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conference on ALTERNATIVE state and local PUBLIC POLICIES

January 1978

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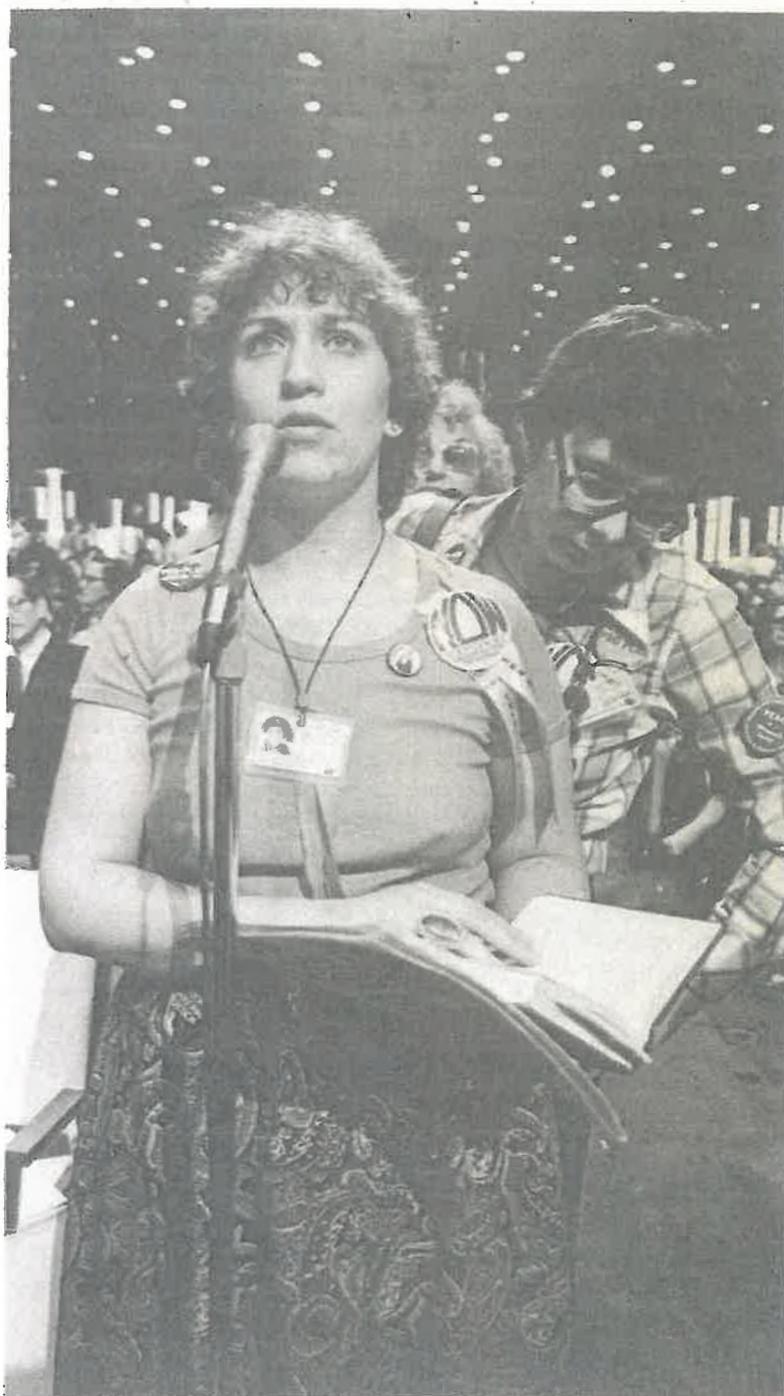
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Solarcal: Blazing the Solar Frontier

by Fred Branfman

A major statewide campaign has begun in Los Angeles for Solarcal, a proposal for a public Authority to help create a new solar industry in California. The campaign has major national implications, testing both possibilities for structural economic change and political coalition-building among labor, minorities, small business, and progressives.

The Solarcal campaign, largely organized to date at the grass-roots by the Campaign for Economic Democracy, has two strategic phases. First, an "endorsement strategy," begun in October, 1977, which produced in its first month of operation dozens of endorsements ranging from San Francisco Mayor George Moscone to Rep. Ron Dellums to the Governor's Energy Advisor, Wilson Clark, and organizations like both the Santa Clara Central Labor Council and the Santa Clara Sierra Club. Second, a "public education" campaign planned for 1978, including speeches, press conferences, slide shows and, possibly, paid media.

Solarcal representatives have recently begun meeting with the relevant staff from the State Legislature, to figure out a joint approach between the Solarcal "model bill" and the half-dozen major solar bills which the Legislature is considering.

The legislative outcome will serve as a test-case of the possibility of uniting a large number of people around structural economic change. Solar is vastly popular in this state. It offers real economic benefits—to labor and minorities as a jobs program and to small business as an economic development program. It has particularly symbolic importance for those with an environmental/consumer consciousness.

Among the major economic issues at stake are:

(1) **Economic goal-setting**—Solarcal is based on the belief that there is both an economic and energy crisis, and that we must move boldly on solar to

even begin a solution to this crisis. It is not enough merely to accelerate a still-fledgling solar industry. We need to set a goal, e.g. "solarizing" every feasible roof and building in California by 1990, and establish a program to do so. Solarcal legislation would see a specific group, with a budget, charged with producing such a plan.

(2) **Financing**—It's easy to be for solar these days, alot harder to support the major sort of re-direction of capital necessary to finance a full-scale "solarization" plan. One possibility under consideration is floating general obligation "solar bonds," though many fear that this would fail the obligatory ballot test. Other suggested schemes include revenue bonds for consumer loans, revenue bonds only for warranty guarantees, 7% utility homeowner loans under strict Public Utilities Commission control, SBA money to help small solar business, a special utility account based on the marginal price of gas from which the consumer could draw to shift to solar.

Whatever proposal is worked out, it is clear that Solarcal poses a major test of whether it is possible to finance the restructuring dreams of progressives over the next decade.

(3) **Monopoly control**—Solarcal helps only small business, cities, and co-ops developing solar, and has been put forward specifically as an alternative to utility control over the sun. California utilities have clearly signaled their intention to move into solar, and Solarcal is realistically the only possibility for avoiding monopoly control over the next decade.

Solarcal will also provide a political litmus test for both the progressiye movement and Jerry Brown.

As the major job-creation initiative presently being proposed in California, and one particularly well-suited for the unskilled, Solarcal should have broad appeal for labor and minority groups, while its emphasis on small business and local economic develop-

ment should have broad middle-class appeal. Solarcal's success in winning support from these groups, as well as traditional consumer, environmental and progressive constituencies, will teach much about the possibilities of building such coalitions in the future.

The next major step in the Solarcal campaign will be publication of a detailed jobs study, entitled "Jobs in a New California Solar Industry." As organizers take it to labor unions, small business groups and minority organizations around the state, such basic questions as the ability of unions and small business to transcend traditional tensions will be tested.

Observers say that the Solarcal campaign has already played a role in encouraging Jerry Brown to support solar verbally, though he has yet to advance substantive programs.

Prospects seem bright as 1978 begins. Just a year ago the debate was still whether solar was commercially feasible; now, Solarcal has helped make the question *how*, not whether, solar will be implemented in the years to come.

California will be laying the basis for a new solar industry in 1978. Solarcal will have a major role in helping to shape the nature of this industry—and, by extension, the direction of progressive politics as well.

Fred Branfman is an associate of the California Public Policy Center. For more information on Solarcal, contact him at CPPC, 304 So. Broadway, Room 224, Los Angeles, CA 90013. (213) 628-8888.

Correction

The Conference Newsletter regrets the factual inaccuracies contained in the recent article on Hartford, CT. The Conference Newsletter also incorrectly stated that Assistant Mayor John Alschuler had participated in any way in the preparation or review of the article.

Municipal Conservation

by Hal Conklin

We in Santa Barbara were happy to read Bettina Conner's article, "Conservation in One City", in the November issue of the Newsletter.

The City of Davis has done a fine job in initiating an energy conservation project. In our City, we have also had such a project and we reduced the consumption of energy in all utility use by 5%. The difference in our emphasis is worth the close attention of any City contemplating such an undertaking.

In Davis, the primary emphasis is on the future; they changed construction codes and zoning regulations. In Santa Barbara, our primary efforts were directed toward reducing the consumption of energy sources presently in widespread use; gas, electricity, etc. We held a Light-Out campaign to focus attention on energy consumption in the commercial sector of the community. We prepared educational materials on energy conservation for distribution in elementary and secondary schools. We held an energy conservation week. Overall, the results obtained by the general populace were minimal. Our major success was in the municipal program. Through implementation of a series of simple procedures, we found that a 25% reduction could be obtained.

The myriad of problems we encountered were essentially psychological in nature. Pleas for social approval are not as effective as a prescribed usage program.

With a precise limit on the energy allowed each consumer and the concomitant burden of responsibility that this system provides, participation becomes mandatory.

Our entire project is well documented in a booklet entitled, *Santa Barbara Energy Conservation Project*. Copies may be obtained for \$6 from the Environmental Council, 109 E. De La Guerra St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Hal Conklin is a member of the City Council of Santa Barbara, CA.

What's Happening?

by Barbara Bick

The Newsletter, which is two years old with this issue, will soon be undergoing a transformation. Plans for an expanded publication, approved by the Administrative Committee meeting in December, include a new name, expanded coverage of policy and political developments, a major promotion effort, and an increase in the subscription price. Another major change, occasioned by higher printing and postage costs, will regrettably be the end of free subscriptions. So beware.

And A Fond Adieu

Another change is that this will be my last issue as editor. Now seems the appropriate moment for me to resign in order to get on with work which has increasingly engrossed me since my separation from the Institute for Policy Studies. I want to spend more of my time and energy on writing, especially on feminist subjects. I also want to work more closely with my colleagues at the Public Resource Center who have begun an ambitious program in a number of policy areas. We have initiated program development and organizing toward a new full employment policy based on soft energy and grounded in stable and diversified communities. During the last few years, several of us wrote the model legislation for a nationally-funded, community-based health service, which was introduced by Rep. Ronald Dellums as the Health Service Act. We plan to utilize the concepts and the process developed in that legislation: delivery of public services through community-based organization; democratic decision-making through locally controlled institutions, regionally and nationally coordinated; and worker self-management. Key to the design will be full employment linked with community development, and the interconnection between a resolution of unemployment and the energy problem. I hope to work with many of you in developing and promoting these ideas over the coming years.

Favorable responses to the Newsletter, and the encouragement that many of you have given me in the last three years, have been gratifying. I am pleased with the ground the Conference has covered since we initially got together in 1975. From the first issue of the Newsletter, in January 1976, over 50 people have written articles covering many of the policy and political issues which confront state and local activists. These included the fiscal crisis of cities, public employee questions, tax and energy policies, criminal justice programs, candidate profiles, problematics of social change through electoral politics, and economic alternatives.

Most feedback has come from the Alternative Legislation and the Notes To Note sections. These short items have elicited the kind of response that indicates the Newsletter

and the National Conference are doing their job. In short, I am happy with what we have done with the Newsletter and I have enjoyed being part of the network of officials and the programmatic politics that it reflects.

I expect that we will meet frequently at future national and regional conferences, as well as at meetings of the National Steering Committee. I also hope that you will all keep in touch so that we can continue to work together in other projects as well. My address is: Public Resource Center, 1747 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Wash., D.C. 20009. (202) 483-7014.

Public Interest Advocates in Government

An agonizing question which plagues many progressives going into government—*Will I be able to make a difference?*—was held up to scrutiny at a meeting held recently by the Nader Public Citizen Forum. There were two panels. The first was of high-level public interest appointees now in government: Sam Brown, Director, ACTION; Joan Claybrook, Administrator, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration; Carol Tucker Foreman, Asst. Secretary for Food & Consumer Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Michael Pertschuk, Chairman, Federal Trade Commission; Gus Speth, Council on Environmental Quality; and Harrison Wellford, Exec. Assoc. Director, Office of Management & Budget.

They reported enthusiastically on their progressive accomplishments to date and were uniformly glowing about the amount of support Carter has given them. Foreman, indeed, reported on a meeting high level women appointees had with Carter at which he assured them there would not be "retribution" for any public criticism of Administration policy. The major complaint, often bitter, concerned the bureaucracy, and the inflexibility and restraints of the Civil Service. They all reported having "great fun" on the job.

The second panel was made up of former high-level officials: Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General; Herbert Denenberg, former Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner; Morton Halperin, former Dep. Asst. Secretary of Defense, Intern'l. Security Affairs; and Nicholas Johnson, former Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission.

It was clear that the second group, with more space and perspective to consider if they had *really made a difference*, viewed it somewhat differently. Indeed, Clark blasted the entire notion of public interest advocates in government, since the concept of government itself should be in the public interest. Essentially though, Clark insisted the first group was not speaking to the issue. Despite the good things they were doing, in fact nothing was really changing. These panelists generally felt that both they, as pro-

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Continued . . .

gressives in government, and their successors, shared a fundamental failure of vision and a tragic underestimate of the possible. Denenberg spoke about careerism; he noted he had worked in 4-hour time frames since he always assumed he would be fired in four hours. He stressed the importance of plunging in and going after the big goals, thereby developing a strong constituency. The point was made that traditions of resignations, and even of civil disobedience, should be built by public officials. Particularly important was the fact that none of the latter group considered "the problem" to have been the Civil Service. They stressed, instead, that the bureaucracy could be mobilized and made to work if they were motivated.

Interestingly, I noticed few from the first panel staying to listen to their predecessors.

King Mayoralty Bid

We have just heard that Massachusetts State Rep. Melvin King agreed to run for Mayor of Boston when his supporters, in turn, agreed to work for the kind of political process which King wants to develop in that city. King, who is serving his third term as representative of Boston's South End, Roxbury and Fenway neighborhoods, received a commitment to an extended electoral process based on developing neighborhood participation. An important aspect of the agreement was that King would be supported in both the '79 and the '82 mayoralty races. This means that the neighborhood movement-building around the programs of his candidacy would continue—win or lose—for a 5-year period. As a long time activist, King wants neighborhood people to identify his campaign as their own. Mel told us that he wants "everybody to be running for Mayor. The people in the neighborhoods have to play a major role if we are going to win."

Mel is on the Administrative Committee of the National Conference. He has played a major role at national conferences and was an initiator of the Northeast Cities Conference held last winter in Hartford, Ct. Although his prime areas of work in the Legislature are community economic development and education, he is particularly enthusiastic about several urban agriculture projects which he has fostered in Boston's neighborhoods. We will soon hear more about Mel's candidacy and its impact on Boston politics.

Shearer for Assessor

Derek Shearer, a founder of the National Conference and member of the Administrative Committee, is one of 20 candidates for the office of Los Angeles County Assessor. Since the 4-term former assessor retired (under threat of criminal indictment) with more than a year left on his term of office, the Board of Supervisors has to appoint a successor. Derek, who ran wife Ruth Yannatta's recent campaign

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Spotlight On Taxes

Taxless Revenue

Try this for some new revenue: abandoned property. Not real estate, but other things: bank accounts, insurance policies, security deposits, stock dividends, unused airline tickets. The possibilities are endless.

About \$1 billion worth of such property is abandoned each year, unclaimed and forgotten by the owners. What happens to it? After a certain period, it is supposed to go to the state. The state has to keep reserve funds in case the owners ever show up. But most of the money can go into the general fund. New York put \$12 million in abandoned property into its general fund last year.

Many states, however, don't have modern abandoned property laws. In these states the property just sits in the banks and corporations building up interest for those companies. In the District of Columbia, for example, millions of dollars in abandoned property is sitting in local banks because the District has never enacted laws requiring the banks to report the property or to hand it over.

Even tax refunds can be abandoned. According to an AP report, Utah State Auditor Richard Jensen is suing the IRS for over \$100 million in tax refunds which Utah citizens never collected.

The Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, in Chicago, have drafted a model state Abandoned Property Act. For more information, contact them. *New Directions in State Local Tax Reform*, available from the Conference, has a special chapter on abandoned property as a revenue source.

Multinational Charity

Multinational corporations will gain major state tax loopholes if several recent federal proposals are passed.

First the banks. Sen. Thomas McIntyre has introduced S.1900, which would limit the ability of states to tax out-of-state banks. One example: suppose the Chase-Manhattan Bank sent agents into New Hampshire to solicit loans, in competition with New

Hampshire banks. As long as Chase processed the loans in New York, New Hampshire could not tax it.

The Bill was drafted by bank lobbyists, who are worried because the previous federal law limiting state bank taxes has expired. No state has taken advantage of the new taxing authority resulting from this expiration. However Sen. McIntyre introduced the bill at the request of the banks and does not appear to support it personally.

Regarding other multinationals, Sen. Charles Mathias has introduced S.2173, which would curb state sales and income taxes on out-of-state corporations. One section would give multinationals virtually free reign to hide their profits in overseas subsidiaries. This would happen as well under article 9(4) of the United Kingdom Tax Treaty (see *Newsletter*, Sept. '77) which will come before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in early '78.

On top of this, the Treasury Department is still urging the President to include a big state tax loophole for multinationals in his tax reform package.

Double Bookkeeping

Public utility commissions (PUC's) in California and Maine are cracking down on multimillion dollar tax finagling by utilities.

Typical utilities — gas, electric, telephone companies, and the like — keep at least two sets of books, one for the IRS, the other for the PUC. Their IRS returns show special tax breaks that save them millions in taxes each year. Accelerated depreciation and the investment credit are the big ones. But their reports to the PUC's tell a different story. To simplify a bit, the utilities cancel out the tax breaks, and treat the taxes as though they were actually paid. These phoney taxes reduce the utility's apparent profits, and thus justify large rate increases. In effect, consumers have to pay for taxes the utilities never paid.

The PUC's in California and Maine are ordering utilities to

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cut out this nonsense, and pass their tax savings along to their customers. This process is called "flow-through". The California PUC is requiring Pacific Telephone to refund to its customers \$206 million in past phoney tax charges, and to reduce its current rates by \$60 million.

The Alaska Public Interest Research Group is raising the same issue in a telephone rate hearing. AkPIRG is charging

that RCA, which runs the state's long distance phone system, has built into its rates almost ten million in federal taxes that the company never paid.

Dorgan Nails Cargill

North Dakota State Tax Commissioner Byron Dorgan has forced Cargill, the international grain company, to turn over its tax returns for all the states in which it operates.

Dorgan suspects that Cargill, which had over \$7 billion in sales in 1974, is avoiding taxes by giving inconsistent figures to different states. The company apportioned only one-tenth of one percent of its sales to North Dakota, even though it does substantial business in the state.

Dorgan had to take Cargill to court to make the company comply with his order.

The court concluded that

"the Tax Commissioner has shown a definite use for the tax returns and is not merely on a fishing expedition to extract information."

To Dorgan's knowledge, this is the first time a state tax commissioner has been able to put a major corporation's state tax returns side-by-side to see if it has been telling the truth.

Short Stuff

New York City has extended
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Solar Energy: Is There a Public Option?

by Leonard Rodberg

It is commonplace now for advocates of solar energy to point out the decentralizing possibilities inherent in this alternative source of energy. What is not often spelled out is how such possibilities would actually be worked out in practice. Too often old formulas are invoked and some potentially important progressive steps neglected.

In the last issue of the Conference Newsletter, Peter Barnes and John Geesman laid out clearly the substantial cost to all of us if the control of solar energy is turned over to the utilities. Barnes contrasts this with control by consumers, using the experience with federally-subsidized home ownership to make his point that subsidies to consumers are cost effective and equitable.

Barnes follows a common path of considering only *private* control alternatives, ignoring completely the possibility that solar energy might be developed under *public* auspices. This might derive from many peoples' well-founded distrust of the cost-effectiveness and equity of governmental actions, or from his belief that there is little popular support for public control of solar energy development. However, until a clear public alternative is articulated and discussed, it is hard to know what the popular response would be, much less to build a movement that would support such an alternative.

Using Barnes' criteria of cost-effectiveness and economic

equity, one can easily argue that publicly-funded solar energy development under public auspices is preferable to depending on either private utilities or individual consumers:

1. A public subsidy of consumers (e.g., through a partial tax credit) is inefficient, since many (perhaps, I would argue, most) of those who will buy solar energy units would do so even without this tax subsidy. The subsidy is thus little more than a giveaway from the public treasury.

2. Even with a subsidy, most consumers are unlikely to make the large investment that solar energy requires for an uncertain future saving. As we saw in the energy crisis of 1973-4, fuel suppliers will raise their rates to compensate for any decline in consumption, so the consumers who install solar energy may end up paying as much as they now do in order to consume less oil, gas, or electricity. Thus, if a shift to solar energy is in the general public interest, to save declining petroleum reserves, public policy should be designed to ensure that this shift takes place and does not depend on the whims of consumer "preference".

3. The consumers who would purchase solar energy units are presumably those who own their own homes and, in fact, mainly the higher-income members of this part of the population. The 35% of the American people who rent their housing, and the 60% of the remainder who own their

homes but earn less than \$15,000, are unlikely to benefit from any consumer-oriented program or to make the shift to solar energy that the public interest requires.

4. Cost analyses suggest that solar heating and electricity units are most efficient on a community scale where they can serve hundreds or thousands of people, *not* on the scale of the individual home. Scale economies in solar collection systems that can track the sun, and in energy storage units, are among the clear benefits of such community-level scaling.

5. The emerging debate over "sun rights" — to have the sun fall on your property and not be blocked by a neighbor's building or trees — is showing that access to the source of solar energy, the sun's rays, is a *community* question, not an individual one. Many individual homeowners would, even today, have no access to the sun and would have to draw on solar generation taking place some place other than on their own property.

These and other issues show clearly that another plan, based on *public* development and control, is needed. What might be its characteristics?

1. It would provide full federal funding for the installation of solar energy, perhaps setting as a target full conversion of home heating and electricity by the year 2000. One might compare solar heating to water supply, where the basic installation cost is viewed as part of the public sector budget.

2. The actual installation of solar energy units, though funded federally, would be planned and controlled within each community. This would ensure that the solar installation would conform to the particular characteristics of each community and would optimize cost and the use of community space. Here, in its essence, is where the decentralizing potential of solar energy would reach fruition.

3. Funds would be allocated to cities, and then to community-based organizations, on the basis of population and estimated installation cost. Units would be installed in accordance with a long-term plan aiming at complete conversion by some set target date.

Such a publicly-funded, community based program could provide a new source of employment desperately needed in our stagnating economy. In fact, one can imagine a "solar full-employment" program, since (i) the cost to the federal government of a solar energy program targeted on the year 2000, and (ii) the additional federal expenditures needed to provide full employment, have both been estimated at about \$30 billion per year.

The case is clear, and the possibilities immense. Now we need to detail such a program so it can be publicly debated.

Leonard Rodberg is a colleague of the Public Resource Center in Washington, DC and is working on employment and energy policy alternatives.

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Continued . . .

for the state assembly, has proposed some startling (to the largely conservative board) and innovative tax proposals, generating a lot of support for his bid. His appointment would be a tremendous boost to tax reformers not only in Los Angeles County, but throughout the country.

Soglin to Write a Book

Madison, WI Mayor Paul Soglin, another Conference initiator and host to our first national conference, has announced he will not run for a fourth term in 1979. Paul told us that he wants to write a book about what will be (at the end of this term) his 11 years of experience in municipal government—five years on the Madison city council, and six years as mayor. A number of people have shared their experiences on how to run and win campaigns, but not many have written about what you can do when you are in office. We share Paul's feeling that what he has to say will make important reading.



Soglin's early announcement of his intention not to run again was so the progressive coalition that voted him into office would have enough time to select another candidate. "People closely allied to my political thinking would not have bothered to build candidacies if they believed I would be running for another term," he said. On the other hand, the conservative opposition would have surfaced and been prepared.

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Grass Roots Electoral Organizing

by Bob Schaeffer

The 1978 State Legislative election races got underway in Massachusetts this past November 19, nearly a year in advance of the general elections, when Citizens for Participation in Political Action (CPPAX) sponsored a day-long campaign kickoff workshop.

As in the group's 1976 workshop which launched a successful campaign that captured nearly two dozen legislative seats in the last biannual elections, the session focussed on blending progressive issues with winning strategies. On hand as resource people were half a dozen experienced campaigners who had proven that upfront progressive politics was not a hindrance to electoral success. Workshop leaders included State Senator Chester Atkins (author of the excellent handbook *Getting Elected: A guide to winning state and local office*, Boston, MA, Houghton-Mifflin, 1973, orders to CPPAX Education Fund, 75¢) Gerard D'Amico and Jack Backman and State Representatives John Businger, Sandra Graham, Rick Roche and Phil Johnston. Most had run victorious campaigns in the past with CPPAX support.

The workshop is the second stage in CPPAX's comprehensive electoral plan for 1978 coordinated by the organization's "Campaign for An Open Legislature". For the last three months CPPAX staffers, assisted by interns and local coordinators, have been analyzing each of the state's election districts in terms of the incumbent's legislative performance, the status of progressive organization, local issues and potential challengers. The electoral scene in Massachusetts is especially complicated for 1978 since that will be the election in which the legislature's lower house is cut from 240 to 160 members. In addition many of the state Senate's 40 seats are also being redistricted. CPPAX believes the shake-up will present many new opportunities for progressive challengers.

Following the workshop,

CPPAX will target key districts for membership action. Endorsements will be made well in advance of the September primary if a candidate can win a two-thirds vote of the organization's members living in the district. CPPAX endorsees will receive consulting services through a grassroots network of experienced campaigners, low-cost campaign services like printing, graphics and mailing and coordinated state-wide fundraising.

Since electoral action is simply one strategy to advance issues, CPPAX will continue a broad program of education, organizing and lobbying in parallel with campaign activities.

Massachusetts is not the only state where progressives plan to mount a major effort targeted on legislative election. Across the continent, a coalition of activists from consumer, civil rights, poverty, conservation, labor and women's organizations has formed Alaska '78 to raise money to back issue-oriented candidates for that state's legislature. Organizers of the effort hope to raise at least \$10,000 to support contenders running on a platform of economic reforms, environmental protection, and human rights. According to the group's initial statement, "One of the biggest issues will center on the state's oil and gas taxation policy, with Alaska '78 demanding the public get a bigger bite of the billions from Alaska oil production."

Jamie Love, one of the Alaska '78 organizers, outlined three goals for their campaign: making a difference at the polls by raising money and organizing volunteer help; shifting the spotlight of the campaign onto progressive bread and butter issues like tax reform; and earning "chits" that can be translated into legislation at a later date by gaining electoral clout.

In California, The Campaign For Economic Democracy is also making plans for 1978. According to an interview with CED founder Tom Hayden in a

Women's Legislative Plan

by Barbara Bick

The first comprehensive legislative program directed solely to the concerns of women was a major accomplishment of the Houston National Women's Conference. There have been other national women's legislative agendas but none have been arrived at with such an enormous amount of participation by women representing such a broad spectrum and reaching, literally, every corner of the nation. Some 130,000 women attended the state and territorial conferences. They were not the usual activist and/or elite conference goers or program developers. To the contrary, many of the women participants had never before attended a women's meeting, or had ventured out of their locality, or been on a plane. Among the nearly 2,000 delegates elected or appointed from these meetings or by the commissioners to go to Houston, 17.4% were black, 8.3% hispanic and almost 10% members of other minority groups. Again, uncharacteristically, a far larger number of the delegates were middle and low income women than usually attend conferences.

While most of the legislative program referred to Federal initiatives, there was considerable attention to the need for state and local legislative action. Among the resolutions calling

specifically for state and local action were the following:

- State and local governments should develop training programs for the employment and promotion of women in policy-level positions. Special attention should be given to the employment needs of minority women.

- State governments should assume a role in focusing on welfare and poverty as major women's issues. All welfare reform proposals should be examined specifically for their impact on women.

- State legislatures and State insurance commissioners should adopt the Model Regulation to Eliminate Unfair Sex Discrimination of the National Assoc. of Insurance Commissioners. The Regulation should be amended to include prohibition of practices such as:

- denial of group disability coverage for normal pregnancy and complications of pregnancy.
- requiring dependents who convert from spouses' contracts to their own to pay increased premiums for the same coverage or be forced to insure for lower coverage.
- denial of coverage to women with children born out of wedlock and denying eligibility of benefits to such children.
- A farm wife should have the same ownership rights as her spouse under State inherit-

ance laws. Tax law should recognize that the labor of a farm wife gives her an equitable interest in the property. All programs developed on behalf of rural women should include Black, migrant, Native American, Alaskan, Asian, and Hispanic, and all isolated minorities, and affirmative action programs should be extended to include all disenfranchised groups.

- State governments should support efforts to provide social and health services that will enable the older woman to live with dignity and security.

- States should review and reform their sentencing laws and practices to eliminate discrimination that affects the treatment of women in penal facilities. Particular attention should be paid to the needs of poor and minority women.

- State and local governments should rigorously enforce all current legislation that affects the lives of disabled women. Disabled women should have access to education, training and employment based on their needs and interests rather than on the preconceived notions of others.

- Institutionalized bias based on race, language, culture and/or ethnic origin have led to additional oppression and exclusion of minority women. They disproportionately suffer from conditions of poverty. Therefore every level of government should recognize and

remedy this double-discrimination.

- State and local governments should give the highest priority to making available all methods of family planning to women. The exclusion of abortion or childbirth and pregnancy-related care from State or local funding is opposed. Particular attention should be paid at all levels of government to providing confidential family-planning services for teenagers. Programs in sex education should be provided in all schools, including elementary schools.

- State school systems should move against sex and race stereotyping through appropriate action, including:

- Review of books and curriculum.
- the integration into the curriculum of programs of study that restore to women their history and their achievements.
- Pre-service and in-service training of teachers and administrators.
- States should license and recognize qualified midwives and nurse practitioners as independent health specialists and State laws should require health insurance providers to directly reimburse these health specialists. States should enact a patient's bill of rights.

- Local and State governments should provide training programs on the problem of wife battering, crisis intervention techniques, and effective enforcement of laws that protect the rights of battered women. State legislatures should enact laws to expand legal protection and provide funds for shelters for battered women and their children; remove interspousal tort immunity in order to permit assaulted spouses to sue their assailants for civil damages; and provide full legal services for victims of abuse.

- States should set up child abuse prevention, counseling and intervention programs. Child abuse is defined, for this purpose, as pornographic exploitation of children, sexual abuse, battering, and neglect.

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recent issue of the bi-weekly "Politicks", "our primary interest in candidates would be where we could make a genuine difference, not where we could just go along and endorse somebody. You have city council, supervisors; those kinds of races would be more important to our local groups, where 20 people working very hard for a month, and spending \$1,000 would be much more meaningful . . ."

Back on the east coast, the Caucus of Concerned Democrats, the Connecticut affiliate of the New Democratic Coalition, is expected to repeat their "Committee for an Effective

Legislature" fund-raising drive which supported over two dozen candidates in 1974 and '76. More than 2/3rds of CCD's endorsees have been winners. Other state groups are in the early stages of planning electoral drives. We'll report on them as campaigns get under way.

Former CPPAX staffer Bob Schaeffer is available to help other friends of the National Conference set up similar campaign training workshops in their area. Contact him at 35 Kingston St., Boston, MA 02111 (617) 426-3040.

Shaeffer also wants to note

the following:

The quote attributed to me in Newsletter #8 distorts my position by reversing two sentences. I do believe that "most state and local politics stinks" around the country, but that is because there has until recently been "a real vacuum . . . little citizen pressure on city and state issues from a progressive direction." I am fully aware of the positive changes that have taken place in the last few years. As this article should make clear, CPPAX is part of that movement and encourages its spread through the Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies.

Garbage—the Neigh

by Neil N. Seldman and Virginia Drewry

Garbage is a primary problem of this country's cities, with municipalities spending about \$4.5 billion this year for solid waste management services—the second largest outlay from local budgets.

Part of the problem is that we are coming to the end of an era in the solid waste collection and disposal field. Land-fill space is being exhausted rapidly. Many cities have no more space, and more than half our cities are expected to run out of available dumping sites by 1979.

Two years ago, a consulting report recommended that Montgomery County, Md. haul its waste by rail to Ohio for dumping. But as soon as the townspeople in Ohio discovered the arrangements, they, too, resisted. Several localities in the United States have recently passed laws prohibiting the dumping of imported garbage.

Incinerating would seem to be a solution. However, the use of this alternative also has been restricted. A study at the University of Maryland found that incinerated waste is a major source of dangerous pollutants.

Proponents of the much-heralded large resource recovery plants that were supposed to separate out recyclable materials mechanically and burn the remaining fractions as a fuel supplement have yet to prove that the facilities are technologically or financially sound or amenable to complicated institutional arrangements.

Another part of the problem is that we are coming to the end of an era of cheap energy and materials. The prospect of severe economic dislocations due to dwindling resources and environmental quality is bringing about the rethinking and rewriting of state and federal tax and pollution control laws, which are rapidly increasing the costs of raw materials. As a result of this economic reality, industry is making a major effort to expand into the recycling field.

These natural resource, economic and solid waste management developments are crucial for cities like Washington where a strong neighborhood movement can intercede in this critical transition period and prove that residents can provide needed services by forming new recycling enterprises.

From 150 to 200 jurisdictions in this country already have collection and recycling services. These range from a remote rural area in northern California served by a mobile recycling unit, to an inner-city community development corporation in Bridgeport, Conn., to a citywide system serving 100,000 people in Fresno, Calif.

Block grant money is funding a program in Cambridge, Mass., started by tenants of several housing authority projects; about 50 per cent of the waste generated in par-

ticipating buildings is recycled by 27 youths and three adults.

A community development corporation in the South Bronx soon will be composting 100 cubic yards of organic waste a day; half the compost will be given to community groups for use on recreation areas and gardens and the other half will be sold.

Handicapped workers are employed in Project Arrowhead, a recycling program which serves 17,000 square miles in rural Minnesota; a Portland, Ore., group recycles more than 1,000 tons of waste a month; a system which serves 150,000, needs no subsidies and grosses more than \$150,000 annually is operating in Santa Barbara, Calif.

In addition, municipal departments, private haulers and recyclers are cooperating to build citywide collection-recycling systems in such jurisdictions as Seattle, Marblehead, Mass., Waterbury, Conn., San Luis Obispo, Calif., and Northglenn, Colo.

And the first comprehensive system to operate in a large, older Eastern city could be that in the nation's capital, which generates about 2,200 tons of garbage a day.

The Washington, D.C. Department of Environmental Services (DES) staff is completing a feasibility report for a municipally-run pilot recycling project. The National Black Veterans Organization (NBVO) is using a grant from the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) to make a major investment in a local recycling effort that will link neighborhood-based recycling/waste utilization programs from various parts of the metropolitan area into a citywide program.

The resources are available for building a citywide system. Millions of dollars of youth and adult employment monies soon will be coming into the area. These funds could be used to capitalize viable community enterprises. And most importantly, the District of Columbia has neighborhood planning councils, advisory neighborhood commissions and an array of civic associations and neighborhood organizations.

The OMBE has had the prescience to invest locally in the emerging recycling industry. When \$350,000 was provided in support of the NBVO recycling program, NBVO parlayed this with 25 workers funded under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act and a community recycling business already in existence to take the initial steps toward building a citywide system.

The disarmingly simple plan is based on two similar operations serving suburban and small-town communities in and around New Oxford, Mass., and Branford, Conn. NBVO will build a processing facility within the District. Workers will crush, store and transport recyclables to markets.

Neighborhood Connection

The Dupont Circle Neighborhood Ecology Corporation is the first link in the planned NBVO chain. DCNEC is collecting newsprint and aluminum. Newsprint is sold either to a local cellulose insulation manufacturer or a local paper broker, aluminum to large commercial corporations. DCNEC, started as a community service corporation, is run by a board of 15 local residents. About \$4,000 in start-up capital was contributed. An unemployed D.C. resident was hired as DCNEC's coordinator. During the summer, she and two youth workers provided by Neighborhood Planning Council 13 handled pickups from area homes and apartment houses. Later, five CETA workers volunteered to work with DCNEC, gaining on-the-job training. Pickups were expanded to five apartment buildings and 15 more apartment builds were lined up for service.

The DCNEC-NBVO relationship is a model for future neighborhood recycling enterprises. The entire city could be served by a network of these neighborhood-based programs.

Once they are in operation, these enterprises will employ local residents and make a major contribution to a sound local economy. Yet they represent only the first of many steps that Washington could make in the recycling field.

Through its research and demonstration projects, the Institute for Local Self-Reliance is proving that urban residents can use their garbage to produce considerable amounts of the energy, food, goods, and services that they require.

One example is the use of newsprint as a raw material to support three kinds of interdependent local enterprises. A recycling firm can collect newsprint and market it to a cellulose insulation firm where the paper is pulverized and treated with fire-retardant chemicals. The finished product can then be installed by a local company. Community development corporations in several cities, such as the South Bronx, are establishing cellulose fabrication plants.

Similarly, organic wastes can be turned into finished compost and sold for urban gardens, greenhouses and public roads and recreation departments. The demand for finished compost is increasing because the price of chemically-based fertilizers has risen threefold in two years and will go higher as natural gas shortages develop.

There are other solid waste materials that lend themselves to recycling. Plastic can be ground and extruded to make new products, using equipment that requires a relatively low capital investment. Metals can be detinned and smelted for use in local factories or for sale to copper precipitators and iron and tin users. In Branford, Conn., a small hand-ladled smelter costing \$5,000 is used to smelt

aluminum cans into secondary ingots that are worth \$450 a ton (as opposed to \$300 a ton for unsmelted scrap).

Tires are another material that can be recycled and sold to local processors. All these processes have vital economic multiplier effects. Not only are jobs created in the recycling-waste utilization enterprises, but also in trucking, warehousing and marketing.

In the case of local investments in waste utilization enterprises and technologies, the supply of new materials becomes the primary limiting factor. A city must be certain that it has a steady and sufficient flow of raw materials.

The value of paper flowing through Washington is staggering. Unbaled office paper, mixed waste paper and newsprint are worth \$45, \$6, and \$25 a ton, respectively. If that paper is baled, it is worth \$96, \$18 and \$75 a ton. Two years ago, studies indicated that paper recycling was economically feasible and that a combination of cities in this region could support paper-making and paper-converting mills.

Our society is facing a grave challenge. The economy needs resources which are becoming more scarce at the time that pollution and solid waste management costs are soaring. We must first reduce our waste; the next logical step is to recycle as much as we can. Resource recovery plants can be appropriate if they are planned in connection with reduction and recycling programs.

Yet despite the economic and social appeals of municipal recycling systems, considerable pressure is being brought to bear against them. In May, high-technology proponents forced a Bridgeport, Conn., recycling program to close down.

Recyclers in Portland, Ore., must fight new franchise laws that preserve the territorial claims of older private haulers.

Traditional private haulers new to recycling in Florida and California, not the established recyclers, are getting government contracts and grants for recycling. Landfill operators, haulers, salvage businesses, equipment manufacturers, private consultants, virgin materials corporations and packaging and manufacturing companies are a permanent part of our solid waste management system. Recyclers, too, must be rewarded for their foresight, innovation and hard work.

The above was excerpted from an article in the Washington Post. Seldman and Drewry are members of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance staff. For more information or to receive the Institute's newsletter, Self-Reliance (annual subscription: \$6 for individuals, \$12 for institutions) contact: Institute for Local Self-Reliance, 1717 18th St., N.W., Wash., D.C. 20009. (202) 233-4108.

What's Happening?

Continued . . .

Soglin has become something of a national institution as one of the first anti-war student leaders not only to be elected as a peace candidate to a city council but to go on into the 70s as the mayor of that same city. His support came from a solid inner-city backing of minorities, labor, students and liberals.

What November Wrought

Dennis Kucinich, who calls himself a populist, was elected mayor of Cleveland in November. In December he appointed Richard Hongisto, whom one San Francisco Supervisor calls a "revolutionary," to be Cleveland's new police chief. Hongisto, who has a master's degree in criminology and is working on his doctorate, served 10 years on the San Francisco police force and six years as San Francisco County Sheriff. He is a tremendous favorite with National Conference participants. At the 1976 national conference in Austin, TX, Hongisto and Detroit Judge Justin Ravitz drew the largest number of people to their workshop on Criminal Justice. Everyone was spellbound by the two brilliant and irreverent speakers.

Kucinich, youngest big-city mayor, is a native of Cleveland's ethnic neighborhood. A maverick Democrat, his victory was largely credited to citizen anger over last spring's sale of the municipal light plant to a private utility. Kucinich has promised that the sale will never be concluded under his administration. Voters also purged seven incumbent city council members who had supported property tax relief for several large firms while the city's school deficit rose to \$20 million.

Hongisto is "especially sensitive and responsive to minorities," according to Kucinich, who pointed out that Cleveland is 40% black but has a 1,800-member police force with only about 200 minority officers. Kucinich had also campaigned on a promise to fire Cleveland's traditional hardliner police chief.

Among Sheriff Hongisto's reforms in San Francisco were increased medical care, drug counseling, better deputy training, and a drop of white male employees from 68.2% to 55.8%. He is widely known for his support of gays and minorities and for his decision, last year, to spend five days in the San Mateo County jail rather than evict some 70 elderly Chinese and Filipino residents from the International Hotel.

And In Detroit

While much of the November election news was grim—the defeats of Henry Howell for governor in Virginia, and Arthur Eve for mayor in Buffalo—one significant victory was that of Kenneth Cockrel to the city council in Detroit. With his almost legendary record of struggle in support of workers and blacks, Cockrel should make waves since he will be the swing vote on a Council with an even split for and against Mayor Coleman Young.

Land Confab

by Bill Schaefer

A conference on "Who Should Own the Land?", recently held in Bismarck, ND, explored the history, problems, and alternatives of North Dakota farmland ownership patterns. Conference sponsors, joining together for the first time in an infant coalition, included the National Catholic Rural Life Conference of the Fargo, ND Diocese, the ND Conference of Churches, and the ND Farmers Union.

Conference planners agreed that many people interested in land ownership reform lack a basic knowledge of the cultural, legal, and historic factors in land ownership patterns. The conference set up three sections to meet this need. The first day two historians reviewed the history of land ownership, ranging from the Old Testament through Rome and Western Europe to North Dakota's own history. Noted by both was the gap between our historic values and our present use of agricultural land. "Productivity" and "profit" are the two key words to explain the strongest tendencies in U.S. land ownership.

Former senator Fred Harris detailed land ownership problems during part two of the conference. Harris called for a state-by-state, nation-wide effort to tackle concentration of farmland ownership, and to protect the small and family farm.

During the third, alternatives, section of the conference, a number of Canadian officials of agriculture from Saskatchewan and Manitoba detailed their presently operating land banks and resident ownership laws that restrict outside ownership of farmland.

ND State Sen. Kent Jones, the last conference speaker during the alternatives section, predicted that a Minnesota-type loan bill for beginning farmers could pass the next ND legislature if a bi-partisan coalition was started.

Bill Schaefer is with the National Farmers Union, based in Lincoln, NE.

Women's Legislative Plan

Continued . . .

ments should revise their criminal codes and case law dealing with rape and related offenses to provide for graduated degrees of the crime with graduated penalties, to apply to assault by or upon both sexes, including spouses as victims. State funds should be appropriated for educational programs in the public school system and the community, including rape prevention and self-defense programs. State legislatures should expand existing victim compensation, counseling; emergency funds for housing; etc., and compensation for pregnancy, pain, and suffering.

◦ State, and local legislatures should enact legislation to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual and affectional preference in areas including, but not limited to, employment, housing, public accommodations, credit, public facilities, government funding, and the military. State legislatures should reform their penal codes or repeal State laws that restrict private sexual behavior between consenting adults. State legislatures should enact legislation that would prohibit consideration of sexual or affectional orientation as a factor in any judicial determination of child custody or visitation rights.

It is clear that states and localities have a long way to go. For a detailed list of legislative proposals, including Federal, write to the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, U.S. Dept. of State, Wash. D.C. 20520.

The National Conference is planning a special conference on state and local strategies on the economic issues that affect women. The Women's Issues Project will bring together labor, minority women, representatives of feminist organizations, and progressive state and local public officials to discuss policies and strategies for the state and local level.

For more information contact Ann Beaudry, Assoc. Director, National Conference, 1901 "Que" St. NW, Wash., D.C. 20008.

Notes to Note

Mass Fair Share

Massachusetts newspapers have been filled with news in the last year about Mass Fair Share, a three year old state wide community organization. In the last year they have run a state wide referendum for electric rate reform, exposed wealthy tax delinquents in Boston and fought for reform of property tax and home insurance. They have just initiated a state wide campaign for property tax reform.

Besides a highly effective and strong organization, Mass Fair Share has very good research and public policy department. They have done excellent analytic studies exposing the automobile and casualty insurance companies, and have prepared an excellent package of bills and proposals for property tax reform.

For more information about Mass Fair Share, copies of their reports on automobile and home insurance, and their property tax reform bills, write Jim Katz, Research Director, Mass Fair Share, 364 Boylston St., Boston, (617) 266-7505.

Grass Roots Fundraising

A book with information and ideas on how citizens groups can raise money for organizations in their own communities, demystifies the process of fundraising.

"The Grass Roots Fundraising Book" is a common sense approach to utilizing resources and skills which local groups have. The philosophy is that the dual goal of grass roots fundraising is to pay the bills and also to build the organizations.

The final chapter includes bibliographical materials and lists a number of resource centers from which further information and assistance is available.

The Youth Project also suggests the books' relevance to political campaigns at the local level. Send \$5.25 to: The Youth Project, Grass Roots Fundraising Book, Dept. AC 1 P.O., Box 988, Hicksville, N.Y. 11802.

National Health Service

Health Service Action—a coalition of health advocates, trade unions, special interest groups, and health workers—is coordinating a national campaign to build a broad base of support for a U.S. health service. National organizations which have endorsed it include the Gray Panthers, the American Public Health Assoc., the National Assoc. of Social Workers, Rural America, and the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America.

HSA hopes to introduce the concept of a health service into the debate on national health policy by developing a speakers bureau and educational materials.

Two new HSA reports are entitled *National Health Service: Lessons from Great Britain* by Meredith Turshen (\$1.50) and *What Price Health? The Crisis Behind Medical Inflation* by Joyce Goldstein (75¢). Other materials are a brochure describing a national health service and a pamphlet entitled "Health Workers, Worker Control and the Health Service Act." Future publications will include reports on transitional programs for particular regions and communities, and the benefits of a health service for specific constituencies.

To order publications, arrange for a speaker, receive *Health Service Action-Line* (\$5) or for additional information, contact: HEALTH SERVICE ACTION, P.O. Box 6586, Wash., D.C. 20009.

CDC Study

TELACU: *Community Development for the Future* is a study of The East Los Angeles Community Union written by Lawrence Parachini and published by The Center for Community Economic Development. The study describes TELACU's new master plan for economic development. TELACU is a Title VII CDC serving a community that contains the third largest Mexican population in the world.

Continued on page 15

Spotlight On Taxes Continued

for one year its 4% tax on the sale of credit ratings, reporting, adjustment, and collection services, and protective and detective services . . . Wisconsin has broadened its sales tax to include computer and data processing services, programming, and consulting . . . Louisiana . . . Twenty-nine Michigan counties have won a lawsuit entitling them to over \$1.5 million the federal government pays instead of taxes on federally owned land . . . The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees has produced a film called "Rip Off at the Top" about how the nation's tax laws are made by and serve the rich and mighty . . . West Jefferson, OH Tax Director Eileen Campbell has been having trouble getting village residents to file their local income tax returns, so she is trying subpoenas. Of 77 subpoenas the local police issued this month, 72 have produced results . . . Multinational

All of the above items were contributed by Jonathan Rowe who heads the Washington Office of the Multi-State Tax Commission.

Full State Funding of Schools Set

Spurred by a recent state Supreme Court decision, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill this session which requires full state funding of public education by 1981. At present, the state contributes part of the funds for running the schools but the bulk of the revenue comes from locally raised and administered property taxes. How the state will finance its takeover of funding responsibility has not been determined. Washington now relies heavily on the sales tax for state revenues. It does not have an income tax.

Car Pool Tax Incentives

Pending before the Michigan legislature is a bill which would provide tax incentives to those who form car or "van pools" to get to work. The purchaser of gasoline used in the

van pool would be entitled to a refund of the tax paid on the gasoline.

Maine Tax Referendum

Opponents of the uniform property tax in Maine have placed the continued existence of that tax before the voters in a December referendum. The three year old tax is levied by the state and is used to fund public education. It was implemented to correct educational inequalities that resulted from earlier reliance on local property taxes to support schools.

Opponents of the tax are from wealthier localities often called "pay-in" towns because "excess" revenues raised in those towns are redistributed to other towns where additional revenues are required for the minimum school funding level set by the state.

Supporters of the tax argue that since all property is taxed at the same rate, the system is fair, and that wealthy taxpayers are finally paying an equal share of the cost of education in the state.

Military Base Tax Exemptions

State sales and tobacco tax exemptions on military bases, are encountering increased criticism. Under the 1940's enacted Buck Act, cigarettes sold on military installations to military personnel are exempted from state and local taxes, while still subject to federal excise taxes. Several organizations have recently recommended amending the act to allow state and local taxation.

North Dakota State Tax Commissioner Byron Dorgan pointed out that in 1975, while per capita cigarette consumption for North Dakota was 117 packages a year, it was 158 packages on military bases. The 34% difference means that part of the exempt cigarettes was most likely shared with non-military, in violation of the exemption. Taxing the 5¼ million packs sold that year to military locations would have raised over one-half million dollars.

The above items were contributed by Diane Fuchs of the Public Citizen Tax Reform Group.

Alternative Legislation

Referendum, Recalls Win

District of Columbia voters have decided by overwhelming margins to give themselves the right to hold elections to enact or repeal legislation and to unseat elected officials.

The initiative would give voters broad, but not unlimited rights to vote to pass new laws that the City Council refuses to approve. A referendum would give voters the right to repeal laws after they are on the books.

The recall procedure gives the voters the right to remove elected officials from office.

All the procedures are triggered by petitions that would be circulated and signed by the voters.

They would require signatures of 5% of all registered voters from a cross-section of the city's voting wards to put an initiative or referendum on the ballot.

Solar Access

New Mexico is the only state to have a solar access law. Other states have ventured into the area of sun rights, including Colorado, North Dakota, Kansas, Maryland and Oregon. Most states encourage property owners to negotiate solar easements privately with their neighbors. A bill introduced in the Massachusetts Legislature by Sen. William Bulger proposes a permit and hearing process. A person seeking to build a solar collector would have to apply for a permit and appear at a public hearing to which his neighbors were invited. If there were no objections the permit would be granted and neighbors could not block sunlight from collectors in the future.

Electric Discounts

A new Ohio law gives an "emergency" 25% discount on electricity and gas heating bills to the disabled and elderly with annual incomes of \$7,000 or less, from November through March, 1978. Eligible persons using other fuels for heating are eligible to receive a flat sum of \$87.50 for the five-month period.

N.J. Transfer Resolution

A Resolution asking Congress and the President to reduce the military budget and to transfer the funds to job-creating human resource programs and tax relief, was introduced in the New Jersey Assembly by Rep. Peter Shapiro and five other state representatives.

The Resolution states that since the peace-time military budget in 1964, before Vietnam, was \$48 billion, and the present military budget, two years after the Vietnam war, is \$118 billion—a transfer of money from the military to the civilian sector would ease inflation and create jobs.

Such a transfer would make more revenues available without raising taxes or deficit spending, and offset the present insufficient investment by the Federal government for capital improvement of the domestic economy which is creating an imbalance that aggravates unemployment.

The military budget can be cut by the elimination of waste and duplication and by the scrapping of unnecessary weapons systems such as the B-1 bomber.

Rural Housing Rehab

The Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture is launching a Rural Housing Rehabilitation program under which qualified applicants will have their home repairs done by CETA-sponsored workmen. The program is targeted to handicapped, low-income, senior citizens, and welfare recipients, as well as farm houses and isolated rural and small-town residents. The Dept. is working to secure an agreement with the USDA's Farmers Home Admin. to provide long-term, low-interest loans for purchase of rehab materials.

New York Economic Development Plan

One of the most far reaching and innovative programs for urban economic development was prepared by a Republican candidate for the New York

City Council in the November election.

Arch Gillies, an active civic leader and registered Republican, carried his long time interest in alternative economic institutions into the race for Councilman-at-large for the Borough of Manhattan. Some conservative Republicans sat out the campaign because they considered Gillies "too radical."

An essential thrust of his campaign was conveyed in 12 Economic Position Papers proposing such programs as neighborhood-based banks, tax reform, a city urban bank, and new community development corporations for New York City.

Copies of the 12 position papers can be obtained by writing to Arch Gillies, Room 4600, 110 W. 51st St., New York 10020.

Nuclear Waste Storage Ban

During the last session Minnesota legislators passed a bill prohibiting construction or operation of radioactive waste management facilities in the state. Chapter 416 also prohibits transportation of radioactive waste into the state for permanent storage unless authorized by the Legislature. Other states with similar laws include Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota, Vermont and Louisiana.

Long term nuclear waste storage is the responsibility of the Energy Research & Development Administration. The agency position has been not to site disposal facilities in unwilling states.

Housing Conservation

Wisconsin Gov. Martin Schreiber has proposed legislation to create a state housing conservation program to be financed by combining state housing authority bonds with state and federal revenues. The proposed program would make low-cost home improvement loans available to the 111,000 people who own homes in need of substantial rehabilitation.

Shopstealing

Baltimore has begun a "Shopstealing" program to restore commercial storefronts by selling them for \$100 each to people who promise to bring them up to building codes and operate a business in them for at least two years. The City's Dept. of Housing & Community Development is offering 19 buildings, and restoration estimates are \$17,000 to \$35,000 per building.

Massachusetts

Farmland Legislation

A bill which adds Massachusetts to the growing list of state and local governments attempting to save threatened farmland was signed by Gov. Dukakis at the end of the year. The legislation provides \$5 million for a pilot program for the state to purchase development rights of agricultural land. This provides a mechanism for restricting commercial development of farmland and will ensure that it remains in agricultural use in perpetuity.

The new law allows the state to get appraisals of both the free market value and the agricultural value of prime farmland. The difference equals the value of the development rights for the land, which the state is now authorized to buy. The sale of development rights by the farmer is voluntary. The farmer must agree to keep the land in agricultural production and can not sell the land for other than agricultural usage. The land then is taxed on its agricultural value rather than the inflationary free market value. Similar bills have been passed in Suffolk County, NY; New Jersey and Maryland. Other states considering bills to preserve farmland through purchase of development rights include: Virginia, Connecticut, Vermont, Wisconsin and California.

Information on this bill is available from: Colby, Massachusetts Dept. of Food & Agriculture, 100 Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02202.

Protecting the Family Farm/Preserving Farmland

The first publication of the Agriculture project of the National Conference highlights new innovations and populist models aimed at putting states in the forefront of a national campaign to save the family farm and threatened farmland.

The report is an introduction for public officials, community organizations, students, farm and church groups to major farm policy questions now being discussed. It also identifies resources for further information and technical assistance.

The report, edited by Lee Webb, executive director of the National Conference, first appeared as the Agriculture section in the 1977 National Conference publication entitled "New Directions in State and Local Public Policy."

The report features state initiatives to limit or curb corporate farming, model legislation assisting young and new farmers to enter farming and programs to protect agricultural land from development. Also included are proposals to lower taxes for farmers as well as to increase farm income through finding new markets for local farm products.

\$1.50 individuals; \$3.00 institutions.

Taxing Coal: The Coal Industry Meets Its Match

Taxing Coal outlines the history and justification for coal severance taxes that most Great Plains states have considered and Montana and North Dakota have approved. Written by Byron Dorgan, North Dakota's State Tax Commissioner, this pamphlet explains why the western states need severance taxes and why the coal industry can afford to pay it.

Dorgan believes that the western states must have the revenue from the coal severance taxes. Coal users must compensate the citizens of coal producing states for the environmental and social damage of development as well as for the permanent loss of this valuable natural resource.

\$1.00 to individuals, \$2.00 to institutions.

Use this order form for publications listed above and on the reverse side.

CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER—

bimonthly publication featuring articles with a progressive viewpoint on public policy questions. Also reports and notes on the activities of progressive state and local officials as well as recent innovative legislation. The Newsletter reports National Conference news, upcoming conferences, workshops, and publications. Six Issues per year. \$5, \$10 to Institutions, businesses and government.

SPECIAL BONUS OFFER

Public Policy Reader for only \$3 with orders of \$10 or more.

Send to: National Conference, Box 7N, 1901 Que St., N.W., Wash., DC 20009.

Enclosed is \$_____ for publications checked above and on reverse side, including 75¢ for postage and handling. Make checks payable to "National Conference."

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Conference Publications

NEW DIRECTIONS SERIES

- New Directions in State & Local Public Policy**
This manual looks at complex questions facing city and state governments, including: energy, public capital, tax revenues, agricultural land use, controlling corporations, disclosure and reinvestment, and women's economic issues. 300 pages of progressive analyses and programs by expert practitioners. \$7.50, \$15 for institutions.
- New Directions in State & Local Tax Reform**
A handbook of new revenue opportunities for cities and states struggling with a shrinking tax base. What tax reformers have done, and plan to do, in such areas as property taxes, corporation audits, new city revenues, and taxes on coal and real estate speculation. 390 pp. \$6.50, \$13 for institutions.
- Denver Conference Report**
Names and addresses of the more than 450 persons who attended the Third Annual National Conference held in Denver, CO. Also included are news clippings about the conference from papers throughout the country. \$1.50, \$3 for institutions.
- Industrial Exodus**
By Ed Kelly. A new Conference publication on what can be done about runaway plants. This monograph makes realistic proposals about what each level of government could do to save jobs and protect communities from plant shutdowns. \$2.50, \$5 for institutions.
- The Davis Experiment:
One City's Plan To Save Energy**
A special report on the Davis, CA energy conservation program tells how it works and how Davis put it together. Planning drawings, photos, ordinances and other basic documents are in the 72 page publication edited by *The Elements*. \$2.50, \$5 for institutions.
- The Cities' Wealth**
Programs for community economic control in Berkeley, CA, compiled by the Community Ownership Organizing Project. This report details the programs and organizing strategies of the Berkeley Coalition over a seven year period with the Berkeley City Council. \$2.50, \$5 for institutions.
- Labor-Pac**
A digest of articles, legislation and alternative proposals put into practice by public officials and public employee unionists. Edited by Robb Burlage. \$2.50, \$5 for institutions.
- Public Control of Public Money**
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. \$1.50, \$3 for institutions.
- State Bank for Co-Ops**
By Lee Webb. A proposal to establish a state bank for co-operatives and a state cooperative development agency. The bill was prepared for the California Department of Employment Development. \$2.50, \$5 for institutions.
- Revenue Strategies for D.C.**
A unique action-guide to potential tax strategies, using the District of Columbia as a model. 92 pp. \$1.50, \$3 for institutions.
- Public Policy Reader**
The issues of the 70s facing cities and states, including programs and legislative proposals for energy, public enterprise, political organization, economic development, tax reform, health, education, criminal justice, and food, land and growth issues. If ordered separately, \$5, \$10 for institutions.

Alternative Legislation Series—Price \$1 Each

- SolarCai
- Massachusetts Community Development Finance Corporation
- National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act (H.R. 2777)
- National Community Health Service Act (H.R. 6694)
- South Dakota Homestead Land Act
- District of Columbia Neighborhood Advisory Commission Act
- Minnesota Metropolitan Government Act
- District of Columbia Non-Criminal Police Surveillance Act
- Model Anti-Surveillance Legislation
- Ohio and Michigan Runaway Plants Acts
- Minnesota Family Farm Security Act
- Vermont and District of Columbia Capital Gains Tax
- Chicago, Illinois and Alaska Disclosure Legislation
- Nuclear Safeguards Legislation (from seven states)
- Public Power Authority Legislation (from five states)
- Model State Energy Act
- Model State Public Utility Commission Act
- North Dakota Coal Severance Tax Program
- Lifeline Electric Utility Rate Structure Proposals

Notes to Note

The underlying concept of the plan is the use of venture capital funds to create financial institutions that will lend or invest in order to foster long-term, gainful, and dignified employment opportunities for the residents of East Los Angeles.

The case study includes a list of TELACU's programs and an organization chart. It is 75 pages long and is available from CCED, 639 Mass. Ave. Suite 316 Cambridge, MA 02139 at a cost of \$2.50.

TNI Publications

A new pamphlet, *Orlando Letelier and Ronni Karpen Moffitt*, published by the Transnational Institute, the international program of the Institute for Policy Studies, includes an account of the assassinations of the two Institute co-workers by the Chilean secret police in September 1976, a report on the murder investigation, and writings by and about Letelier and Moffitt. The pamphlet sells for \$4.

Other recent TNI pamphlets include *The International Economic Order, Part I*, by Orlando Letelier and Michael Moffitt, \$3; and *The New Gnomes: Multinational Banking in the Third World*, by Howard Wachtel, \$3. Soon to be published are *Dubious Specter: A Second Look at the Soviet Threat*, by Fred Kaplan, \$2.50; and *The Counterforce Syndrome: A Guide to U.S. Nuclear Weapons and Strategic Defense*, by Robert C. Aldridge, \$2.50.

All TNI publications, including a complete list of pamphlets and reprints, can be ordered from TNI Publications, 1901 Que St., Wash., D.C. 20009. Enclose payment, plus 30¢ per item for postage and handling, when ordering.

Community Health Service Report

"Health Status in North Central Philadelphia" reports on the role of Community Development Funded Health Services in a large, mid-Atlantic city. It takes a neighborhood oriented, population based approach to

health planning. The report was developed with significant community input and should be useful to health service workers in other cities. For more information write to: Robert Groves, Philadelphia Health Management Corp., 530 Walnut St., 13th Floor, Phila. PA 19106.

Largest Solar Heated Building

Santa Clara, CA has a new, 27,000-square-foot Community Recreation Center—designed so that solar energy will provide 80% of its year-round heating, cooling and hot water needs. The facility had a \$1,010,000 building cost plus \$550,000 for solar improvements and is now undergoing a year's performance evaluation. The Center is one of the largest solar heated and cooled buildings in the world and the only one in the West.

Funding for the building was provided by the city of Santa Clara, which has its own Municipal Electric Department, with the assistance of grants from the National Science Foundation and APPA. Officials said that when the Energy Research & Development Administration (now a part of the new Department of Energy) was established, Federal grant administration was transferred to that agency and the project "became a cornerstone of the national program to develop and demonstrate solar heating and cooling."

Santa Clara's long history as a municipal electric utility was cited as a prime factor in its assumption of "a leadership role among the nation's cities and utilities in utilizing and promoting energy from the sun." The Recreation Center contains 436 solar collectors extending over a 7,085 square foot area, a 10,000-gallon hot water tank, a 50,000-gallon cold water tank and a 1.2-million Btu-per-hour boiler as a backup system.

Santa Clara has established the nation's first "Solar Utility" as part of its Water & Sewer Utility Department.

California State Bank Report

A report on how states have utilized public funds to stimulate economic development and to create jobs, has been prepared by the California Senate Committee on Investment Priorities & Objectives. The report also discusses several current economic development programs in California. The Committee recently held hearings on the creation of a California state bank.

Between \$30-\$35-million of

California public and public employee funds are currently invested in securities, notes, mortgages and real estate, primarily in the private sector. Some members of the California Legislature want this money put to work in a State Bank that would serve the public interest.

Copies may be obtained by writing the Senate Select Committee on Investment Priorities & Objectives, 1116 Ninth St., Rm. 66, Sacramento, CA 95814.

thank you Barbara

by Lee Webb

Barbara Bick and the National Conference have been, and will continue to be, inseparable. In early 1975 Barbara Bick helped conceive of and created our first national conference in Madison, WI. Singlehandedly she put out the mailings, kept the books, began our publications program, expanded our contacts and friends across the country, and at the same time published the Newsletter.

Her capacity for work and good humor, along with a passionate concern for social justice, has helped bring the National Conference to the influential role it plays today. In the past year, she has been able to devote most of her attention to the Newsletter. She made it into one of the best looking and informative publications published by a progressive organization. The many letters and telephone calls the National Conference receives congratulating us on the Newsletter are testimony to the high respect that people have for her editorial and political abilities.

The Administrative Committee had hoped that Barbara would also be the editor of the expanded Newsletter/new publication. But I can understand her desire to concentrate her energies on her own intellectual work and on the programs of the Public Resource Center.

Barbara is not leaving. She will certainly play an important role on the National Steering Committee and as a member of the Editorial Board of the new publication. Without her energies being absorbed in editorial and administrative work, I am sure that she will be even more influential in setting future directions for the National Conference.

Thank you, Barbara, from all of us.

Notes to Note

Citizen Groups Council

The National Citizen Participation Council, a Washington-based organization of regional and local citizen groups around the nation, funnels information about new and existing federal regulations and legislation to these groups. NCPC prepares issue papers on citizen participation, publishes a newsletter, maintains an information referral service, as well as researches areas relevant to citizen participation.

Of particular interest is the NCPC's "Third Annual Conference Resource Book" and the "Study of City-Wide Participation in Ten Cities". Both publications are available at no charge from the NCPC at 1620 Eye Street, NW, Wash., DC 20006.

Schools in the Community

"Enrollment Declining: Community Options and Actions" is a good little pamphlet which presents alternatives to closing schools. It also discusses the impact of a closed school on the community. The pamphlet is part of program material developed by the Santa Barbara Center for Community Education which impacts local institutions to open them to greater community participation in the decision making process. To receive a copy or for more information, contact: Lou Skiera, Center for Community Education, 522 N. Salispuedes St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

Internships

The National Conference is now accepting applications for summer internships. Applications should include academic and work experience as well as a letter about why you are interested. Interns may be involved in research and organizing around tax issues, energy, agriculture and food policy, community credit needs or women's issues. The Conference will also consider full-time or part-time internships for Fall, 1978. Send applications to Ann Beaudry at the National Conference.

Wood Chips used as Power Plant Fuel

The Burlington, Vt., Electric Dept.'s experimental project utilizing wood chips as fuel for power generation resulted in the production of 5 mw of power in the first test of the process. Officials said that the Burlington municipal is the nation's first utility to burn wood chips solely for power generation. Further testing of the process is continuing at the Moran plant, which also has the capacity to use coal, fuel oil and natural gas as boiler fuel. Additional use of wood chips for this purpose would give the Burlington municipal system the distinction of having the only gener-

ating plant in the U.S. capable of burning four different fuels for the generation of power. Expectations are that the mw of power will increase to between 7 and 8.5 mw. Fuel oil could be used as a supplemental fuel source, permitting the 10-mw turbine to operate at full capacity.

The converted unit burns wood chips at the rate of 10 tons an hour and they are purchased at a cost of \$13.50 per ton. The scrap wood used in the project previously has had no commercial value. Unlike other generating fuels, wood is a renewable resource and is readily available in Vermont, without having harmful effects on forested areas.

Local Government Finance

"A Citizen's Guide To Local Government Finance: Iowa at the Property Tax Crossroads" is an outstanding booklet written by Steven Gold and published by Drake University as part of the Local Government Finance Education Project. The well illustrated book has two major sections: (I) The Existing System and (II) Future Policy Choices, as well as a Glossary and further sources of information. The first section includes such topics as: Anatomy of the Revenue Structure; What Are Local Governments Doing with that \$2 Billion?; and The Assessment Maze. For more information write to: Steven Gold, Dept. of Economics, Drake U., Des Moines, IA 50311.

New Information Service

A new information service—THE NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS—has been set up to provide current news about the most important developments in neighborhood technology as covered by 100 periodicals (including the Conference Newsletter). It will begin publication in January and will come out 24 times a year. Publisher is the Center for Neighborhood Technology, a not-for-profit corporation which acts as a resource broker for neighborhoods to help them utilize technologies which meet human needs in food, energy, shelter, waste management, environment, and jobs. For more information, contact: THE NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS Information Service, 2040 Sheridan Rd., Evanston, IL 60201. (312) 492-5684.

Community Organizers

ACORN, the most successful community organization in the country, has openings for organizers in eleven states (AR, TX, LA, TN, MO, SD, FL, CO, PA, NV, IA). ACORN is working for political and economic justice for its low to moderate income membership. Issues range from neighborhood deterioration to utility rates, taxes, health care etc. Hard work, low pay — enduring rewards. Training provided. Must be interested in social change. Contact: ACORN, 523 W. 15th St., Little Rock, AR 72202 (501) 376-7151.

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