



In Defense of Democracy & Civil Rights

COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY

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NORTHWEST UPDATE

March 15, 1998

1. CHD AT IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS CONFERENCE: CHD research associate Robert Crawford attended an "Immigration, Environment and Human Rights" conference sponsored by the Western States Center in Portland on February 25th. The conference brought together immigrants rights leaders with members of environmental and religious groups to address the growth of anti-immigrant organizing in the environmental movement.

Presentations were given by Brad Erickson of Political Ecology Group (PEG) and Cathy Tactaquin of the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR). Erickson described the anti-immigrant effort underway in the Sierra Club while Tactaquin address broader immigration and immigrants rights issues. CHD distributed copies of its recent *Dignity Report* article detailing the relationship of Sierra Club anti-immigrant leaders to the broader anti-immigrant movement.

2. NW UPDATE READER'S NOTICE: The next issue of the *Northwest Update* will be the April 15 issue.

3. CAUSA 98 IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE: The immigrants rights coalition CAUSA will hold a conference March 21 at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. Topics of the conference include resistance to the New Bracero Program (H-2A & H-2C), Proposition 187 clones in Oregon and Immigration Service raids. Contact: (503) 363-1895 or 982-0234.

4. ANTI-IMMIGRANT GROUPS GEAR UP FOR 1998 LEGISLATION: Leading up to the April 23-25 lobbying by a coalition of anti-immigrant groups in Washington D.C., groups are putting forward their legislative wish list for the coming year. The Federation for American Immigration Reform has high on its list legislation like James Traficant's (D-OH) bill (HR- 805) to use the U.S. military to "enforce" the border. FAIR also endorses Brian Bilbray's bill (HR 7) to deny 14th Amendment civil rights to children born to undocumented aliens; Bob Stump's (R-AZ) "Immigration Moratorium Act" which would curtail reunification preferences for family members other than spouses and children of U.S. citizens; FAIR also supports other efforts to attack 14th Amendment citizenship rights, including bills by Bob Barr (R-GA), Mark Foley (R-FL), and a joint resolution by Sonny Callahan which overturn the civil rights of children born on U.S. soil to undocumented, or in Callahan's case, all non-citizens.

The Washington State Citizens for Immigration Control, a Wenatchee-based group backing the so-called Immigration Awareness Week, is backing Bilbray's bill and calling on the *WSCIC News & Views* to urge legislators to support an English only bill before the state legislature.

The 1998 session, in fact, produced a barrage of English Only bills, as well as Proposition 187-style legislation. Senate Bill 2883, sponsored by, among others, Senators Dunn, Sherstad and McCune, "provides that the common language is recognized to be English, and the common language is designated as the language of official public documents and records and official public meetings." SB 6339 and SB 6269 do the same. The latter was placed in February in the Senate Rules "X" file, while SB 6269 has been referred to committee. Meanwhile Joint Resolutions in both houses (HJR 4204 and SJR 8201) call for state constitutional amendments declaring English Washington's official language.

On the anti-immigrant front, SB 5497, sponsored by Senators Hochstatter, Schow and Oke in the spirit of California's Proposition 187, would deny non-citizens the right to financial grants, medical assistance, food stamps, or infant and children's nutrition services. In the next issue, the *Northwest Update* will feature information on upcoming anti-immigrant legislation in Oregon.

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5. ANTI-INDIAN BILLS IN THE WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE: Bills introduced in 1998 Regular Session in Washington target the off-reservation resource rights, on-reservation land use rights, and political rights of Indian people and governments. Though placed in the House Rules "X" file in February, HB 2869, sponsored by Senators Bob Sump, John Pennington and Mike Sherstand, among others, proposed to uphold the provisions of Jack Metcalf's anti-Indian Initiative 456, a plan to overthrow treaty rights and declare the state the sole manager of natural resources. The bill makes the absurd claim that the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 terminated the off-reservation treaty rights of Indians and implies that such treaties are unconstitutional.

A response from the Attorney General's office, a summarized in state senate records, informed the bill's backers that the "initiative cannot change federal law, including treaty rights, because treaty rights are the law of the land under the...United States Constitution." The Attorney General went on to inform them that the 1924 Act did not remove any rights or federal protections for Indians as members of tribes.

Paralleling an anti-Indian crusade underway in Bob Sump's Ferry County, HB 2868, sponsored by the same cast of characters, would overturn the right of tribes to regulate land use by non-Indians on reservations. The bill, referred to the Natural Resource Committee in January, seeks to declare non-tribal owners of fee land on reservation exempt from tribal hunting and fishing regulations. The bill is written in the typical anti-Indian language of seeking "equal rights for all."

Another bill, SB 5776-s, seeks to deny the rights of federally recognized Indian tribes to donate money to political campaigns. Sponsoring this measure are Ray Schow, Bob Morton and Harold Hochstatter, among others.

6. FINAL PUSH IN SIERRA CLUB REFERENDUM: Anti-immigrant activists organizing a referendum in the Sierra Club mounted a final charge in February and early March to urge supporters to lobby. In a Feb. 13 letter to members, Sierrans for U.S. Population Stabilization leader Alan Kuper accuses the Sierra Club board of "an orchestrated campaign of delay, obfuscation and confusion" and urges each activist to gather "just 10 votes." Kuper asks supporters to purchase Social Contract editor Roy Beck's video *Immigration by the Numbers*, and to promote the anti-immigrant "Alternative A" by calling Sierra Club friends and leafleting Club meetings. For his part, Roy Beck mailed out a new version of *Immigration by the Numbers* to potential supporters. Beck claims to have distributed 12,000 copies of the different versions of the video and tells "colleagues" to "not feel any obligation to pay for the video."

7. LEAFLETING, GRAFFITI, THREATS IN THE NORTHWEST:

- Washington and Oregon – Church of the Creator (COTC) activists conducted a multi-state flier distribution campaign over the Valentine's Day weekend. Racist fliers stating: "Society Has Failed Because We Have Neglected the Ones Who Built It, The White Family," were left at homes and handed out in Clark County and Bainbridge Island in Washington as well as in Gresham, Oregon. There are also reports that the same fliers were handed out in over 50 neighborhoods nationwide during this same time period. Matt Hale, leader of the COTC, said that he and his group wanted to send a Valentine's message of "love one's own race." Recently, the COTC also attempted to hold a public organizing meeting at the Bellevue, WA, public library. This out of character meeting was eventually cancelled by the COTC with no explanation. The COTC continues to try to establish a presence in Kitsap County even though residents have organized strong opposition. Hale claims he has over 100 COTC members throughout the state of Washington (*The Columbian*, Feb. 17, 20; *The Sun*, Feb. 20).

- Everett, WA.—Racist fliers were posted on bulletin boards at the Everett Community College during the week of February 2. Although the fliers contained misspellings, the words were not taken lightly by school administration, staff or students. One faculty member said, "Be assured that those responsible will be held fully accountable for actions that are clearly abhorrent and which violate the very principles that we teach" (*The Herald*, Mar. 7).

- Coeur d'Alene, ID.—On February 4, a bomb threat was made against the play "Faces of America" which was being held on the campus of the North Idaho College. Attendees were evacuated from the building while police searched for the reported bomb. No explosives were found and the audience bravely went back and finished watching the play, which discusses the issue of cultural diversity. Ironically, those in attendance included Richard Butler and other members of the Aryan Nations. (*Press*, Feb. 4)

8. NAMPIDAHO TEENS FACE FEDERAL HATE CRIMES CHARGES: Three adults and three teens face federal hate crime charges following a series of attacks targeting Latinos in Nampa, Idaho. U.S. Attorney Betty Richardson jointed with high-ranking Justice Department officials Feb. 12 to announce a new federal initiative that will make it easier for victims to come forward and report potential federal civil rights violations. The charges

against Chris Maurer, 19; Scott Brooke, 18; Jack David Carter, 18; and three juveniles from Nampa are part of the Justice Department's efforts at cracking down on hate crimes.

The *Idaho Statesman* (Feb. 13) described a pattern of harassment in the indictment that included: "Maurer and two others forced a car to pull over that was carrying three Hispanic boys and one white girl. Maurer yelled that he was sent by God to destroy anyone who wasn't white, assaulted two of the boys and pointed a sawed-off shotgun at them." The suspects often yelled "white power" and scrawled racist graffiti in front of people's homes. The adults face up to 60 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines for six counts including one weapons violation, conspiracy to violate civil rights and interfering with the fair housing rights of Hispanic residents of Nampa.

9. ROUND-UP ON RACIST VIOLENCE:

- Three members of a group calling itself The New Order were charged with weapons violations March 6 in St. Louis, Illinois in what officials allege was part of a plan to bomb civil rights groups and an unnamed federal judge. Dennis Michael McGiffen, 35, Wallace Scott Weicherding, 64, and Ralph P. Boc, 27, had been arrested Feb. 23 after a search of their home uncovered a machine gun, a pipe bomb, grenade components, and large amounts of smokeless black powder, among other weapons. If found guilty, the three face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

FBI agent Jason Thompson testified that the three had drawn up a "hit list" which included Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center and an unidentified federal judge. The group also planned to bomb the offices of SPLC, the Anti-Defamation League and the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Thompson testified. Thompson said that the group had discussed robbing banks and armored cars to finance the plot as well as plans to contaminate a "large water supply" with cyanide as a diversionary tactic. Dennis McGiffen reportedly left the Klan before joining the new group.

- In Tennessee, a white supremacist linked to murders in at least nine states pleaded guilty March 4 in the 1978 shooting of an African-American man in Chattanooga. Franklin shot William Tatum outside a restaurant because Tatum was with a white woman. Franklin has already been convicted of seven murders committed between 1977 and 1980 when he traveled the country targeting blacks, Jews and interracial couples. Franklin also claims to have shot Vernon Jordan and Larry Flynt. Franklin is slated to be executed in Missouri for the 1977 murder of Gerald Gordon, who was killed while leaving a bar mitzvah.

- In Greensboro, North Carolina in mid-February the student government president at Guilford College was knocked unconscious, had her blouse opened and a racist epithet was scrawled across her chest, after announcing her campaign for re-election on a slate of candidates that included a black woman. Since Molly Martin declared her candidacy, anonymous fliers have been distributed warning of an "all-black [student] senate" an anonymous letter to the senate has accused Martin of engineering a plan to put two black students in the senate (AP)

10. RIGHT ON GUARD DURING WAR SCARE: While a potential military attack of Iraq appears to have subsided for the moment, the far right sought once again to find a place in "anti-war" efforts. Paleo-conservative leader Sam Francis attributed the call to bomb Iraq to "a vast right-wing conspiracy" lead by "the current chief of neoconservatism, Bill Kristol." Francis writes that "at the time of the Gulf War, the major figure on the right who took that [anti-war] position was Pat Buchanan, who was roundly denounced for it." This time, however, he warns Kristol and neo-conservatives that if they come "out of their bunkers long enough to find out what's been happening in the real world" they might "grasp that the skepticism once voiced by only a handful on the American right is now rapidly evolving into a national consensus."

Meanwhile, an article in the *Spotlight* attacked Bill Clinton's "unconscionable and unprovoked planned attack on Iraq" running a headline announcing that Clinton was "hoodwinked" by a "disinformation campaign by Mossad." Another *Spotlight* article attacks past pro-war stances of the conservative flag ship *National Review*, calling them a "a vehicle for the ministate's black propaganda mendacities" and a supporter of Zionism (March 2; Feb. 23).

In 1992, a number of far right groups took up opposition to the Gulf War, generally employing "one-world government" banter alongside America First nationalism. Led in spirit by Pat Buchanan, other far rightists who opposed the Gulf War included neo-fascist leader Lyndon LaRouche, the *Spotlight* and Christian Patriot leader Bo Gritz. Right wing "anti-war" activists are likely in an even stronger position to play a role in anti-war protests now than during the Gulf War.

••• **The CHD Research Department prefers incident reports, newspaper clippings, event write-ups, questions and comments to be e-mailed to chdpdx@aol.com. Alternatively you can mail such items to the address below or call us either in Portland or Seattle at the numbers listed below. CHD Research staff rely upon such information to fill out much of the Northwest Update and we appreciate your contributions.** ••

