



conference on ALTERNATIVE state and local PUBLIC POLICIES

March, 1977

Editor: Barbara Bick



Ruth Yannatta - From Consumer Activist To Assembly Candidate
(see p. 4)

ALTERNATIVE LEGISLATION

"Truth-in-Renting Act"

The nation's first "Truth-in-Renting Act" took effect statewide in New Jersey last summer. The seven-section statute is written in uncommonly simple language and mandates the N.J. Department of Community Affairs to prepare and publish a statement of established legal

rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords of rental dwelling units. This "statement" is to be sold for \$1 to the public and all New Jersey landlords. Landlords are required to distribute a copy to each of their present tenants (within 30 days), to all prospective tenants and must post a copy in at least one prominent location which

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

"Run Away Plants" (p. 3)

by Lee Webb

The ability of corporations to move easily from region to region in search of greater profits poses a serious problem to dependent communities. Some proposals are suggested.

"Fresh Voices in State Capitols" (p.5)

Community organizations are taking neighborhood concerns not only to City Hall but to State Capitols.

"Transfer Amendment:

A New Source of Federal Money (p. 6)

by Bob Schaeffer

The Budget and Impoundment Control Act offers a level to force choices between military overspending and community needs.

"8 Point Economic Program for Northeast Cities" (p. 8)

The Northeast cities Conference sent the Governor's Coalition a legislative package to revitalize urban areas of the region.

"Making Sense Out of the System" (p. 12)

by Joseph Marfuggi

An innovative devise that would enable the working poor and unemployed to work off local taxes.

"New Conferences" (p. 14)

A Conference on New Directions in State and Local Tax Reform, and another for the Plains Region are in the works.

Alternative Legislation Continued . . .

is "accessible to all . . . tenants." The DCA is charged with the responsibility to revise and update the tenants' rights booklet annually.

The current DCA statement of tenants' rights runs about 15 pages and covers every major area of tenants' rights in the state. Areas covered include the lease, rent increases, discrimination, security deposits, crime insurance, distress/distrait, evictions, retaliations, receivership and condition of the premises.

The new "Truth-in-Renting" law serves as an excellent model for the 30 or more other states across the nation that have well-developed tenants' rights laws on the books.

The DCA "statement of tenants' rights" is available at a cost of \$1 from the Bureau of Housing, Dept. of Community Affairs, P.O. Box 2768, Trenton, N.J. 08626. Checks or money orders should be made payable to Treasurer, State of New Jersey.

"Lifeline" Tax Program

A nearly \$1 billion tax reform and relief proposal has been sponsored in the California Legislature by the California Tax Reform Association and the Citizens Action League. The Tax Justice Act of 1977 would reform the capital gains loophole, add new income tax brackets for wealthy taxpayers, and use up some of the state surplus in order to fund middle and low-income property tax relief for homeowners and renters on the basis of need.

This "lifeline" or "fair share" proposal is designed to relieve the property tax burden on low and middle income homeowners and renters. The State of California would reimburse them directly for a portion of the property taxes they paid.

The \$925 million program will not require a general tax increase. The cost of the package would come from \$240 million in increased revenues resulting from the elimination of the special treatment of capital gains in the California tax code, and from \$520 million raised by increasing the progressivity of California's income tax in the upper brackets. The final \$200 million would be an appropriation from the surplus in the state's General Fund.

Presently, California's state and local tax burden is regressively distributed, i.e., falling hardest on poor people. The Tax Justice Act, if enacted, would move the state's tax system closer to an ability to pay basis.

For further information, contact: California Tax Reform Assoc., 1107 9th St., #224, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Research Curb

A national precedent of local control over scientific research was set last month when the Cambridge, MA City Council voted stringent safety regulations over genetic research at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. State legislatures and city councils from New Jersey to California have debated the question of DNA research but until now all the votes have allowed such work to go on. The Cambridge City ordinance, adopted unanimously by the five member council, is more restrictive than guidelines issued last July by the National Institutes of Health. The council had imposed a moratorium on DNA research since the NIH guidelines.

Consumer Protection

An extensive study by the Public Service Commission concludes that Michigan's liberal consumer protection laws have not caused in-

creased utility costs. The laws prohibit deposits for gas and electric service and ban fees for late bill payment. Despite contrary predictions, the study of six Michigan companies states that the utility firms had no more trouble collecting bills under the new laws than under the former rules.

Tax Proposal

A major tax reform proposal for New Haven, CN has been adopted by the New Haven Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. It proposes a reduction in taxes on middle and lower income city residents and a major increase on the richest citizens and the wealthiest corporations. Among its proposals are increased taxes on Yale University, a progressive city property tax, and the inclusion of notes, bonds, stocks, and other intangible property within the local property tax. For more information contact Richard D. Wolff, New Haven AFL-CIO Delegate, 678 Orange St., New Haven CN, 06511.

Elderly Rent Exemption

Eligible elderly tenants were given a 50% exemption from a recently passed rent hike in Boston's rent controlled apartments. To be eligible the elderly tenant (65 years or older) must be head of a household living in a rent controlled unit. The total gross annual income for the entire household must be \$7,200 or less for one person, \$8,750 or less for two people, \$8,750 or less plus \$400 for each additional person.

Sunset Laws

First adopted in Colorado, sunset laws mandate that the legislature periodically examine the performance of agencies it has created. If review indicates that the agency no longer operates in the public interest, or if its activities are essentially duplicated by other agencies, the legislature will cause the sun to "set," and the unit will be legislated out of existence.

The Colorado law

Continued on page 5

TOPPIX



"Tell me, Mr. Hopkins, why is 5 1/2 per cent whopping when it's interest you're paying me, but 13 per cent is measly when it's interest I'm paying you?"

The Problem of Run Away Plants

By Lee Webb

The small town of Fairport Harbor, OH was hit by an economic earthquake last year when Diamond Shamrock Corporation announced it was closing. It meant that 1200 people will lose jobs. It meant that Fairport Harbor will lose taxes equal to 60% of its school budget. And to top it off, a 270 acre chemical waste pond, with an estimated 60 year life span, will be left for the town to deal with, when the corporation departs.

Such a story is all too commonplace in local newspapers throughout the country. Plants shut down in one state in order to open up in another state that offers lower wages, lower taxes, and "a better business climate." Plants flee the North to the South, from the North and the South to Mexico, Taiwan, and other underdeveloped countries.

The ability of industry to move easily from one place to another in search of higher profits is one of the worst problems facing states and cities today. Officials are often paralyzed by the knowledge of corporate mobility. They shy away from innovative taxes or regulatory policies for fear that existing companies will leave or that others will boycott them. In fact, any attempt to stop or put a price on those businesses which abandon a plant and community has been attacked as bad public policy under the rationalization that such moves were motivated by the need for industrial efficiency and thus were good for the country as a whole.

However a new and hard look at this problem is underway. Stimulated by the massive exodus of American jobs to other countries and the continuing decline of the Northeast and Midwest, community organizations, state legislators and Congressmen are taking steps to control "runaway plants" in a number of ways. Some examples include:

- A Wisconsin law passed in 1975 requires 60 days notice if a corporation plans to shut down a plant in that state. Although the notice period is short, it is a first step. Even a two month period gives time to the town, the union, and the state to exert pressure on the corporation to change its decision or, if unsuccessful, to plan for the shutdown.

- Vermont responded to the shut down of a local asbestos mine and processing plant with both political muscle and financial resources. The state lent money and guaranteed additional bank loans for the purchase of the plant by its workers. The worker-owned company, in Lowell, VT, has earned substantial profits and is opening another large plant in the area.

- An Ohio bill, "The Plant Closing Act of 1977" would require two years notice to affected employees and communities before any industry shutdown, relocation, or reduction in operations. The Act would also require a corporation to pay 10% of the total annual wages of laid-off

workers into a state Community Assistance Fund. The Fund would then make payments to hard-hit workers and communities. The bill was proposed by the Ohio Public Interest Campaign, a state-wide organizing effort against runaway plants, which has done impressive research on strategies to control plant closings. For more information on their work, write to OPIC, 340 Chester, 12th Bldg., Cleveland, OH 44114.

- At the federal level, Senators Hart and Mondale introduced a bill several years ago (S2809) requiring that every corporation give two years notice before closing any plant over a certain size. In addition, there is a mandatory hearing and investigatory procedure to determine whether the plant should remain open. If the plant closing is deemed "unjustified," all federal assistance to any new plant of the corporation can be withheld, particularly the use of the federal investment tax credit. Currently there is a similar bill (H.R. 76) in the House.

Nearly all these bills and proposals represent a changing belief in the legal relationship of a corporation to its workers and the community in which it is located. In the past, a plant had no legal obligation to a community other than payment of taxes and observance of local laws. It had no legal obligation to its workers except to pay wages for time worked. The new argument holds that when a plant has been in a community for some considerable period of time there is an implicit contract or franchise between the plant, its workers, and the community. This should enable the community to prevent a plant from leaving at will. This implicit contract is what the various legislative proposals would codify into statutory law.

There are a number of laws, viewed as precedent for runaway shops, which prevent a profit making business from closing at will. Most are in regulated industries. On the national level, an airline or railroad cannot eliminate service to a city or rail line without formal legal permission, after extensive hearings of the CAB or ICC. At the state level, an electric utility or telephone company cannot cut or eliminate service without approval by the state Public Utility Commission. In most states a bank cannot move its business location, or that of any branches, without approval of the Banking Commissioner.

There is obviously strong resistance to applying these precedents to manufacturing and commercial enterprises. However, until there are restrictions on runaway plants, states and cities are severely hampered in efforts to confront their economic and social problems. Little can be done about changing property taxes, reforming state tax systems, environmental laws, minimum wages, etc. while corporations are able to pick up stakes and move at will. The mounting desperation of states, communities, and unions will, hopefully, be reflected in more legislative programs in the immediate future.

From Consumer Advocate To Citizens' Candidate

by Derek Shearer

Today consumer advocate Ruth Yannatta is a leading candidate for the state assembly. Four years ago she was one of a group of angry Los Angeles housewives who sparked a nation-wide meat boycott. How did Ruth Yannatta make the jump from protesting the high price of meat to running for public office?

Part of the answer is the politicization of the consumer movement. More important, perhaps, is the recent coming together of the single-issue movements of the 1960's and early 70's into a coherent national political force.

But back to Ruth in 1973. When most of the other women who had started the meat boycott returned to their jobs or families, Ruth decided to keep working on food issues. She helped form a group called Fight Inflation Together (FIT).

FIT began a study of California state's marketing orders. They discovered that the government protected big farmers from competition by setting prices, quality, and quantity standards to the detriment of the small farmer — and the consumer. FIT also discovered that the 1933 law which set up the state marketing boards, required the appointment of one public member to each board. This had never been done. When FIT publicized this omission to the press and to Reagan's Director of Agriculture, Ruth was shortly appointed as the public member on the state Egg Board. She was the first public member in California history.

Ruth used her position on the Egg Board to oppose a program to ship surplus eggs to Japan in order to keep egg prices up in California. She kept the press informed about other activities of the state marketing boards. Ruth continued to play an activist and organizing role, exposing the state setting of wholesale milk prices, organizing a Mother's Day milk boycott, picketing at supermarkets. And she continued to call for the appointment of a majority of public members on all commodity boards.

In 1974 newly elected Governor Jerry Brown announced that he would place public members on all state marketing boards. Ruth and her group were given credit for raising the issue. Brown also offered her a job as Assistant to the Director of the Department of Consumer Affairs. The appointment provided added legitimacy to the consumer movement in the state.

Ruth continued her activist role in her state position, helping local groups fight for lower utility rates and lower food prices. She helped organize a program of direct fruit and vegetable marketing: consumers call a toll-free number

which gives the location of farms with surplus crops that can be picked or purchased at low cost. Organized labor supported her fight against supermarket computerization and for a bill that would keep the price of goods on items by law. Ruth frequently spoke at labor gatherings to stress the common interests of the labor and consumer movements.

Politically, it all came together for Ruth when she attended the first national conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policy in Madison, WI. She helped to organize the California regional conference and gave workshops on food policy at the national conference in Austin, TX. At these meetings she met other activist women from around the country who had run for public office and won on progressive platforms.

And so, Ruth Yannatta, consumer activist, decided to run for the state assembly when it appeared likely that a special election would be held in the spring to fill an upcoming vacancy. The Democratic establishment will be fielding a male candidate against Ruth, and a number of other candidates will be running.

The 44th District, one of the most liberal in the state, includes Venice, Santa Monica, and the middle and working class sections of West Los Angeles. It is not overly affluent. It should respond to Ruth's concerns about high food prices and government-business collusion.

Assembly races in California are not cheap. A minimum budget runs around \$50,000. More likely Ruth will have to raise and spend \$75,000 to win. Ruth Yannatta plans a people-oriented campaign, with extensive precinct walking by herself and volunteers. Her advantages are that Ruth has some name identification in the district, a clear set of issues, and a record of citizen action on which to campaign.

Derek Shearer is a journalist, the west coast coordinator of the National Conference — and husband of Ruth Yannatta.



Alternative Legislation Continued . . .

schedules 13 of 39 agencies for automatic termination every other year. But before dismantlement public hearings are held so that a given agency may demonstrate a public need for its continued existence.

Two Texas legislators, Sen. Lloyd Doggett and Rep. John Wilson, have introduced a sunset bill which would require 66 state agencies and 13 advisory councils to justify their existence every six years or be phased out.

The Maryland General Assembly killed a sunset bill for this session by referring it to a summer study. The bill would have shut down more than 100 state agencies if they couldn't justify their existence. Considered one of the major bills to come before the Assembly, it would have guaranteed a staggered review of 122 agencies and would have made reviews of these agencies mandatory every six years. Still alive is another bill that would limit review to only 55 state agencies until the sunset concept had proved itself. This bill was

prepared by a legislative task force that included members of Common Cause, the group that wrote the sunset law now in force in Colorado.

Dr. Benjamin Shimberg, of the Center for Occupational and Professional Assessment in Princeton, N.J., has made a detailed study of sunset laws. He suggests that they will only be effective if there is an accountability process that monitors what the boards do and that can intercede to stop actions not in the public interest. Shimberg said that the Colorado sunset law does not come to grips with this problem. He believes the key is the inclusion of effective private citizens on licensing and regulatory boards to help insure accountability.

Anti-Surveillance

A model Anti-Surveillance Statute has been drafted that would prohibit political surveillance by state and local police. It would also regulate police conduct as it intruded on First Amendment ac-

tivities. The author is Jerry Berman of the Center for National Security Studies. Copies of the draft statute are available from the CNSS, 122 Maryland Ave., N.E., Wash., D.C.

New Labor Initiatives

While repeal of state right-to-work laws has been sought for years, an unprecedented new national campaign for sweeping changes in the nation's labor laws was announced by the AFL-CIO's Executive Council. It will be backed by a union war chest of more than \$800,000, to be raised by assessing each of the 14.2 million union members one cent a month for six months.

The campaign will seek to repeal Section 14(B) of the Taft-Hartley Act, under which 20 states have enacted right-to-work laws prohibiting collective bargaining agreements that require workers to join a union. The whole legislative

package includes proposals that would make it easier for unions to organize and negotiate contracts, and a higher minimum wage floor (from \$2.30 to \$3 an hour) with automatic increases in the future to keep the minimum equivalent to 60% of average hourly earnings in manufacturing. It does not include a provision for a lower minimum for teenagers which many industries favor but which the AFL-CIO says would be discriminatory.

It also includes federally mandated collective bargaining rights for public employees and agricultural workers, and removal of the Hatch Act's ban on politicking by federal workers. A recent Supreme Court decision has cast doubt over Congress' right to legislate for state and local government employees. The Council, for the time being, is recommending that all federal grant programs contain a proviso that recipients must agree to bargain with

Continued on page 11

Fresh Voices in State Capitols

A number of new state-wide, multi-issue community organizations, active now in about 10 states, are shaking up status-quo politicians in their state capitols. Groups such as Mass Fair Share, ACORN (in Arkansas and half a dozen other states), Citizens Action League (California), Carolina Action, and Virginia Consumers Congress speak mainly for working class and the lower-middle class who make up most of their membership.

In the past year Mass Fair Share mobilized such wide support for its "Fair Share" referendum, or flat electric rates, that the utility companies were forced to spend more than \$1 million to defeat the measure. The Citizens Action League overwhelmed the utility lobbyists

in Sacramento and won legislative approval for their lifeline electric rate bill. ACORN sponsored referendum in five cities in Arkansas for electric rate reform, winning in Little Rock. Missouri ACORN came very close in a state-wide referendum to exempting food from the state sales tax.

These community organizations are generally based on neighborhood, town, or city chapters with a state-wide central office and staff. Until recently, the local chapters have focused on neighborhood or city issues such as traffic, housing, schools, etc. They are now moving into the state-wide political arena since many local problems, such as utility rates, taxes, and consumer protection, can be effectively

tackled only in the state capitols. They have shown that they can mobilize effective support on behalf of state ballot referendums and state legislation. However, they rarely endorse or support specific candidates. In fact, their leaders speak forcefully against getting involved in "electoral politics" even though they seem to be knee deep in everything but actually running or endorsing candidates.

These community organizations have demonstrated the ability to get their issues into the middle of the political debate. They have developed interesting, innovative and politically popular legislation. Their growing fund raising ability is allowing them to expand. This year Carolina Action

will attempt to get the North Carolina legislature to pass an electric utility rate reform bill. Action League will be lobbying state-wide and in Sacramento for their "Tax Justice Act of 1977." Mass Fair Share will be working on a state-wide strategy for economic development and job creation. All of the groups will be sending vocal delegations to the offices of their state representatives and into the lobbies of their state capitols.

ACORN, Mass Fair Share, Citizens Action League, Carolina Action, Virginia Consumers Congress, and others, are the natural political allies of the growing number of issue-oriented elected and appointed state and local officials. They are sorely needed!

A New Source of Federal Money

Transfer Amendment

By Bob Schaeffer

State and local public officials and their allies in organizations now have a powerful lever to win a bigger share of scarce federal funds. The new Budget and Impoundment Control Act offers a way to force a choice between spending on wasteful Pentagon programs and priorities which benefit local communities. A "Transfer Amendment" plan for introduction later this spring will make Congress directly confront the guns versus butter spending dilemma.

Although Jimmy Carter campaigned for the Presidency on the promise of a substantial cut in military spending, his budget actually increases Pentagon funding by more than \$7 billion over last year.

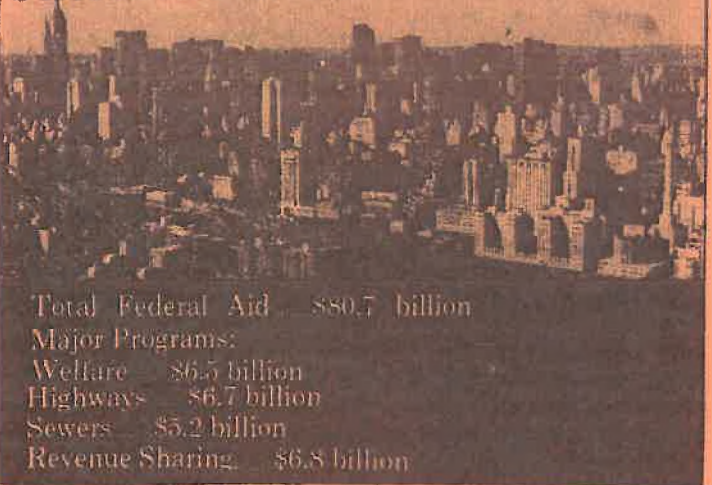
His much ballyhooed \$2.8 billion cut actually came from Ford's inflated proposal for \$123 billion in military spending authority for 1978 which was \$10 billion more than the 1977 figure. In fact, his proposals run counter to the Democratic party platform which castigates the Nixon/Ford administration for "undermining the security of our

nation by neglecting human needs at home while for the first time in our nation's history increasing military spending after a war." Since Carter won't keep his word it's now up to citizens to press Congress to keep the Democrat's pledge.

The Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy has been established to coordinate the campaign. They have prepared a model Transfer Amendment to be filed in congress later this year. The proposal calls for cutting the FY 1978 military budget by \$13.6 billion and applying all the savings to social programs which aid states and municipalities. Specific cuts would come from unnecessary weapons such as the B-1 Bomber, Trident Submarine, and Cruise Missile, as well as overseas troops in places like Korea, and funds which aid dictators and support CIA intervention.

Programs slated for additional funding include anti-recession aid to state and local governments (up \$2.5 billion), public service jobs (more than \$3 billion additional, with concentration on minority, youth and senior citizen), elementary and secondary education (in-

STATES AND CITIES



The Washington Post

creased by \$2 billion), world development, housing, health care, and children's services.

Since military spending is the worst possible economic activity in terms of jobs created for each \$10 thousand spent (according to Bureau of Labor Statistics figures), passage of the Transfer Amendment would actually create nearly a million new jobs without adding a single dollar in total extra spending. Also included is a special fund of \$500 million earmarked to aid communities and workers directly affected by the military cuts.

The Transfer Amendment will come to the floor in Congress in late April or early May. To win that crucial vote and bring much needed funds to our communities, work must begin now:

- Raise the connection between bloated military spending and local fiscal "crises" when community programs are cut, taxes raised, or municipal candidates campaign;

- Have the Transfer Amendment endorsed by your local government, civic, religious, and labor organization, and "notable" community figures;

- Urge your U.S. Senators and Representatives to support the Transfer Amendment. Tell them how it will help local programs.

The Transfer Amendment will be no panacea for all the fiscal ills of our hardpressed cities, towns and states. But it is a concrete way in which we can begin to change this country's misdirected priorities.

- contact the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy, 120 Maryland Ave., N.E. Wash. DC 20002 (202) 346-8400 for copies of the Transfer Amendment, detailed analyses and supporting material. Get on their mailing list for Legislative Alert;

Bob Schaeffer is a staff member of Citizens for Participation in Political Action (CPPAX)

DEFENSE



Total Spending \$112.3 billion

Major Costs:

Pay and Fringe Benefits for 950,000 civilian and 2.1 million military personnel	\$51.3 billion
New Weapons	\$23.5 billion
Weapons Research and Testing	\$11.4 billion

The Washington Post

Notes to Note

Food Club Handbook

Excellent material on how to set up and run a food buying club, as well as information on the history of food politics in Washington D.C. and nationally, is contained in a small, attractive manual, *The D.C. Food Buying Club Handbook*. It is published by Strongforce, a D.C. group that recently obtained a National Institute of Mental Health grant to train community residents on starting and running democratically managed, community-worker controlled businesses. In addition to other planned publications, Strongforce puts out a lively newsletter, "D.C. Democratic Economics." To be placed on the mailing list, write to Strongforce, 2121 Decatur Pl. N.W., Wash. DC 20008

Economic Democracy

The Federation for Economic Democracy, with several state chapters, has opened a national office in Washington D.C. The group focuses on helping people establish or take over manufacturing operations that are closing down, and then to operate them on a worker controlled and managed basis. FED's experience has been that corporations, even when not interested in operating a given plant, are still reluctant to sell to workers. It is clear that corporations are still less interested in worker-managed business competition.

FED is also working with a number of unions for the inclusion of a clause in union contracts that would give workers the first option to buy when a business is to be sold or shut down.

For more information write to George Benello, c/o IGP, Suite 311, 2100 M St., N.W., Wash. DC 20063

Block Grant Aids

"Citizen Involvement in Community Development: An Opportunity and A Challenge," is the fifth in a series of publications called Citizen Action Guides published by the Center for Community Change. The pamphlet is designed to help citizen groups apply more effectively for community development block grants. Price is \$1.50. CCC, 1000 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Wash. DC 20007

Peddling Public Policy

Initiative America is an organization that aids the citizen in exercising its direct democratic rights through the initiative process. In 23 states and hundreds of municipalities the initiative process, by collecting signatures from about 5% of the voters, can put legislation on the ballot. From conception to passage the bill remains exclusively citizen controlled.

Initiative bills are overwhelmingly of people-oriented concern — the type of reform that rarely makes it through the legislature. Through that process the state of Washington passed a tough consumer credit act. In Michigan successful legislation removed the sales tax on food and drugs and instituted a returnable deposit law on bottles and cans. California and Florida now have strict political honesty laws. It is unlawful to have huge corporate farms in North Dakota, and Missouri has a law to protect consumers from unfair utility charges for construction costs.

Initiative America came up against power and money as they fought for nuclear energy safety measures in seven states. Still,

with the help of community groups and volunteer attorneys, Initiative America won two Utah State Supreme Court battles against the utilities who tried to force them off the ballot.

One can join Initiative America for \$25, or \$10 for students and senior citizens. For information contact John Forster and Roger Telschow at Initiative America, 1316 Independence Ave. S.E., Wash., D.C. 20003.

In These Times

In These Times, a nationally circulated weekly newspaper, has begun publication in Chicago. An independent socialist newspaper for a general audience, *In These Times* is sponsored by a wide range of leftists, including Julian Bond, Barry Commoner, Daniel Ellsberg, Barbara Garson, Michael Harrington, Dorothy Healey, David Horowitz, Elinor Langer, Salvador Luria, Staughton Lynd, Carey McWilliams, Herbert Marcuse, and William A. Williams. Subscriptions are \$15.00. 1509 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60614.

NYC Take Over of Con Ed?

A call to take over Consolidated Edison, the private utility serving New York City and Westchester County, was made by Jack Newfield and Paul Di Brul, two well known city political writers, in a recent issue of the *Village Voice*. They argue that the take over of Con Ed is necessary to reduce energy costs for the poor, to improve the air and environment, and to encourage the economic development of the city.

New Yorkers were urged to follow the example of two small up-state cities, Massena and Sherrill, which have passed referendums and are in the process of taking over the private utilities in their communities. To put the take over of Con Ed on the November ballot, the signatures of 50,000 registered voters must be placed on petitions.

Food Day '77 In 50 States

By Barbara Gottlieb

Food Day, the national day of action and education on food, is set for April 21, 1977. Local groups and coalitions across the country are planning a wide array of activities to educate and involve their neighbors in the issues of nutrition, hunger and agribusiness.

If last year's Food Day was a fair indication, then Food Day '77 will be observed in all 50 states with food fairs, teaching, community meals, farmers' markets, urban gardens, food stamp drives, lobbying drives and films.

In addition, the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), sponsor of Food Day, is planning a Capitol Hill conference on the political causes of world hunger, as well as a series of debates in major U.S. cities.

The debates will pit spokespeople for regional and alternative food systems against representatives of food corporations and supermarkets. Subjects to be debated will include the effectiveness of food coop systems versus supermarkets; Westlands and the use of tax-subsidized water for corporate farming; absentee ownership and management of farms; and the role of food corporations in contributing to malnutrition.

Among the cities where debates are scheduled are Fresno, San Francisco, Omaha, Austin, Chicago, Philadelphia and Atlanta.

Senator Mark Hatfield joins CSPI in sponsoring a conference on the political causes of world hunger. The conference, April 21 and 22, featuring speakers from Third World countries, USAID and the World Bank, will challenge the conventional wisdom of cash-crop farming, Green Revolution

Continued on page 13

8 Point Economic Development

The Northeast Cities Conference, held in Hartford, CN last December, enunciated the first policy paper adopted by any meeting or section of the National Conference on Alternative State and Local Public Policies. The document was in the form of a letter to the Governors of the Northeastern Coalition. In addition to an 8-point program for the cities, the letter requested that all policy discussions with the federal government include prior consultation with state and local public officials, community groups, and other appropriate leaders, and a halt to all policies that fail to address the crucial needs of urban residents.

The letter is reprinted below for the information of all those concerned with the needs of our cities who did not attend the Hartford gathering. A Steering Committee of the Northeast Cities' Conference will meet in the near future to plan continuing programs, publications, and topical conferences. To be on their mailing list, write to: Cities Conference, Hartford Process Office, 7th Floor, 100 Constitution Plaza, Hartford, CN 06103.

We are elected or appointed officials, policy planners, representatives of unions and community organizations. We live and work in cities that are struggling for their social and economic survival. Unemployment of black and Puerto Rican youths in our cities runs at an annual level of over 40%. Property tax rates are past the breaking point — yet there are still no resources for the basic services our citizens need. Many of our public employees labor for salaries that lag behind inflation. The gap between what is being done and what should be done grows larger every day.

The major problem facing the Northeast and the rest of our country is an inequitable distribution of economic and political power. This imbalance reflects itself in the racism, poverty and environmental degradation which characterize the social crisis facing our cities. All programmatic initiatives must be measured against the extent to which they address this imbalance.

Too often, the response to these problems has been at best an unfortunate and at worst a destructive policy of reducing public services, providing ill-conceived subsidies to the private sector, and forcing the adoption of virtually confiscatory property tax measures. Current policies ignore the real causes of the Northeast's difficulties, which lie in the way our economic system works and in the misplaced priorities of the federal government. They make the situation worse, not better.

The 450 of us who have gathered in Hartford this weekend at the Conference on Alternative Public Policies for Northeastern Cities propose new forms of governmental response to urban needs. Our proposals center on ways by

which the public, through its elected representatives, can control the wealth of neighborhoods, cities, and states. Our proposals advocate decentralization and citizen participation in the delivery of social services. They look to a federal policy that is responsive to the needs of the entire Northeast, especially our cities.

We understand that the governors have formed a coalition to focus on regional concerns and to develop an agenda for interstate cooperation and federal action. We support this effort. The existence of a coalition, and the nature of the policy discussions it stimulates, reflect concern for the region and willingness to consider bold and innovative action.

But this logic must take one step farther. The governors argue forcefully that national economic and social measures do not affect all regions equally. Even measures that support our region, however, will not automatically assist our cities. The same economic logic that transfers resources from the Northeast to the Sun Belt will continue to move resources from the central cities to the suburbs. In both cases, new public policies are required to counteract this economic logic.

Let us emphasize that federal bailouts are not the issue, nor will more dollars spent in support of business as usual meet our needs. The new administration takes office at a time of economic scarcity and disillusionment with centralized bureaucratic solutions. It thus has a unique opportunity to help the cities by promoting structural reform. The cities do need assistance from Washington in the form of federalized welfare, federal assumption of health and education expenditures, and general revenue sharing. But more than these, we need changes in the way wealth is produced, distributed, and controlled.

Specifically, we propose the following measures:

1) That economic supports and incentives be targeted to areas of highest unemployment.

a) Any regional development corporation, for example, must provide specific criteria for directing investments to these areas.

b) Any supports to business created through the tax system must be designed to bring private investments back to urban areas.

2) That all public expenditures in support of economic development be measured against an explicit set of criteria that ensures adequate returns to the public investor, namely the taxpayers.

a) Whenever possible, public money should be used in support of publicly controlled instruments. Too often, public funds have subsidized private interests

Program for Northeast Cities

without adequate public benefit.

b) Policies should be designed to provide priority support to new instruments such as the Community Development Finance Corporation in Massachusetts and the numerous locally based community development corporations operating in our core urban areas.

3) That financial institutions be required, as a condition of their charters, to give priority to the credit needs of the communities they are chartered to serve.

a) In allocating charters and branches, priority should be given to banks that emphasize community credit and economic development needs.

b) License renewal should be contingent upon regular demonstration of service to communities.



4) That regional decision-making bodies include urban communities in their membership, and that whenever possible government policy and implementation should be controlled by locally based entities.

a) Programs designed to ensure decentralized decision making such as those underway in New York City and Buffalo should be incorporated and supported by any regional initiatives.

b) The Conference of Northeast Governors Task Forces and other decision-making bodies must include urban representatives at all levels.

5) That all proposals specifically address racism and other forms of discrimination, especially in the areas of housing, education, and employment.

a) No proposals should be considered without an explicit affirmative action plan and a clear monitoring capacity.

b) Manpower training programs must be designed so as to reduce the unacceptable income level disparities between whites and other ethnic and racial groups, and between men and women.

6) That the states and cities immediately join in a policy of cooperation for economic development and end our current pattern of predatory competition.

a) We should immediately enact legislation establishing common regional policy with respect to tax, revenue bond, and other incentives.

b) No state or other jurisdiction allow any expenditures for programs designed to lure business from one part of the Northeast to another.

c) A federal policy should discourage other regions from raiding our industry.

7) That the inordinate tax burdens of urban communities be relieved.

a) Tax measures should be developed to equalize property tax burdens throughout each state and thereby to ensure evenhanded funding for human service and education programs.

b) The governors should immediately pledge to target new revenues resulting from federal welfare reform to urban and other chronically depressed communities.

8) And, finally, that you join in supporting a redirection of national priorities away from a swollen defense budget and toward the programs that guarantee needed social and human services to all of our citizens.

IN THE CONFERENCE

What's Happening?

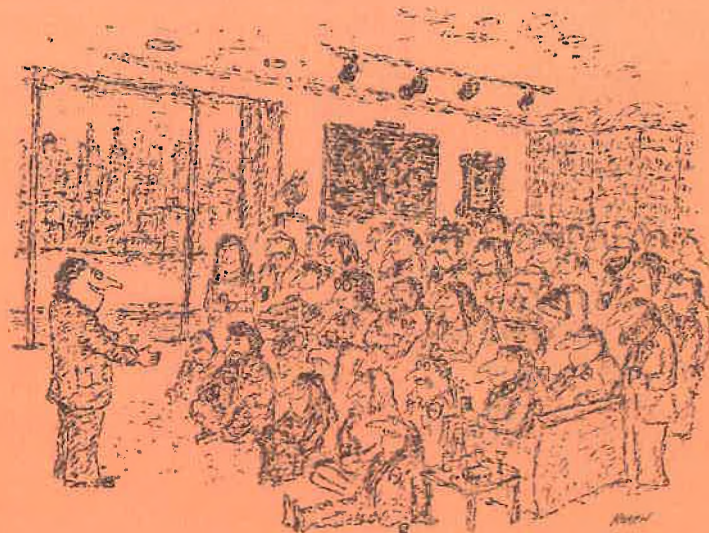
By Barbara Bick

Sam Brown To the Feds

Colorado State Treasurer, Sam Brown, one of the "stars" of the National Conference, has gone federal. On February 19, President Carter confirmed that he will nominate Sam to head ACTION, an agency created by Nixon that puts the various federal volunteer programs such as the Peace Corps and Vista, under one roof.

One of the most quoted remarks by Sam, regarding his devotion to the work of the National Conference, was "A few years ago I was out to save the world. Then I became interested in the country and then the state I live in. Five years from now I may be trying to save my neighborhood and holding that up as the model for the world."

We'll give you a new quote from our good friend, Sam Brown, next month — from Washington.



"You are my grass roots."

Soglin in Majority Runoff

Another good friend and one of the Conference founders, Paul Soglin, two-term Mayor of Madison, WI, finished second to Alderman Anthony Amato in the nonpartisan single primaries that are required for all Wisconsin municipal elections. Amato, who is a former aide to the conservative William Dyke whom Soglin defeated for Mayor four years ago, will face Paul in the runoff election April 5. Although Amato polled 16,557 votes to 12,941 for Soglin, Soglin is still considered as having the greater potential. Paul said he hopes to draw support from voters who sided with Alderman Michael Sack, a socialist, who finished third in the primary with 6,961 votes.

Hongisto Sentenced

Is it good news or bad news for our friends in the Conference this month?

All those who attended the Austin national conference will long remember the fantastic criminal justice workshop which combined the outrageously witty and articulate San Francisco Sheriff Richard Hongisto, and Detroit Judge Justin Ravitz. Latest word from the West is that the Sheriff was sentenced to five days in jail for *not* carrying out an eviction notice against elderly Chinese and Filipino tenants of the International Hotel.

The Four Seas Corp. bought the hotel in 1975 and has been trying to evict the tenants so that it can demolish the building. With the support of San Francisco community activists, the tenants have held out. They appeared to have won their fight when the San Francisco Board of Supervisors decided to have the housing authority use its power of eminent domain to buy the building and sell it back to the tenants. But the corporation would not sell and the courts upheld them. The San Francisco police have again been asked to evict the tenants.

So, I guess it's good news to know that the people's sheriff was arrested in the good fight. He is presently out of jail on appeal.

California Conference

How does California get the talent? Henry Fonda read from "The Grapes Of Wrath" at the second regional conference's cultural program. Quick report from the gathering held February 18-20 in Santa Barbara, is that it was very successful, with around 800 people, and much interesting work. Copies of the "Working Papers" prepared for the conference are available. Write to Fred Brantman, California Public Policy Center, #224, 304 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

Womens Legislation

(Continued from Back Page)

New Candidates

Some of the happiest news coming our way are all the fighting activists who have recently called to announce that they are running for office and need strong and innovative programs to flourish before the voters. One such is 27 year old Nick Martin who is running for Mayor of Lexington, KY. Nick was the state coordinator for the Gene McCarthy presidential campaign last year. He is campaigning on the issue that the number one priority is to insure that the city budget is directed toward human needs. Nick says, "We have to guarantee that the people in this city who are without basic necessities are going to get those necessities." He also supports decriminalization of marijuana. "I would instruct the Metro Police to deal with those who smoke marijuana as they would deal with those who jaywalk; if they create a hazard, arrest them."

Michael Hildt walked into the office the other day. He is running for the Seattle City Council after doing unusually effective work as City Council staff. Hildt was one of those most responsible for developing Seattle City Light, a municipal utility which drew up a 19-point energy conservation program for the city.

More about the others next month . . .

suror, or person which incorporates the terms "man" or "men" be modified to substitute the terms "person" or "persons" after the present supply of such forms and materials is exhausted."

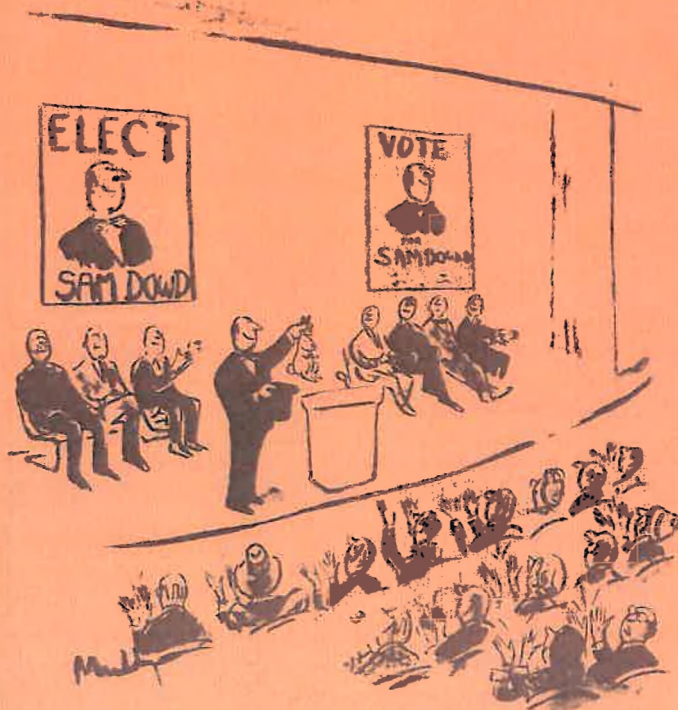
When a problem needs to be confronted on a more specific basis, it needs the concentrated support of women's groups and partisan legislators. It is this effort that has caused the revisions of well over 50% of state rape codes in only four years. Proposed bills for 1977 would eliminate corroboration and the need to review the victim's past sex life. Appointment of women officers as those responsible for the rape details would be mandatory. The newest legislation to aid the victim will hold the state responsible for the required medical bills.

What is essential to have large decisions on the federal level, it is the county, city and state where women live

and work that problems are encountered. The year old National Equal Credit Opportunity Act needs to be re-enacted at every state and municipal branch. All states except Hawaii, no longer compel a woman to use her husband's name, but other restrictions exist and vary in difficulty.

The National Conference has up-dated its *Legislative Handbook on Women's Issues*. While primarily concerned with economic issues affecting women, it covers education, family law, work, equal rights and child care. The model legislation which the *Handbook* contains can help both individuals and groups make an impact in their area. It should be pushed as required material for every legislator at the city, county and state level.

Mona Hochtberg is an intern at the National Conference from Sarah Lawrence College



"Great! But where does he stand on environmental protection?"

Alternative Legislation Continued . . .

their employees. It flatly rejected inclusion of a no-strike rule in public bargaining legislation.

Opposition to the new labor legislation will come from, among others, the National Right to Work Committee which is attempting to raise \$5 million this year, with \$1 million earmarked for the right-to-work fight.

State Land Trust

A model statute to preserve farmland and open space and promote orderly and efficient growth is detailed in an article by John McClaughry in the June 1975 issue of the *Harvard Journal on Legislation*. The article also discusses the approaches taken by several states and the Canadian provinces. To

get "A State Land Trust Act" send \$2.50 to the Harvard Legislative Research Bureau, Langdell Hall, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Nuclear Waste Storage

More than 50 members of the Vermont House of Representatives have co-sponsored a bill that would prohibit the creation of any nuclear waste storage facilities in Vermont by any private utility or by the federal government without the express permission of the Vermont Legislature. The bill is modelled on the Vermont nuclear moratorium bill that became law two years ago. Copies of H261 can be obtained from the Vermont Public Interest Research Group, 26 State St., Montpelier, VT.

Making Sense Out of the System

By Joseph Marfuggi

"We were trying to make sense out of the system," says Hartford City Councilman Nicholas R. Carbone, as he explains why Connecticut's capitol city developed a program that allows the working poor and unemployed residents to work off local taxes.

"The State of Connecticut ranks 49th out of 50 states in the amount of aid it provides cities and towns," Carbone says. "The local communities have to raise property taxes to keep pace with inflation and an increased demand for services.

"But people who are unemployed, or on welfare, or trying to make ends meet with a Social Security check, can't afford to pay higher property taxes," the councilman says. "So Hartford was forced to cut services—at the very time that record-high unemployment was creating a need for additional human services."

The Hartford City Council took action to deal with that Catch-22 situation last May when it set up a pilot program to allow unemployed or low-income residents to pay their taxes by working for city or non-profit agencies.

Under the In-Kind Service Program, people can "earn" up to \$1,000 to be applied to their tax bill. More than 300 types of jobs were listed by the city, ranging from accountants to elevator operators to maintenance work. The hourly "pay" ranged from \$2.50 to \$4, depending on the job.

It seemed to be a good idea. The city was getting work done that it could not afford to hire people to do. And the people in the program preserved their dignity and self-respect—and avoided the prospect of having to worry about

digging out from under bills for back-taxes.

Then the State of Connecticut heard about the program.

People who are credited with dollars for doing work are earning a wage the State said, and would no longer be eligible for unemployment benefits.

That ruling meant that unemployed people could not afford to participate in the In-Kind Service Program. The Hartford program gave people credits towards their taxes on homes or motor vehicles. It did not provide funds to buy food or meet

other living expenses.

After loud and vigorous complaints from Hartford's City Council, the State modified its position. All right, the State said, people can participate in the In-Kind Service Program without losing their full unemployment benefits. But they must give up from their unemployment checks two-thirds of any money "earned" in the program.

With that kind of restriction imposed on them, unemployed people are still excluded from the program. Hartford legislators are pushing a bill in the current

session of the General Assembly that would remove credits granted for in-kind services from any limitations carried by the Unemployment Compensation statutes.

If that bill passes and is signed into law by the Governor, the Hartford In-Kind Service Program will be workable. And the city will be one step closer to its goal of making sense out of the system.

Joseph Marfuggi is Director of Program Development for the City Institute of the University of Hartford

A MANUAL . . .

"New Directions in State & Local Tax Reform"

There are people going in new directions. People like Houston City Controller Leonel Casallo, D.C. City Councilmember Marion Barry, Montana State Representative Ora Halvorson, North Dakota State Tax Commissioner Byron Dorgan, and many others.

They are rewriting the tax laws so that ordinary taxpayers get a better deal. They are auditing large corporations with the result that millions of dollars in unpaid taxes are recovered for the public. More and more elected officials are getting tough with energy monopolies, real estate speculators, and other interests that traditionally get much but pay little in taxes.

On April 15th through 17th, 1977, hundreds of elected officials, community activists, and tax reformers will meet in Washington, D.C. to share ideas and look to the future. A movement has started. This manual, prepared especially for this conference, tells the story.

"New Directions in State and Local Tax Reform" spells out the issues the conference will address. It includes original articles, reprints, and resource guides. It tells what tax reformers have done and what they hope to do. It is a must for everyone who cares about better and more progressive state and local taxes.

To order "New Directions in State and Local Tax Reform" see coupon on page 15.

More Notes to Note

Alternative Technology Plan

Plans to use alternative technology to revitalize a desolate inner city section of New York encompass a program of recycling vegetable waste from the huge Hunts Point Produce Market into compost with which to cover up barren land so as to create urban farms, parks and gardens. At the present time the rubble strewn and derelict buildings of South Bronx are reminiscent of war-torn Berlin. The "Comprehensive Plan of Action for the Redevelopment of the South Bronx" provides a blueprint for a self-contained community, with other recycling, rehabilitation and self-help programs that are unique in their application to an urban community. The plan could be replicated in other parts of the country. For more information, write to Irma L. Fleck, The Bronx Frontier Development Corp., 1777 Grand Concourse, The Bronx, N.Y. 10453. (212) TR8-6620.

PBC

The People's Bicentennial Commission is now the People's Business Commission. Along with the name change, PBC has set up two new organizations:

The Center For Alternative Economic Education, which plans to develop educational materials that challenge myths and assumptions about our present economic system and that explore models and strategies for democratization.

The Center for Political Alternatives which will focus on education for electoral politics on the grass roots level.

The PBC newspaper, *Common Sense* will now be called *People's Business*. The address is still the same: PBC, 1346 Conn. Ave., N.W., Wash. DC

Continued from page 7

technology, and massive food aid, and will discuss the feasibility of labor-intensive, subsistence farming.

CSPI is a Washington-based, non-profit public interest group headed by scientists. While CSPI sponsors Food Day, all participating groups are completely independent. Further information on Food Day and a list of local coordinators are available from FOOD DAY, 1757 S St. N.W., Wash. D.C. 20009; (202) 332-4250.

Barbara Gottlieb is the national coordinator for Food Day.

Economic Alternatives

The first report issued by the Exploratory Project for Economic Alternatives (EPEA), *Toward A National Food Policy*, has received widespread media attention. It is part of a series of 12 reports on alternative institutions, and such topics as local and national resource conservation, community economic planning, and legal and political strategies for employee and community ownership of business enterprises.

EPEA's working premise is that the solutions to the many crises of the new economic era lies with government action. The corporate business community has already understood this. In one form or another, corporate solutions to this country's pressing economic problems involve subsidizing business. Some business leaders -- like Henry Ford and Felix Rohatyn -- have even proposed formal national economic planning to maintain long run corporate profitability. The question is not will there be economic planning, but who

will plan and what they will plan for. The struggle over those questions will dominate the political agenda for the next 25 years.

EPEA's purpose is to develop practical alternatives to the increasingly centralized economic planning system dominated by big business and Federal bureaucracy. EPEA stresses that efforts to turn the clock back to a time of competitive markets with little or no government intervention are not realistic. A more practical strategy centers on the creation of strong state and local economic institutions -- governments, public corporations, cooperatives, locally controlled businesses, community corporations and citizen planning organizations. These institutions should then become the basis for economic plans and policies that begin rather than end with local priorities.

But in a society dominated by national and multinational economic interests, effective strategies must in-

volve national policies as well. For example, federal employment programs can be used to promote the development of local cooperative economic enterprises. National policies to stabilize the consumer price of necessities -- food, housing, medical care, energy -- can be used to build a local and regional capacity for effective economic planning to stabilize local economies. National programs to allocate capital to public priorities can be transformed over time to a form of capital revenue-sharing. Such efforts can build an economic foundation for the reinvigoration of community in America.

These and other proposals, as well as political strategies for their implementation, are discussed in the reports. The following are available now at \$5 each, (\$10 for institutions) from:

EPEA
1519 Connecticut Ave NW
Wash., D.C. 20036

Toward a National Food Policy. How the price of food may be stabilized and the food industry decentralized.

Capital and Community. An analysis of alternative programs for public control over capital.

Public Trusts for Environmental Protection. How the concept of public trusteeship over the environment can be extended.

Strengthening Citizen Access. How individual rights can be reinforced against bureaucratic abuse. (\$4, \$8 to institutions)

Cooperatives. The problems and potentials of several existing prototype cooperatives.

Extending Divestiture. The use of divestiture as a device to expand community and employee ownership over industry.

Job Opportunity

The New School for Democratic Management needs a Curriculum Director to redesign the teaching of finance, accounting, marketing, etc., from the perspective of democracy in the workplace; to write case studies of worker and community controlled businesses; and to help with other first year activities of the school. Write David Olsen, New School for Democratic Management, 256 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94108.

Tax Conference Set for April

The National Conference, in conjunction with a group of public officials, is sponsoring a conference on New Directions in State and Local Tax Reform in Washington, D.C., April 15 through 17. The conference will discuss programs developed in urban, suburban and rural communities. It will draw on the concrete experiences of practicing tax reformers who have developed such policies as:

- Metropolitan tax-base sharing to achieve a fairer distribution of revenue between cities and their suburbs, and to prevent land-use decisions from resting solely on tax-base needs.
- Restoration of property taxes on "intangible property" — stocks and bonds — to relieve the real estate burden on homeowners.
- Taxes on real estate speculation to deter the destruction of farmland and urban neighborhoods.
- Plans to stimulate jobs and economic development without tax breaks for large corporations which increase profits without corresponding benefits for the public.
- Better management of public revenues to increase investment returns to the public and to achieve social objectives.

Among those who will address the conference are: Marion Barry, Washington D.C. City Councilperson, Chair of the Finance and Revenue Committee, Nicholas Carbone, Majority Leader of the Hartford, CT City Council; Byron Dorgan, State Tax Commissioner of North Dakota; Leonel Castillo, City Controller, Houston, TX; Ralph Nader, Citizen advocate; Barney Frank, Massachusetts State Representative, and Vic Fingerhut,

President, Democratic Victory Group Associates

Three general sessions will discuss: Building a movement for tax reform; The impact of federal policies on state and local tax reform, and The Political environment for tax reform.

Among the more than 20 workshops planned are: Equity Issues in State and Local Income and Sales Taxes; Federal-State-Local Fiscal Relations: Who Should Pay for What?; Auditing Large Corporations; Speculation, Farmland Preservation and Controlling Growth; Taxation of Natural Resources: Coal, Oil and Gas, Timber; The Revenue Possibilities of Public Enterprises; Alternative Revenue Sources for Local Governments; Getting Elected on Tax Reform Issues; and Using Administrative Office for Tax Reform.

CONFERENCE LIST

After months of preparation, making changes, and coding more than 4000 names, the Conference mailing list has finally been put on the computer. There are still a lot of errors and duplications in the list, and we hope you will bear with us while we are in the process of getting it cleaned up. You can help us. If you have received your Newsletter incorrectly addressed, please give the correct information on the coupon below. Be sure to fill out the space provided for indicating your title or area of interest, so we can assign you the proper code. And let us know if you have received more than one copy of the Newsletter.

... Josie Anderson

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TITLE/POSITION OR AREA OF INTEREST _____

(Check box if you received a duplicate) ☐

Great Plains to Organize CONFAB

By Kandra Hahn

A Great Plains Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies is planned for May 27-29 in Lincoln, NE.

Drawing on a twelve-state region, the Conference will focus on the problems of the agricultural heartland and the delicate balances it must strike with water, energy and mineral development.

Unless Plains citizens are informed, organized and represented, exploitation on the order of an Appalachian devastation is not merely a possibility but a likelihood. A goal of the conference planners is to bring together the isolated groups which have

independently confronted power, water and coal projects in order to exchange information and to form a multi-state perspective.

Another major topic will be an examination of the out-migration of Plains capital. However, unlike most other Alternatives Conferences, the focus is expected to be largely non-urban. It will be designed to meet the needs of rural-oriented participants who may have had difficulty plugging into national conference sessions.

Elected officials, community organizers and others interested in the preservation of a vital Great Plains are invited to attend. Agenda and planning details are still

malleable and suggestions are invited. Correspondence should be addressed to the Great Plains Conference/Alternative State and Local Public Policy, P.O. Box 80084, Lincoln, NE 68501. Registration and accommodations information will be available late in March.

For Conference planning and publicity, the Plains region has been defined as Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Kandra Hahn is the elected Clerk of the District Court of Lancaster County, NE.

Publications Available From the National Conference

Alternative Legislation Series (\$1 each)

- ☐ State Bank. Draft legislation from Oregon and New York.
- ☐ Metropolitan Planning Law, Minnesota legislation establishing integrated metropolitan system of land use planning within the seven-county St. Paul-Minneapolis Metropolitan Area.
- ☐ Nuclear Safeguards Packet. A compendium of nuclear safeguards moratorium initiative measures from seven states.
- ☐ Disclosure Legislation. The Chicago municipal ordinance plus Illinois and Alaska state legislation for financial disclosure by banks. Analysis by David Smith.
- ☐ Displaced Homemakers. Bill to establish multipurpose centers to provide counseling, training, skills and referral services to displaced homemakers.
- ☐ Citizen Bill of Rights relating to law enforcement intelligence information.
- ☐ South Dakota Homestead bill. Model legislation for establishment of a homestead lands commission designed to strengthen family farm system of agriculture.
- ☐ A compendium of public power authority bills. Summary and analysis by Lee Webb.
- ☐ Neighborhood Government. Washington, D.C. Act to Establish Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.
- ☐ Senate bill S2633, the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Bill. Proposes a bank that will make loans directly to consumer coops.
- ☐ Model State Public Utility Commission Act. Includes recommendations in all areas of electric utility regulation: commission structure, procedure, jurisdiction, enforcement, etc. By Lee Webb & Jack Chesson.
- ☐ Model State Energy Act. A draft Bill for a democratically controlled, publicly owned state energy system. By Lee Webb & Jeff Fink.
- ☐ National Community Health Service bill. Model legislation for a community-based, nationally funded health service. By the IPS Community Health Alternatives Project.
- ☐ Lifeline Packet. The most innovative "lifeline" electric utility rate structure proposals introduced in various state legislatures.
- ☐ Louisiana Automobile Insurance Corporation Act. Model legislation establishing a universal, compulsory auto insurance plan, with the state corporation the exclusive underwriter.
- ☐ Community Development Finance Corporation. The legislation provides equity and venture capital to finance businesses and create jobs in specifically targeted areas where economic conditions are most severe.

Public Policy Series

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

Reprints (50¢ each)

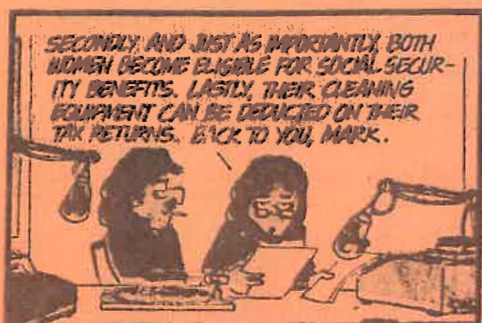
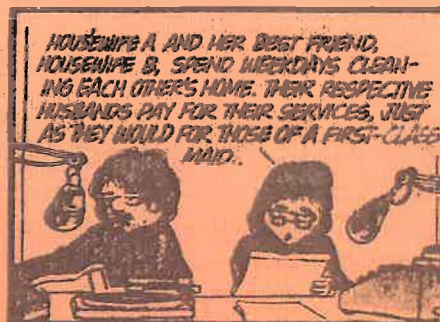
- ☐ "Public Control of Public Money" by James Rowen, reprint from *The Progressive*, February 1977. A 6-page article about the Estes Park, CO banking conference, outlining a number of the programs and people represented there.
- ☐ "Campaign Surprise: Some Politicians Are Worth Voting For" by Alexander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

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

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

DOONESBURY

by G. B. Trudeau



Womens Legislation Proceeds Apace

By Mona Hochberg

Positive legal recognition of women's rights has been painfully slow recently: in December, the Supreme Court decision on pregnancy benefits, the on-going struggle for the Federal ERA, and the increasing pressure for stricter abortion laws.

There is a foundation of strength, however, on the state and local levels where laws better reflect women's

gains. For instance, Pennsylvania and Connecticut laws require benefits to pregnant employees that withstand the Court decision. And the mere recommendation in New York's human relations guidelines of the same benefits was interpreted as law by the NY state court, only a week after the Washington ruling.

States differ as to how they rectify sex discrimination. In some states each particular grievance must be dealt with

separately. Recently, the practice has been to issue vague bills outlawing all inequalities on the basis of sex under the state's civil code. Washington D.C.'s legislature has been the most recent to adopt this. California, Wisconsin, and Iowa passed single, long bills in 1976, "relating to certain statutory provisions affecting the legal treatment of male and female persons" and citing corrections in everything from elections to

Welfare and Institutions, to insurance, labor, and the Food and Agriculture Code.

Laws are now drafted as "he/she", "widow/widower", or simply "spouse" in the more progressive states, thus eliminating differences in new insurance, health, inheritance and work bills. California is moving semantically closer to equality with SB 2060, directing "forms and material used by any public agency in-

Continued on page 7

National Conference Newsletter

Institute for Policy Studies

1901 Que Street, N.W.

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