, directly responsible to the Conference's Coordinating Committee. The Executive Director should have substantial experience in state and local government, a demonstrated interest in innovative public policy, and significant administrative experience, including publications and fund raising. The Executive Director's salary shall be in the \$16,000 plus range.

For more information, contact Lee Webb, National Director, 1901 Q St., N.W. D.C. 20009.

Alternative Policies in the Big Sky Country

By Ora J. Halvorson

The art of shaping public policy can be subtle or abrasive. I have failed more often than succeeded, but I hope my legacy is that somewhere a spark was kindled because I tried. For many years, as a housewife, I had the time and opportunity to make small waves in my community of Kalispell, Montana. But when I saw a need that I could fill and ran for the State Legislature, I was roundly defeated. Facing the truth that I was a middle aged, uneducated, ordinary housewife, I knew I would need to earn the respect and votes for my next round.

I started by going to school, after having raised my children and seeing them through their academic years. The hardest part was to overlook the ridicule of my peers, as well as that of the 18 year old freshmen I was joining. Co-ed dorms, pot, hard drugs, different customs and ethnic backgrounds, new geographical areas, all were important in developing the political depth that I needed. I managed a BA degree from Goddard College, a Business College diploma, and a LaSalle Extension Law diploma.

Then I went back to politics and ran for delegate to the Constitutional Convention. I lost again. Everyone thought I wouldn't have the temerity to run again, but I did — and won.

My first year in the Montana House of Representatives was mostly a learning process and was marred by the fact that I had just nursed my diabetic son through his terminal illness. The next year I was ready. I proposed inheritance tax reform and a capital gains tax on the speculative sale of land. But the realtors were too strong for me.

Next election I led the ticket. Again I tackled the speculative sale of land and again was defeated. But with the energy crisis a new issue surfaced. Coal was becoming increasingly valuable. The year before I had advocated taxing coal on a percentage of the price and lost. On my second attempt, we won and Montana now taxes coal at 30% of the price at the mine mouth. I also sponsored a referendum to have half of the coal taxes invested for the future and this is now law.

My inheritance tax again failed. However, the Uniform Probate Code passed, as did many of the Equal Rights laws for women and minorities that I supported.

Large New York investors began open-pit coal mining in Canada across the border from Glacier Park. I requested that the International Joint Commission investigate pollution problems

from this activity. This will become more of an issue between nations as time goes on and policy must be established.

The problems and loss of property that result from flooding valley floors was highlighted in our area during a flash flood brought on by cloud seeding. When the Federal Flood-Plain Insurance Act was not applied in our valley it became clear that delineation changes were needed. This became a battle royal. But my bill is now used as a model for flood-plain areas in other states.

Montana is a target for everyone. We have the wealth of vast land and huge deposits of minerals; we are the headwaters of man's most important resource, water. Arabs and Japanese, Canadians and Australians are buying our land, New York bankers our minerals, and Washington, California, New Mexico, Nevada and Arizona want our water. The world wants our timber.

Poor Montana. The European fad for men's high beaver hats destroyed our hunting; the buffalo were exterminated in less than a dozen years because of the demand for the skins. The final indignity of the bleached bones being sent to market in the east, instead of being allowed to fertilize and revitalize the plains, was the buffalo's ultimate fate. Gold was mined and gone within a decade. The forests were harvested and not replenished. The range was homesteaded and the grass destroyed. Drought and wind blew the top soil into the Dakotas, and gas and oil were shipped east until the resources were gone.

Today, Coal is King, and land is beckoning the greedy and water is exciting envy in the needy.

Last election it was very apparent that Montana was targeted by the John Birch group. They ran one candidate for U.S. Senator, one for the Western Congressional District, and one for Governor. They ran one against me and in every other race in the state that they could fill.

We are only 750,000 people. Can we survive? Have we the courage and fortitude to save our beauty and wisely dispense our resources? Will we become vanquished like the Indian groveling on our reserved areas? Will the gambling interests debauch our life style? Will the ultra right quench our desire for inquiry and compassion? Will we fight alone? Or will we even fight?



Ora J. Halvorson is a Montana State Representative.

Notes to Note

Quality of Working Life Meeting

A national conference on Productivity and Quality of Working Life in the Public Sector is planned for May 25-26 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Work in America Institute, and the National Center for Productivity and Quality of Working Life, registration is \$95. For information contact Virginia Richards, Conference Coordinator, Work in America Institute, 700 White Plains Rd, Scarsdale, NY 10583.

Solar Laws

A compendium of current solar legislation is featured in the April issue of THE ELEMENTS. During the last session 30 or more solar energy incentives were introduced. THE ELEMENTS summarizes 28 of the major bills. To obtain the April issue, write to THE ELEMENTS, 1901 Q St., N.W., DC 20009, or subscribe for one year for \$7.

Housing Publications

Two excellent publications on housing policies have recently been issued by activist community groups. One is *Hostage! Housing and the Massachusetts Fiscal Crisis* by Michael Stone and Emily Achtenberg, published by the Boston Community School, 107 South St., Boston, 02111. The price is \$1.50. The second is *Housing in the Public Domain: The Only Solution* by Peter Hawley. It is available for \$1.50 from the Metropolitan Council on Housing, 24 W. 30 St. New York 10001.

Credit Union Project

A unique way to assist economically disadvantaged neighborhoods by making nonmember deposits in Community Development Credit

Unions was outlined in a 1975 booklet prepared by the National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. Such non-member deposits are 100% insured by the US government and pay substantial interest. Over \$1,700,000 has been invested in 16 low income Community Development Credit Unions. A report describing the effects of this effort is available from Lloyd Agostinelli, National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs, 1521 16 St, N.W., D.C. 20036.

Madison CDC Plan

Mayor Paul Soglin is submitting to the Madison City Council an ordinance to create a Community Development Corporation for the city. Copies of the proposed ordinance and the accompanying "An Economic Development Strategy for Madison" can be obtained from Jim Rowan, Assistant to the Mayor, City Hall, Madison, WI 53709.

Public Policy Resource

News about articles, studies, and reports on municipal and state public policies is available from the Municipal Government Reference Center at the Boulder, CO Public library. A lengthy monthly newsletter lists additions to the resource library, and a 500 page annual catalogue of the collection is published. For more information on their monthly *Newsletter* and annual *Catalogue*, contact the Municipal Reference Center, Boulder Public Library, 100 Canyon Blv'd., P.O. Drawer H, Boulder 80302.

Patients' Bill of Rights

"A Patients' Bill of Rights and Responsibilities: Health Policy of the City of Madison," is a guide for health consumers regarding their right to participate and

Conservatives Renew Interest in State and Local Politics

By Lee Webb

Conservative organizations, which in the past eight years have concentrated their attention on the White House and Congress, are pouring money and resources into state and local government. Two relatively new organizations, the American Legislative Clearinghouse based in Washington, D.C., and the National Conservative Political Action Committee are separately providing model legislation and research to conservative state and local public officials. NCPAC is also providing money and resources for conservative campaigns for state and local political office.

The American Legislative Exchange Council describes itself as "committed to curbing the growth and power of government." It helps state legislators dedicated to "productive free enterprise, private property rights, and limited representative government." ALEC will provide affiliated legislators with periodic issue briefs and fact sheets, suggested legislation, a monthly bill digest, and a newsletter *First Reading* which informs members of legislative ideas and "grassroots activity" throughout the country.

One of ALEC's primary publications is *1977 Suggested State Legislation*, a 66-page book, which includes 22 suggested pieces of legislation developed by ALEC members. The legislation is strongly right-of-center, including a state constitutional amendment limiting total taxes which a state can collect, another constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to property, a financial privacy act, a right to life

act, a free enterprise education act, and a school discipline act. This short booklet has been sent out to 8,000 house and senate members in the 50 states.

The National Conservative Political Action Committee provided financial backing for conservative candidates for Congress and state and local public officials in the 1976 elections. They claim that 63% of their candidates for Congress won, and 55% of the 130 candidates for state and local office.

Former staffers and leaders of the Reagan for President campaign are very active as directors and officers of NCPAC. The organization concentrates on the nuts and bolts of campaign organization with the same elan that characterized the Reagan campaign. They promise to provide candidates they support with extensive polling and issues development, demographic research to target districts, and comprehensive training seminars for conservative candidates and staffers. They also say that they are targeting these services in the local elections coming up in Virginia, New Jersey, and Kentucky in 1977, and are actively recruiting potential candidates for state and local races in 1978.

To assist candidates and campaign managers in running races for state legislatures, NCPAC has written and published *In Order to Win: A State Legislative Campaign Manual* detailing campaign strategy, tactics, and schedules for conservative campaigns for state legislatures.

For more information on the American Legislative Exchange Council, contact ALEC, 600 Pennsylvania Ave, S.E. Suite 204, D.C. 20003. For information on NCPAC, contact it at 1500 Wilson Blv'd., Suite 513, Arlington, VA 22209.

make decisions about their own health care. It is bilingual (Spanish and English) and graphically illustrated. Published by Health Writers, an investigative, advocate/journalist group writing about health and con-

sumer issues, the booklet would apply to most communities.

50¢ per copy plus postage; 10 or more copies 40¢ plus postage. Health Writers, 306 North Brooks St., Madison, WI 53715.

Tax Reform Confab Draws Officials

Incredibly, on April 16-17 over 200 people from around the country chose to stay indoors on a beautiful and balmy week-end in Washington D.C. while they listened intently and talked animatedly about tax reforms that would increase funds needed by municipalities for human services, but that would shift more of the tax burden to corporations and the wealthy. The majority of participants were elected or appointed officials especially concerned with tax issues, such as Leonel Castillo, Controller for the city of Houston, TX, Evan Doss, Assessor for Claiborn County, MS., Joanne Chesler, newly elected Tax Assessor from Urbana, Il., and Byron Dorgan, Tax Commissioner of North Dakota. But city mayors, councilmembers and state representatives were well represented.

Washington D.C. City Councilman Marion Barry described a tax proposal he is putting before his Finance and Revenue Committee, which is aimed at discouraging speculators from buying homes and reselling them

quickly—a pattern that has forced many poor and black residents from D.C. neighborhoods—by heavily taxing the profits of sales when the current owner has owned the house less than three years. Massachusetts State Rep. Barney Frank said the major limit on tax reform is fear of displeasing business. He cited examples of labor leaders who oppose tax breaks for middle-income workers when told industry might withdraw jobs.

The National Conference is planning many follow up activities to the week-end meeting, including technical assistance through the Alternative Legislation Clearinghouse and intensive workshops and conferences at state and local levels. For more information on any of these programs, write to the National Conference, 1901 Q St., N.W., DC 20009.

Many of the programs discussed at the conference are in the Tax Manual, "New Directions in State and Local Tax Reform", prepared for the conference by Jonathan Rowe. See review below.

New Directions in State & Local Tax Reform

"Nobody ever told us how to reform the taxes," a state legislator said recently. "They just told us to do it."

For years, state and local tax reform has been a desire without a definition. "New Directions in State and Local Tax Reform" brings the tax reform movement into focus. It tells what tax reformers have done, and plan to do, on such subjects as property taxes, auditing large corporations, new city revenues, and taxes on coal and real estate speculation. One chapter explains for the uninitiated how to read a tax proposal. Another chapter profiles the accomplishments of seven state and local

officials who have been active in the tax arena.

A major theme of "New Directions in State and Local Tax Reform" is that tax reform comes in all shapes and sizes. "Tax reform does not only mean closing big income tax loopholes," the introduction says. "It means, as well, making sure that merchants turn over the sales taxes they collect from customers."

This manual will not tell you the "right" solution for every tax reform problem. But it will help public officials and citizens alike to see the direction in which they should be going.

Price for the 390-page book is \$6.50, \$13 to institutions. To order see page 15.

Banking Conference for Non-Bankers

By Kevin Johnson

"Banking for Non-Bankers: The Public Interest and Development Banking" is the theme of a conference set for June 5 through 10, 1977 in Chicago and co-sponsored by the National Conference, the Woodstock Institute, the National Public Interest Research Group and the unique Chicago South Shore National Bank. The meeting will acquaint participants with the fundamental skills needed to deal with topics such as reinvestment, credit availability, loan criteria, bank structure and management, as well as issues such as branch banking, bank holding companies, alternative financial institutions and secondary markets.

The South Shore National Bank is key to the conference. Chicago's South Shore neighborhood, which had been a predominantly white community, had "turned over" in the last decade causing the bank to lose a significant part of its deposit base as its customers moved to the suburbs. In 1972 the bank owners, claiming the area could no longer support a commercial bank, requested regulatory approval to move to a downtown location. Community pressure resulted in denial of the request. Eight months later the bank was purchased by a group of churches, foundations and private individuals.

The intent of the newcomers was to use the bank as a model for community redevelopment. This markedly different approach to banking, developed by Ronald Grzywinski, emphasized profit and lending prudence but was predicated on the belief that a commercial bank, operated as a development bank, would be the best primary base from which to attack neighborhood deterioration.

Structurally the plan was to establish a bank holding company with three arms: a commercial bank, a not-for-profit subsidiary devoted to social welfare programming, and a for-profit subsidiary to make equity investments in economic development projects in South Shore.

In three and a half years the South Shore Bank has reversed the decline in deposits and reinvested more than a third, or \$8 million, of its loan portfolio in the neighborhood, a relatively high proportion compared with other urban banks. It has developed and marketed new programs to better meet the needs of low income customers. The bank is now beginning to work with possible partners in potential joint ventures to accomplish larger housing rehabilitation and commercial development projects.

Net bank income for 1976 was \$429,000—a figure close to industry norms for similarly sized banks. Last year new development loans amounted to \$2.9 million outstanding to South Shore residents.

As an outgrowth of its concern and relative success in neighborhood redevelopment and reinvestment, the South Shore National Bank has joined with other organizations committed to alternative policies to plan the "Banking for Non-Bankers" Conference.

For information about the conference write or call Kevin Johnson, South Shore National Bank, 7054 S. Jeffrey Blvd., Chicago, Il. 60649, (312) 288-1000; or, Lawrence Rosser, Woodstock Institute, (312) 644-4469.

Kevin Johnson is a Goddard College Intern working with the South Shore Bank.

Publications Available From the National Conference

Alternative Legislation Series (\$1 each)

- State Bank. Draft legislation from Oregon and New York.
- Metropolitan Planning Law, Minnesota legislation establishing integrated metropolitan system of land use planning within the seven-county St. Paul-Minneapolis Metropolitan Area.
- Nuclear Safeguards Packet. A compendium of nuclear safeguards moratorium initiative measures from seven states.
- Displaced Homemakers. Bill to establish multipurpose centers to provide counseling, training, skills and referral services to displaced homemakers.
- Citizen Bill of Rights relating to law enforcement intelligence information.
- South Dakota Homestead bill. Model legislation for establishment of a homestead lands commission designed to strengthen family farm system of agriculture.
- A compendium of public power authority bills. Summary and analysis by Lee Webb.
- Neighborhood Government. Washington, D.C. Act to Establish Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.
- Senate bill S2631, the National Consumer Cooperative Bank bill. Proposes a bank that will make loans directly to consumer coops.
- Model State Public Utility Commission Act. Includes recommendations in all areas of electric utility regulation: commission structure, procedure, jurisdiction, enforcement, etc. By Lee Webb & Jack Chesson.
- Model State Energy Act. A draft Bill for a democratically controlled, publicly owned state energy system. By Lee Webb & Jeff Faux.
- Lifeline Packet. The most innovative "lifeline" electric utility rate structure proposals introduced in various state legislatures.
- Louisiana Automobile Insurance Corporation Act. Model legislation establishing a universal, compulsory auto insurance plan, with the state corporation the exclusive underwriter.
- Community Development Finance Corporation. The legislation provides equity and venture capital to finance businesses and create jobs in specifically targeted areas where economic conditions are most severe.

Reprints (50¢ each)

- "Public Control of Public Money" by James Rowen, reprint from *The Progressive*, February 1977. A 6-page article about the Estes Park, CO banking conference, outlining a number of the programs and people represented there.
- "Campaign Surprise: Some Politicians Are Worth Voting For!" by Alexander Cockburn & James Ridgeway, reprint from *The Village Voice*, May 24, 1976 and "The New Progressives" by Cockburn & Ridgeway, *The Voice*, June 23, 1975. Officials associated with the National Conference and their innovative programs are described in these two articles.

- National Conference NEWSLETTER.** The newsletter reports on the activities and plans of the new movement/network of state and local activist elected officials, and on the work of the organizers and planners who are part of the National Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies. Six issues per year. \$5, \$10 to institutions.

Public Policy Series

- Public Policy Reader, Second Edition.** Prepared for the Austin Conference. The Reader is a unique collection of model legislation and ordinance, articles, analyses, and proposals on such issues as energy, tax reform, controlling corporations, and long range program development. Over 650 pages. NEW 1977 PRICE: \$5; \$10 to institutions.
- Legislative Handbook on Women's Issues** by Kathy Rhodes and Ann Beaudry. A collection of legislation on economic issues affecting women, including the best, most innovative proposals, and a detailed bibliography. Price: \$2.50, \$5 to institutions.
- The Cities' Wealth: Programs for Community Economic Control** in Berkeley, California, compiled by the Community Ownership Organizing Project. This report outlines in detail the programs and organizing strategies of the Berkeley Coalition over the seven years of its political work with the Berkeley City Council. Price: \$2.50, \$5 to institutions.
- LABOR-PAC #1.** From Conference Labor Task Force. Toward a "Public Employees Bill of Rights and Model Contract": Background materials on legal framework; data; resources; reports and letters on alternative local developments. Price: \$2.50, \$5 to institutions.
- The Political and Economic Crisis of the Northeast Cities**, edited by Leonard Rodberg. Proceedings of a Seminar on alternative urban policies held April 23-27, 1976. Includes discussion by Hartford, CT. City Councilman Nick Carbone, Washington DC City Councilman Marion Barry, and others. \$1.50, \$3 to institutions.
- State Bank for Co-Ops**, by Lee Webb. A proposal to establish a state bank for cooperatives and a state cooperative development agency. The bill was prepared for the Department of Employment Development, State of California. \$2.50, \$5 to institutions.
- Public Control of Public Money: Should States and Cities Have Their Own Banks?**, by Derek Shearer. Analyzes the advantages and disadvantages of state and city-owned banks. Includes descriptions of the state-owned Bank of North Dakota, and recently proposed state banks in New York, Washington, Oregon, and California. Price: \$1.50 - \$3 to institutions.
- The Manitoba Auto Insurance Plan**, by Sherman Bernard. A report on the operation, costs, and social and economic considerations of providing auto insurance through a public corporation. Price: \$1, \$2 to institutions.
- New Directions in State & Local Tax Reform.** A handbook written largely by tax-reform practitioners and containing original articles, reprints and resource guides. Price: \$6.50, \$13 to institutions.
- Revenue Strategies for D.C.: Potential Initiative Actions.** A study of potential tax revenue sources for cities. Price: \$1.50, \$3 to institutions.

I have enclosed \$ _____ for the publications checked above.
(Please inquire about bulk rates for 10 or more copies.)

Name _____
No. & Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Position/Organization _____

Alternative Legislation

Town Meetings Reject Nuclear Power

The nuclear power industry received a strong body blow when 36 Vermont and at least eight New Hampshire communities, on their traditional Town Meeting Day in March, voted against future nuclear construction within their borders. The towns also voted against the transportation of nuclear materials through their communities, and the storage or disposal of nuclear wastes within their borders.

This was the first time that a large number of communities within a state took a firm stance against future nuclear development. The Vermont effort was organized by the Vermont Public Interest Research Group which succeeded in getting resolutions on the warrants in about 40 towns. The votes on some of the anti-nuclear proposals are not binding. While the nuclear opponents had conceded that before the voting, they insisted that the symbolic nature of the towns' votes was important. Nuclear power industry officials, who earlier in the year had announced they were doubling their public-relations budget, said that a court test of the votes was likely in any case.

The present Republican governor, Richard Snelling, and the past Democratic governor, Thomas Salmon, opposed the towns considering the resolutions, arguing that they were inappropriate and that such decisions should be left to the state and federal government.

Former U.S. Sen. George Aiken, who retired in 1974 after 34 years, spoke out at length in the Putney town meeting in opposition to the anti-nuclear proposals. But in most towns the anti-nuclear majorities were two or three to one. Only two towns rejected the bans completely. Five others either tabled or postponed parts of the ban.

An important additional vote against nuclear power is coming up in mid-May in the small town of Orwell, identified by the state's largest utility as the best site for a new nuclear power plant.

In neighboring New Hampshire, the Clamshell Alliance and the Seacoast Anti-Pollution League sponsored similar resolutions in about 11 towns, but focused on opposition to the planned Seabrook nuclear plant on New Hampshire's seacoast. Eight towns voted against the nuclear plants, and Seabrook, the site of a plant already under construction, voted to ban the transportation of nuclear wastes.

The anti-nuclear resolutions are very much in the recent tradition of New England town government. Two years ago many Vermont town meetings took strong stands for public power and a radical progressive tax reform proposal. For more information and copies of materials prepared for the town meetings, contact Whitey Bluestein, Vermont PIRG, 26 State St, Montpelier, VT

Proposed Alaskan Legislation

A number of interesting bills are in preparation for introduction to the Alaska Legislature. They include 1) a state energy corporation that would put the state in the oil and gas exploration business; 2) a state bank that would invest Alaska's surplus oil revenues; 3) a bill prohibiting public employee affiliation with the Teamster's Union; 4) public financing, with spending limits, of the Governor's race and 5) a bill that would fund citizen participation in utility hearings. Copies or news of these bills can be had by writing to Jamie Love, Alaska Public Interest Research Group, P.O. 1093, Anchorage, 99510.

Homemaking Factor in New Divorce Law

A divorce law aimed at assuring women more equitable divorce settlements, was passed by the 1977 Virginia General Assembly. The legislation, sponsored by the Assembly's seven women members, instructs judges to consider a woman's non-monetary homemaking contributions—such as cooking, cleaning and child rearing—in establishing a settlement. The measure also allows a judge to order a lump sum award in addition to periodic alimony payments, and orders the judge to consider property as well as income in reaching a settlement.

More on page 2

Third Annual Conference Set for Denver

The third annual conference of the National Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies, which will be held the week-end of July 7-10 in Denver, CO. promises to be the most provocative and important gathering of electoral activists since the first gathering in Madison, WI in 1975. As before, elected and appointed officials, community and labor organizers, public interest advocates, public employees and community leaders will meet to share experiences and programs. The three-day conference will have an extensive program of speakers, panels, and workshops that will provide participants an unparalleled opportunity to study the most innovative legislation and proposals under consideration in states and cities across the country. Turn to pages 7-10 for the Conference Agenda, housing and other information — and a pre-registration form to ensure your participation.

National Conference Newsletter

Institute for Policy Studies
1901 Que Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

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