



conference on **ALTERNATIVE** state and local **PUBLIC POLICIES**

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Editor: Barbara Bick

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Alternative Legislation

New Public Representation Bills

Three pieces of innovative legislation have been prepared for the Wisconsin Legislature with backup work by the Center for Public Representation. Assembly Bill 383 would remove certain zoning restrictions on the establishment of community living arrangements in residential neighborhoods. The bill defines facilities licensed by the Department of Health & Social Services as including group foster homes, child welfare agencies, and adult community-based residential facilities. The bill excludes day-care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, and jails.

An Open Public Records Act that would establish a 10-day time limit within which an agency must respond to a citizen's request for public records, is sponsored by Sen. Gary Gayke. The Act would also create a Commission on Public Records which would review appeals by individuals who have been denied access to government records. The Open Records Act would apply to all government units, including the Legislature and judicial branch.

Finally, a bill to create a non-profit Citizens Utility Board which could intervene in all proceedings involving public utilities, has been introduced by Assembly Majority Leader James Wahner. The CUB would be financed by \$3 a year memberships sold through special inserts in the monthly billings of major utilities. For more information on any of these bills, contact the Center for Public Representation, 520 University Ave., Madison, WI 53703.

Flex-Time Job Bills

Wisconsin Assemblywoman Midge Miller practices what she legislates. The sponsor of a bill to create more part-time jobs in state govern-

ment, she has hired two women who each work part-time to share one legislative assistant job.

Miller's bill, which is similar to legislation passed in Massachusetts and Maryland, would increase the number and types of part-time jobs in state government. Such bills call for gradual increases in the percentage of part-time jobs available up to a ceiling of between six and 10% of all positions. These bills also guarantee part-time workers fringe benefits such as sick leave, vacation, merit increases, and seniority.

Curbs on Mandatory Retirement Laws

Mandatory retirement of municipal workers was abolished in Seattle, WA by an executive order of Mayor Wes Uhlman, who called it "arbitrary age discrimination against older Americans."

Los Angeles voters recently passed an amendment to remove mandatory retirement in that city's work force, but continued a requirement of annual physical examinations for older workers. Seattle eliminated the physical examination requirement also.

Tenant Victory

A town-controlled trust account to hold rental-security deposits was voted up at the May Town Meeting in Amherst, MA. Tenant groups fought hard for this legislation and it is considered a great victory for them. Under the new law, landlords can no longer hold security deposits, which gives tenants equal rights in a dispute over apartment damages. In addition, tenant deposits will be protected against landlord bankruptcy. For more information, contact James Starr, Task Force on Security Deposits, Town Hall, Amherst, MA.

New Property Tax Measures

Two tax reform measures aimed at increasing revenues for financially-strapped Boston, were introduced into the Massachusetts House by Rep. Barney Frank. The first, H305, would remove the property tax exemption for university and college property in the state, except for classrooms, libraries, and laboratories. Non-educational buildings, such as dormitories, dining halls, and athletic facilities would have to pay property taxes.

The second bill would require airlines to pay property taxes on their terminals and facilities at Logan Airport, which the airlines are presently refusing to pay.

Farm Loan Aid

Under a recent Minnesota law, the state will assist farmers with assets of less than \$50,000 to purchase farm land. The state will guarantee loans of local commercial banks up to a statewide total of \$100 million. For more information, contact Don Garry, Administrator of Farm Security Program, 510 B State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Anti-Redlining Bills

Two strong anti-redlining bills were introduced in the 1977 Utah legislative session. Senate Bill 40 would give a Commissioner of Financial Institutions the power to establish and regulate mortgage-lending policies. Under the bill, an institution charged with discriminatory practices would receive a public hearing; if found guilty, the Commissioner could suspend or revoke the institution's license, issue rules to further the provisions of the Act, require the State Treasurer to withdraw all state funds from the institution, or impose a

monetary fine. House Bill 196 is a fair lending housing act. Both bills were defeated this session. Copies can be obtained at the State Legislative Bureau, State Capital, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Curb on Insurance Redlining

The Missouri Senate has passed a bill designed to curb insurance redlining. The bill would prohibit insurance companies from refusing to insure or from cancelling homeowner policies on the grounds of location of residence, occupation, sex or age. It would also require insurance companies to give specific reasons for cancellation or non-renewal. Senate Bill 300 was supported by intensive lobbying efforts of Missouri ACORN. For more information, ACORN is located at 2335 South Grand, St. Louis, MO 63104.

Computer Software Tax Reform

A bill defining computer software as tangible personal property and therefore subject to the state's 5% sales tax, was signed recently by Tennessee Governor Ray Blanton. The new law is a strong victory for tax reformers and a defeat for the computer industry.

The tax status of computer software (programming and services) is a very important issue, including potentially hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues. With pressure growing for taxation of software in Missouri, California, New York, and New Jersey, the industry trade association—the Association of Data Processing Service Organizations, is beginning lobbying and legal actions to try to stop the reforms.

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Women Seek Major Offices in New York City

by Barbara Bick

On the first of June, Bella Abzug threw her hat in the ring to become a candidate for the top municipal electoral office in the U.S. In so doing she joined a group of dynamite women who have already begun campaigning for a number of the highest decision making positions in the embattled Big Apple. These crusading women include Ronnie M. Eldridge—running for Manhattan Borough President, Carol Bellamy—running for New York City Council President, and Ruth Messinger and Miriam Friedlander—campaigning for City Council seats.

If any group of elected officials can turn back the spiraling decline of the nation's most important city, it might well be these committed women who represent a new sort of political activist seeking electoral office. Each of them has an outstanding history of participation in the important social movements of the 60's and 70's: civil rights, anti-war, women's equality, and anti-poverty. They share a deep commitment to the restructuring of American society for the benefit of people.

In seeking the mayoralty, former Congresswoman Bella Abzug would rank as the world's most visible municipal spokesperson for urban alternatives. Abzug's



Bella Abzug Aims for New York City Mayoralty

Abzug on Neighborhoods

We are a great city. We are the financial, educational, cultural, small business, and idea center of the nation. But we are also a collection of hundreds of neighborhoods. I've been to most of them and I know the people who live there.

I am always impressed by their ideas and energy.

I think of the people at Co-op City who are working so hard to save their project.

I think of the people in Brooklyn who have organized a green-line campaign against red-lining by the banks.

I think of the longshoremen in Chelsea who are

fighting to revive the Hudson River waterfront.

I think of the people in Queens, Staten Island and the other boroughs who volunteer their services, grow vegetable gardens, run food co-ops, organize anti-crime patrols, join the auxiliary police, transport and help feed senior citizens, and figure out so many ways to make this city more livable.

These people are our greatest resource. Our city can never die as long as the people who live here retain hope and work to save it. And as long as they have leadership to inspire and organize them.

long history as a labor and civil rights attorney and as a national leader in the anti-war and women's movements is well known. During her two terms in Congress, Abzug worked for a national mass transit policy, national health insurance, and additional aid to the cities. In her last year's race for the U.S. Senate, Abzug spoke out sharply for reduced military spending, nationalization of welfare, and tax reform. She lost that bid for the Democratic nomination to Daniel Moynihan by less than 1% of the vote. In her campaign for Mayor, her primary issues will focus on restructuring the city bureaucracy, going after the more than \$1½ billion owed to the city in uncollected taxes, fees and fines, and upgrading the city's faltering mass transit system by trading in a proposed super highway for transit construction money.

Running against Abzug are incumbents Mayor Abraham Beame, Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, U.S. Reps. Edward Koch and Herman Badillo, and N.Y. Secretary of State Mario Cuomo.

The Board of Estimate, rather than the City Council, has the political clout in the city of New York. The Board approves every contract that the city funds and has the crucial power of shaping the Mayor's budget and

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Ruth Messinger campaigning for New York City Council

the delivery of services. The office of Borough President carries two votes on the Board; the Mayor, City Council President and City Comptroller each have four votes. N.Y. State Senator Carol Bellamy, running for City Council President, said she would use her votes to mold the budget. Bellamy, an attorney, was first elected to the State Senate in 1972. She has been a strong advocate for the communities and neighborhoods of New York and believes that the city should have begun an economic development program long ago. Bellamy said that, "My understanding of financial problems and my ability to meld that with the human and social needs of the city qualify me for the job."

Ronnie Eldridge, running for Manhattan Borough President was a close associate of Bobby Kennedy and an early reform worker. She was a Mayoralty Aide under John Lindsay. Most recently she directed TV Channel 13's *Woman Alive*, and the station's community service program. For a number of years she was associated with *MS Magazine*.

The two activist candidates for City Council include one incumbent, Councilperson Miriam Friedlander, who represents the southern tip of Manhattan. It is the poorest district of the island and the most widely diverse ethnically. Friedlander has been an unusual advocate, ombudsman, and organizer for community groups in her district.

Ruth Messinger, a long-time peace activist, is running for a Council seat representing the upper West Side. Messinger directs a program at the College of Human Services which trains and places unemployed and welfare persons in social service jobs. An elected School

Board member, Messinger is also a community activist and was a leader in the fight opposing West Way, a super highway which would slash through city neighborhoods to the suburbs. Messinger participated in the December meeting in Hartford, CT of Northeast Cities, organized by the National Conference.

These women are opposed by candidates with far greater access to money and other resources. In turn, they are strong on program—and devoted volunteers. For more information about their candidacies and position papers, contact Abzug for Mayor, 1460 Broadway; Eldridge for Borough President, 1472 Broadway; Bellamy for Council President, 270 Broadway; Messinger for City Council, 175 W. 77th St.; and Councilmember Friedlander, City Hall—all in New York City.

The Urban Fiscal Crisis Unmasked

A superb new book by Paul DuBrul and Jack Newfield, *The Abuse of Power—the Permanent Government And The Fall Of New York*, Viking Press, presents with fascinating detail the story of New York's crisis—which in the final analysis is the story of the potential catastrophe in store for all of America's cities. Who—and what—brought New

York to its knees, is critically important information for everyone concerned about urban policies and what must be done to change them. Four years of research by New York journalist Newfield, and planner, organizer DuBrul has resulted in a brilliant expose cum analysis. Price is \$12.50, but worth the investment. Ask for it at your local bookstore.

Great Plains Conference Sets Priority Strategies

by Marilyn McNabb

A hundred public officials and activists gathered in Lincoln, NE over Memorial Day weekend to exchange strategies for promoting the public welfare in the face of the region's new dynamic—crash development. From Montana to Missouri, life on the Plains is under stress from the coal boom, the rapid spread of new irrigation techniques, and soaring farmland prices.

The priorities of resource-oriented politicians and local groups proved to be as varied as the forms of change experienced. There seemed to be broad agreement, however, that there are three serious obstacles to the region's "progress": 1) progressive state and local officials and activists; 2) "the greed factor"—tangled and conflicting claims to land, water, and mineral rights that could take decades to sort out; and 3) a resistance that bubbles up from the conservationist spirit of the Great Plains, combined with popular convictions about authority, public or private.

Local and state government's defensive scramble to comprehend and plan for the impact of corporate, federal government, and investor activity was a shared theme. Byron Dorgan, Tax Commissioner of North Dakota, related how the advance planning of the energy giants had brought their representatives winging in on company jets to buy coal leases from farmers on the lignite nobody had ever wanted. By the time Project Independence was decreed, North Dakotans found they didn't own or control the coal. The state did what it could. A tough coal severance tax was passed and it will be implemented with an aggressive approach to

auditing the books of Standard Oil, U.S. Steel, and the likes.

Maps of the region—roughly the Missouri and Upper Mississippi River Basins—were heavily marked over as participants from 10 states drew in sites of new and planned coal stripping, gasification plants, coal and nuclear plants, mineral extraction, major irrigation and water diversion projects, and coal slurry pipelines. The scale is awesome.

Nebraska State Senator Steve Fowler pointed to a common element in each development plan—water. Decisions about water may be an important lever still available to gain some public control over the region's future. One major objective of business is generous public subsidies to river barges, according to John Marlin of the Coalition on American rivers. Ownership of the barge lines, catalogued by Friends of the Earth, turn out to be familiar names—in addition to the grain companies, they are many of the same oil-chemical-energy giants which have staked out Plains' resources. The urgency of public access to water-use choices was underscored by announcement of Carter's support for coal slurry pipeline development. One projected pipe would take scarce Plains water to flush coal into the largest petrochemical complex in the country, located in Houston.

The Plains Conference was probably most unlike other regional meetings of State and Local Alternatives in its loud chorus of negative views of Washington. The Feds, especially the agencies of the Department of the Interior, all too frequently seem to bless resource rip-offs, ac-

tively promoting what recent books called a *One Time Harvest* (Mike Jacobs) and *The Rape of the Great Plains* (K. Ross Toole). In fact, views were inconsistent and as diverse as this sampling suggests:

In South Dakota, John Sieh, chairman of his 15-county local Reclamation Board came into office with a change of 10 of the 11 directors. The campaign was organized and funded by local farmers and ranchers ("no environmentalists!") who had taken a long look at a proposed billion dollar water project. The Oahe Project would destroy about 150,000 acres of farm and ranch land to irrigate 190,000 acres, much of which can't maintain irrigation. Before the election, the Bureau of Reclamation had provided no opportunity for local input. The new Board held a series of public hearings, hired a manager "who would listen to people," and submitted an unprecedented budget to Washington. Of the 300-some Boards in the country, only Sieh's requested that their project get no funding.

In Illinois, Jane Johnson ran for her County Board to try to save excellent farmland from being stripped for coal. By a six-vote margin she won election to the Board, but found that there was little support there for her goals—or in the State Legislature. More hope is offered in federal legislation to protect prime agricultural land, she believes.

For Native Americans on the Plains, the Federal Government's special relationship to the tribes is of critical importance, according to Mario

Gonzales, member of the Oglala Sioux and Judge on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Federal obligations under Treaties and Supreme Court rulings include not only the protection of resources on reservation land in the best interests of the tribes, but also certain rights outside the reservation boundaries, including water rights. A Supreme Court decision initiated in Montana (the Winters Doctrine) established that Native Americans have supreme rights to present and future, good quality water. Ground and surface water which flows into reservations cannot lawfully be diverted or polluted. Court rulings have clarified the status of some Indian lands—for example, that mineral rights on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana are held in perpetuity by the tribe, not by individuals. Many treaty land areas however, like the Black Hills of South Dakota, are still under litigation.

For Gonzales' own reservation, Federal care has meant 80% unemployment, low income rates, high infant mortality, and the regular siphoning off of Federal funds to non-Indians off the reservation. Still, because "most Indians desire to maintain their culture, and the reservation is a way to do that, we do not desire to go to state jurisdiction."

In Montana, fourth-term state legislator Dorothy Bradley reported, there is serious worry that Washington's massive changes in energy priorities could undermine the state's gains. In recent years, Montana has put into law the strongest stripmine and reclamation act in the country, a facility siting act that requires proof of public need,

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Ecologists New Force in French Politics

by Barbara Koepfel

Paris.

If 1977 will be remembered as the year France swung left, with Socialist-Communist coalition slates of candidates sweeping the spring municipal elections—it is also the year it discovered ecology.

Astounding the pollsters, politicians and ecologists themselves, candidates running under the ecology banner captured 12.5% of the first round vote in Paris and as high as 20% elsewhere—though somewhere between 5-10% for the country overall. Veteran politicians on both left and right, who at the start largely dismissed or denounced the environmentalists as amateurs or spoilers, were claiming deep concern for their cause at the end.

Who are they? According to Brice Lalonde, spokesman for Paris Ecologie (the electoral alliance for this region), they are a convergence of many autonomous movements, special interest groups and disenchanted individuals who had waged unsuccessful battles defending the environment for several years.

20 "Despite our efforts, no one in power listened. Also, we can't lobby our legislators, as ecologists do in the United States, since our system is totally centralized and elected representatives vote strictly on party lines. Thus we decided to take the offensive and enter the political arena ourselves," he explained.

Some of the groups in the movement, like their U.S. counterparts, focus directly on the natural environment, launching attacks against air and water pollution or the spread of nuclear energy. Others limit their scope to promoting more trees, parks and recreation space for the cities.

40 Unlike the Americans, however, from whom Lalonde says they have learned much, the French wrap under the environmental umbrella the struggle over community control, the destruction of neighborhoods by property speculation, highway and high-rise development, public vs. private (auto) transportation and the nature of the political and economic system which, he asserts, "creates polluted and unlivable cities, besides spawning the economic crisis."

"Inflation, unemployment, pollution, the deteriorating quality of life—all these problems are linked to the system."

48 For the movement's militants, whose political consciousness were forged in the May, 1968 upheavals, the key themes are the abuses of industrial growth and economic and political power. Though power in France was

always rooted at the center (it is said here that "when Paris sneezes, the rest of France catches cold"), it was consolidated still more under De Gaulle.

"Today, there is a total lack of decision-making at the local level. Even the elected officials have no power. Everything is decided at the national level by the government (the ministers and the bureaucracy)," Lalonde says.

Against this background, promises abound from both the left opposition parties and the government majority to consider local concerns. But the ecologists argue that 60 the promises are empty, that the government offers only token representation and speaks mainly for the industrial powers which destroy the environment. At the same time, they claim the parties of the left are highly centralized, see issues as national problems rather than local concerns and most important, view control of the State as crucial to their objectives. Thus, the ecologists refuse to join them.

70 "They want, as we, to transform France into a more just society. But they believe a strong, centralized government is vital to that transformation," he observes.

For the ecologists, State power is no answer. In fact, it is an anathema. They argue that nationalizations alone, which are the mainstay in the left's Common Program (a series of measures it promises to adopt if it wins the upcoming national elections and takes over the government) won't solve society's problems. "Nuclear energy is already controlled by the government and is just as dangerous as if it were in the private sector," Lalonde stresses.

Their solutions, instead, involve local control, self-management at work and in the community, with frequent referendums. In this way, they claim, individuals can decide on matters that affect their lives, like the location of new factories, highways or shopping centers in their neighborhoods and towns, or what they produce and consume.

70 When accused of being utopian, Lalonde insists the opposite, arguing it is "they—the government—who are utopian. They think their system works. But a quick look at the mounting unemployment and the economic crisis that won't disappear proves it doesn't."

Strengthened by the election results, the ecologists have intensified their battles, at both the local and national levels, organizing neighborhood campaigns against evictions and forming national coalitions to launch full-scale attacks against all candidates or parties who favor further development of nuclear energy. They are quoted 100 daily in the media and, in deference to their growing

Alternative Legislation

Continued . . .

Liberalizing Class Action Possibilities

Recent state actions are widening the possibilities of class action suits—a favorite tactic of consumer and environmental groups—which were narrowed by two business oriented decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 and 1974. The New York Legislature recently passed a liberalized class action rule and the North Dakota Supreme Court recently adopted similar rules as a part of its court procedure. In Pennsylvania, a revised class action statute is being distributed for comment. Other states that have shown an interest in liberalizing are Maryland, Iowa, Washington, and the District of Columbia. These changes in statutes and court procedure were based primarily on a model statute adopted last summer by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Tax Help For Renters

A number of states are taking steps to lower taxes for people who rent. At present in most states, renters can not deduct the money they pay

for housing as property taxes, while homeowners can.

Indiana, for instance, allows renters to deduct from their state income taxes the total amount of rent paid, or \$1000, whichever is less. Arizona permits renters to deduct 10% of their rent or \$50, whichever is less.

Bills proposed in California and Colorado would benefit rent-payers by transferring liability for paying property taxes from landlord to tenant. As a result tenants could deduct property taxes from their state and federal taxes. A problem with the Arizona, Indiana, Colorado and California legislation is that it does not provide the benefits of "circuit breaker" legislation since most low-income people do not itemize their deductions.

"Circuit breaker" legislation gives tax rebates to homeowners and renters who pay more than a certain percentage of their income on rent or in property taxes. Michigan, Oregon, Vermont, and Wisconsin offer some type of rebate to homeowners and renters, while 11 states and the District of Columbia restrict such assistance only to homeowners and elderly renters.

appeal, have been invited to sit on newly created regional advisory commissions.

As one University of Paris professor of urban studies notes, "The ecologists struck a deep chord of French dissatisfaction, voicing those concerns that neither left nor right chose to articulate. And though they won no municipal posts in the last go-round, they are a growing force with which the others must reckon."

Barbara Koeppel, a Washington-based free lance journalist, is spending the year in France. She has published articles in the Nation, the Progressive and other journals.

Limits on Corporate Campaign Spending Sought

by Bob Schaeffer

Still smarting from their defeat on five referendum questions last November, Massachusetts progressives are seeking to close a legal loophole through which big business and conservative interests poured more than \$4 million to finance "Vote No" campaigns. Though state campaign law limits personal contributions to \$1000, there is no ceiling for corporate giving. As a result, the 1976 election saw the container industry spending over \$1.5 million to defeat the bottle bill, while electric power companies financed massive canvassing and advertising drives against the state power authority.

More than two dozen bills were filed in the 1977 Legislature to close this loophole. Initial pressure was impressive: a public hearing on the issue was mobbed with supporters of corporate restrictions and many media outlets provided favorable coverage.

But the drive stalled in the back rooms of the Legisla-

ture's Election Laws Committee. Using the excuse that some of the loophole-plugging proposals had drafting flaws, the committee grouped all the legislation into a package that is to be sent to the State Supreme Judicial Court for review.

Pending a verdict on the constitutionality of each bill, supporters of limits or a ban on corporate campaign spending can do little. It is now believed to have been an error to submit so much legislation on the same topic rather than to focus energies on one carefully drawn proposal. Still the legislative effort was valuable in turning public attention to the magnitude of corporate intervention in the electoral process.

Plans are underway for a better coordinated effort in 1978.

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

Great Plains Continued . . .

a three-year moratorium on water development in the Yellowstone River Basin (passed in 1974), a 30% tax on coal, part of which goes to renewable energy development, and other measures to protect the people and land. This year, reformers succeeded in defending their legislation against amendments to exclude citizen participation in planning, to change water-use priorities to favor industry, and to gut the reclamation standards. But the fights were tough to win, and that was before Carter's push to coal, which will have to target the Northern Plains.

Discussions of legislation proposed by the Farmers Union in North Dakota to set up a public land bank to aid in the passing of family-farm-size units to young farmers, potentials for alliance-build-

ing among farmer, labor, community, and environmental groups, approaches to low-energy agriculture, farm credit, and schemes of big banks to buy up farmland—these and other exchanges revealed much about the "conservationist spirit" and fair-play ethic which insists on alternative policies in the Plains. Perhaps the political strategies proposed have more coherence to Plains residents than to all who equate the area with dull driving hours on the way somewhere else. Or perhaps there is a basis here of working agreement as to what is possible, worth fighting for, how it can be done, and with whom.

Marilyn McNabb is a Research Analyst with the Nebraska Legislature

Bibliography of Books and Manuals on the

For the Busy Candidate

Compiled by Mcna Hochberg

This bibliography was first compiled for a series of campaign workshops that were held this spring. The idea was to sort out the numerous manuals and books that are available; a task that most busy candidates do not have time to do.

Absent from the list are philosophical statements of what a candidate and his/her respective ideology has to offer. Sam Brown's and Tom Hayden's books will suffice here for liberal candidates running strong issue campaigns. The National Conservative Political Action Committee's manual, and other publications I have noted, include conservative stands as well as detailed practical information. There is no reason to read only those books whose politics you feel you would agree with; valuable tips can be gotten from the "other side"—and, of course, it is always important to see where your opponent is getting information from.

Any progressive candidate needs to find out the specific filing date for his office and state. After that, it is all the issues, the media, your staff, your stamina . . . and some help from the following books.

Books

Brown, Sam, *Storefront Organizing: A Mornin' Glories Manual*, Pyramid Books, 1972.

This is based on Brown's experiences fund-raising and organizing with the peace movement and the McCarthy campaign. It is not a what-to-do manual as much as recollections of what other politicians have done, along with a logical theory approach to campaigning.

Hershey, Marjorie Random, *The Making of Campaign Strategy*, Lexington Books, D.C. Heath & Co. 1974.

This is a very analytical and scholarly book, compiled of charts and statistics on how to evaluate apathy, decision-making, mind-changing and voting patterns to predict behavior.

Myer, D.C., *The Winning Candidate: How to Defeat Your Political Opponent*, James Heineman, Inc., 1966.

Good chapters on involving others in your issue campaigns and on organizing political rallies. Read this book for its suggestions on speech writing and on playing up the candidate's strengths.

Milbrath, Lester, *Political Participation*, Rand McNally, 1965.

This is not a primer, but a conceptual analysis of success, or lack of it. It is useful only if the reader does not mind the sweeping generalizations made so the voters can be fitted into categories.

Mulchaky, Kevin and Katz, Richard, *America Votes*, Prentice-Hall, 1976.

A short, very readable and recent book with useful charts about voting behavior, parties and state election patterns.

Nichols, David, *Financing Elections: The Politics of an American Ruling Class*, New Viewpoints, 1974.

Though this will not tell you *where* to get money for your campaign, it thoroughly documents how the rich and mighty give money for campaigns.

Parkinson, Hank, *Winning Your Campaign: A Nuts and Bolts Guide to Political Victory*, Prentice-Hall, 1970.

Parkinson starts at the very beginning, with instructions on how and when to file for your candidacy. Unfortunately, the book tends to be condescending, such as "one good woman is worth three men in any campaign" and then recommends that women are useful for coffee and shopping sessions.

Seligman, King, Kim and Smith, *Patterns of Recruitment: A State Chooses Its Lawmakers*, Rand McNally, 1974.

This book concerns the politics of Oregon, but is useful for anyone in a state race who would need to gather and interpret state voting patterns. Good information on what to do during the filing, primary and election periods.

Simpson, Dick, *Winning Elections: A Handbook in Participatory Politics*, Swallow Press.

Detailed strategies for candidates and an excellent annotated bibliography make this an excellent beginners book.

Simpson, Dick and Beam, George, *Strategies for Change: How to Make the American Political Dream Work*, Swallow Press.

A thorough citizen action book for "Winning issue campaigns without violence."

Schwartzbaum, Edward, *Campaign Craftsmanship*, Universe Books, 1973.

A good comprehensive book written especially for local candidates in their first election who want to use "professional" techniques.

Wilson, James, *Political Organizations*, Basic Books, 1973.

A huge book concentrating on the effects of parties, unions, business, and civil rights organizations on campaigns. No direct, practical how-to's, but a book someone important in a campaign organization should read to better understand how to deal with large special interest groups.

The Business and Art of Political Campaigns

Manuals

The following manuals written by organizations and individuals can be ordered from the addresses listed. The prices for these books run from 35c to \$4. Exact prices can be obtained from the organizations.

American Association of University Women. Tool Catalog: Techniques and Strategies for Successful Action Programs. 2401 Virginia Ave. NW, Washington, DC.

This is a huge book, incredibly useful, which does not concentrate on campaigns specifically, but is loaded with information on action projects, and the techniques of dealing with institutions, holding demonstrations, researching, and publicity planning. The AAUW also has two smaller publications, *An Action Bag* and *Power Quotient Bag*. Both have charts, lists of questions and activities, and posters.

Carr, Billie, Don't Default to the Bastards: Organize! A Common Sense Handbook for Left-Wing Democrats. 2418 Travis, Suite 3, Houston, TX 77006.

Instruction on how to run a successful liberal precinct club. Carr's belief is that liberals get their strength running as Democrats in grass-roots elections and then working their way up. A wonderfully serious yet humorous manual, Carr's deep convictions are always clear. It is a great guide on how to run a tough, aggressive campaign.

Democratic National Committee: The Democratic Campaign Manual, 1976, 1625 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

This is a good survey book with a bibliography and an exceptional section on communications covering everything from television to direct mailings. Special section on dealing with minority voters.

Hayden, Tom, Make the Future Ours, 204 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401.

From Hayden's bid for the Senate, a manual explaining why we must go from "protest to political power". The book is useful for those running an issue campaign, looking for analyses of the problems the country faces today. Hayden covers energy, the environment, communications, the economy and equality for minority groups.

League of Women Voters: Making an Issue of It: The Campaign Manual, 1730 M St. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

Geared towards getting legislation passed, there are short but practical paragraphs on building coalitions and committees, lobbying, testifying and overcoming the opposition. The League also has a yearly campaign guide, written by their education fund, discussing the issues and how to rally community strength around them.

National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, 1425 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

This Committee prints an excellent *Media Action Handbook*, which in great detail outlines not only how an individual can gain access to the media but also how the mass media functions. Since the book is written by a public interest group, it can be used well by someone running an issue campaign. Good bibliography of additional media communications books.

National Conservative Political Action Committee: In Order To Win: A State Legislative Campaign Manual, 1911 N. Fort Meyer Dr., Suite 706, Arlington, VA 22209.

Information is mostly from professional political consultants, on "how to run a professional campaign on limited resources of people and money." The book does succeed in being all-inclusive in 50 pages, covering campaign structure and personnel, finances, communications and getting the votes. This is a decent survey specifically designed to assist state legislature races and lower level political offices.

National Federation of Republican Women: Consider Yourself for Public Office, 310 E. First St. S.E., Washington, DC 20003.

How to deal with your children, your husband, your community, and your staff. The stories of five Republican women who have done it successfully.

Republican National Committee, 310 First St. S.E., Washington, DC 20003.

The GOP publishes booklets on a variety of subjects. There are the usual topics, thoroughly handled, of fundraising, organization, media, and advertising. Then there is a book comprised of the do's and many more don't's for candidates' wives and a manual on opposition research, "a composite of ideas on how to develop a complete picture of your opponent, assess his strengths and exploit his weaknesses." If you don't know the fine points of investigating your opponent's tax returns, military and scholastic records, then you need this manual.

The Woman Activist, 2310 Barbour Rd., Falls Church, VA 22043.

This organization has small but substantial booklets geared towards women running for local office. Printed in '73 and '74, they are full of optimism for the coming years' possibilities. Good bibliography and easy reference charts and timetables for organization of duties. There is a 1976 guide to precinct politics. It is excellent for both sexes and this grass-roots book has some interesting ideas for volunteers and voters.

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

What's Happening?

Arizona Progressives Plan Comeback

Good visits last month with some alternative activists—including Ron Asta and Jim Wright from Arizona. I learned from them that a successful and growing coalition around the issues of growth-control, environmental protection, tax reform, and improved social services, had been brought down in last November's general elections by an invasion of right-wing forces into Arizona politics. The coalition had been sparked by the 1972 election of charismatic Ron Asta to the Pima County Board of Supervisors. At one point, the "Astacrats," as the coalition's successful candidates were dubbed by the press, held 24 offices, including a number in the State Legislature, the Tucson City Council and School Board, a Judgeship, and the County Board of Supervisors. Although Asta himself was defeated for his fourth term by GOP candidate Katie Dusenberry, he reported that the growth-control advocates are geared for a strong fight-back.

The right-wing tactic in the state, according to Asta, has been the formation of a seemingly "nonpartisan" Good Government League. The League, which hired many of Ronald Reagan's people in Arizona, was the biggest spender in the local elections. While the Good Government League collected more than \$63,500 from its members, according to reports filed with the County Election Bureau, most was spent on "advice" and polls made available to candidates supported by it, rather than in direct contributions.

But Ron Asta seemed optimistic about the successful comeback of the progressive Democrats. There is an energetic state-wide movement made up of rank-and-file trade unionists, consumer and environmental groups, minority and women's groups, and others concerned about the problems created by uncontrolled, unplanned growth spawned by real estate speculators and other business interests. And the movement is growing.

Transfer Amendment Support

A resolution to urge the U.S. Congress to approve the Mitchell Transfer Amendment to the FY 1978 Budget, which calls for reduction in defense spending and transferring the monies to domestic programs, was placed before the District of Columbia City Council by Councilmembers Hilda Mason and Marion Barry. The resolution stated, in part:

Whereas The District of Columbia faces a continuing fiscal crisis due to insufficient funds to meet pressing social needs; and



District of Columbia City Councilmember Hilda Mason

Whereas the only alternative . . . is to increase regressive taxes or cut basic social services; and

Whereas, there has been a drastic reduction in Federal assistance over the past two years to cities and states for funding vitally needed social programs, while spending on defense programs have simultaneously increased; and . . .

Whereas, the cost of one military program alone, the B-1 bomber fleet is estimated to cost more than \$92 billion over its lifetime—enough to fund the current operating budget of the District of Columbia for over 80 years; . . .

Now, therefore be it resolved . . .

Both Mason, who is acting as the Statehood Party's Councilmember until the July special election to fill the At-Large Seat left vacant by Julius Hobson's death, and Barry have participated in National Conference meetings. Mason is a candidate in the special election.

Yanatta's Strong Campaign Runs Second

Derek Shearer called to tell us that Ruth Yanatta was narrowly defeated in the special election, May 31, for a California Assembly seat. Consumer-advocate Yanatta placed second in a field of 13, receiving 27.5% of the vote. The winning candidate, Mel Levine, who ran with the backing of the Democratic Party establishment, received 30%—a margin of 1500 votes. Derek stressed that Yanatta actually won a majority of the Democratic votes. However, in special elections to fill vacant seats in California, all candidates, regardless of party, appear on one ballot and crossover voting is allowed. Levine was endorsed by a number of well known Republicans.

The Levine campaign outspent Yanatta two-to-one, and relied on the mailing of 25 different, computer printed and targeted letters to voters discussing issues from a variety of points of view. For example, voters received letters from such "groups" as Teachers for Levine, Lawyers for Levine, the Jewish Committee for Levine, Italian-Americans for Levine (headed by Tommy Lasorda, manager of the L.A. Dodgers), as well as telegram-like communications from Democratic heavies such as Senators Humphrey and Cranston—topped off by a message to black families signed by Sugar Ray Robinson. A number of the most powerful California labor union officials also endorsed Levine.

Despite such formidable opposition from the establishment, the Yanatta campaign, managed by husband Derek Shearer and utilizing more than 200 volunteers—80% of whom were women—put together a coalition of senior citizens, women, minorities, labor, and local community activists.

The local press Hayden-baited the Yanatta campaign, implying that Ruth was a puppet of Tom Hayden and serving his ambition. However, the coalition which came together around the Yanatta campaign will not disintegrate. There are discussions about opening a "shadow" Assembly office to continue work on such local issues as housing, food prices, and neighborhood redevelopment.

Southwest Conference Projects Parley

Mary Sanger, who put together the widely praised Southwest Regional Conference, held in San Antonio, December 1975, reports that a two-day statewide conference entitled "Growth In Texas: Who Pays? Who Profits?" has been scheduled by the new Southwest Center for Public Policy. Funds for the two-day Growth Conference were granted by the Texas Committee for the Humanities & Public Policy, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The meeting, set for March, 1978, will explore the implications of the state's recent economic, population, and cultural growth. For more information, contact Mary Sanger, Southwest Center for Public Policy, P.O. Box 4841, Austin, TX 78765.

Senior Citizens New Constituency For Change

Josie Anderson, National Conference office manager who warmly receives all and sundry who visit, sent us the following report:

"A tall, white-haired man walked into our office one day early in May. He was J. P. Noterman, a retired insuranceman-turned-activist who was running for the Wilkes-Barre, PA City Council. Radiant with energy and enthusiasm, he did not hesitate to admit being 70. I asked about the devastating floods the region had recently experienced and he answered, 'It's not the floods that's the problem, it's the developers.' Then I learned that it was the earlier, 1972 floods that got him started. He and other senior citizens, who joined to protest the federal government's bad handling of flood damage, became a new constituency for change. Since then he has taken a strong stand in favor of progressive property taxes, and against local water policies. Members of the Wilkes-Barre Water Board own high-priced land in the area and want to sell it for expensive suburban development. In order to protect the existing water supply for the new developers, they now propose that water from the Susquehanna River should be diverted to supply drinking water for people living in lower-income areas.

"I've been in touch with Noterman and learn that he was defeated in his bid for a Council seat. His campaign was "low-key"; he didn't have a lot of money to advertise. When he came to our office he expressed feelings of isolation, of a need to share experiences with others of similar interests. I told him that was one part of our reason for being. Maybe he'll try again. I hope so."

New Florida County Commissioner A Challenge

A visit with Palm Beach County Commissioner Dennis Koehler was rather like stepping into the middle of a maelstrom—but clearly the hectic pace was still challenging after half a year in office. Koehler was the Florida county's Environmental Control Officer when he attended last year's national conference in Austin, TX. Although the youngest commissioner (35) and known as an activist, Koehler is rapidly gaining the respect of the Council staff, the media, citizens at large, and even his conservative opponents on the Board. He has worked hard to get the charter government movement rolling, to remove agricultural exemptions from local pollution enforcement standards, and for a number of land-use planning and density control issues. Most recently, he supported the claims put forward by a Citizens Coalition on Revenue Sharing protesting the county's proposals to use federal money for new roads and bridges rather than for social services for the poor or aged. Koehler proposed and the Council agreed to the creation of a Citizens Advisory Committee to help decide how the \$2.1 million in federal revenue-sharing funds should be spent.

Continued on page 12



Palm Beach County Commissioner Dennis Koehler

Over lunch Koehler questioned some of the "political principles" of the National Conference, i.e. that it is necessary to build constituencies and citizen movements for alternative programs and policies, rather than relying on charismatic politicians. Koehler postulated that the two major hurdles to accomplishing progressive policy change at the local level was 1) getting elected in the first place, and 2) developing a working rapport with fellow Board members that will actually allow you to institute progressive policies. "Under these circumstances," according to Koehler, "you often don't need political movements and coalitions to accomplish such goals. You need winning candidates with winning ways, who are able to stimulate their fellow Board members and their own professional staffs with new policy ideas."

Well. Let's hear some debate on the question.

Populists Win—And More Tries

Despite some set-backs, the populist trend in state and local elections surges ahead. The biggest gain was the surprise victory of underdog Henry E. Howell in the Virginia Governor's primary. His opponent spent a record \$1 million—outspending Howell 3-1. A coalition of blacks (Howell received nine out of every 10 black votes), urban poor, liberals and intellectuals, came together in support of Howell's advocacy of consumer protection, tax reform, equality in legislative apportionment—and his 30 year record in civil rights.

Reports from Texas are that an unprecedented number of good candidates won victories in recent elections, including a member of the Arlington City Council, the Mayor of Ft. Worth, and seven of the City Councilmembers PLUS the Mayor of San Antonio. News that long-time civil-rights attorney and activist Ken Cockrel is running for a seat on the Detroit Common Council—is good news indeed. I hope you all out there will keep the good news flowing in; we need to share our victories.

Disabled Movement Gains Support

by Leonard Goldberg

The new movement of disabled people raises issues which go beyond the traditional paternalism of present welfare policies. Disabled people are demanding not just more resources but control over those resources. They are also demanding access which breaks down the traditional segregationist policies of the society which separate disabled from non-disabled. They raise a challenge for progressives to respond in ways which recognize the questions of self-determination and full access.

Along these lines, California Assemblymember Tom Bates has introduced legislation which requires all state agencies to develop affirmative action policies for hiring disabled individuals. The legislation calls on each agency to develop goals and timetables to correct the underrepresentation of the disabled in employment. It also requires an advisory committee of disabled people to oversee the implementation of the plans. The bill has cleared the Committee on Public Employees and Retirement in the Assembly, but is expected to run into opposition based on potential cost of providing access. The concept is simple, but the inclusion of people with physical and mental dis-

abilities into regular employment would be a major step beyond the present tokenism of limited positions for a few people.

The movement which raises these issues has been growing in influence and organization in California. The recent demonstrations, demanding federal implementation of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, received broad legislative support through a letter authored by Bates and signed by 46 other California legislators. Many of the demonstrators in San Francisco had worked with Berkeley's Center for Independent Living, which has achieved national recognition for its efforts to build a self-determined community of disabled people. And California's Department of Rehabilitation is headed by Ed Roberts, the Department's first disabled director and co-founder of the Center for Independent Living. At present, the climate in support of the rights of the disabled is favorable. Progressives should take some leadership to make sure that climate gets translated into policies which give the disabled control of their destinies.

Leonard Goldberg is a Legislative Aide to California Assemblymember Tom Bates

Notes Continued . . .

Conservation Publications Scheduled

The Elements, a project of the new Public Resource Center, will publish in July a special detailed report on the Davis, CA energy conservation program. The study will tell how the program works, and how the city put it together. Planning drawings, photos, ordinances, and other basic documents are to be included in the report which will run about 50 pages. The report is aimed at citizen groups and state and local government agencies which

hopefully may be able to get some specific useful ideas from the Davis experiment. Price: \$2 for individuals and public interest organizations; \$5 for institutions, including business and government agencies. Postage included. There is a 10% reduction for more than 10 copies. The report will be sent free to all those who renew or take out new subscriptions to *The Elements*.

At the same time, James Ridgeway, editor of *The Elements*, announced the monthly paper will begin publishing a compendium of legislation

Whistle Blowing for Public Productivity

by James Wright

In Pima County, AZ, a County Supervisor holds a press conference, or provides a press leak, with the same public message every other month. It is a simple message. And the public loves it. The message: the budgetary ills of county government can be solved by laying off 200 county employees—at random.

This particular Supervisor happens to be a local university government professor. He is fully aware of his not so "at random" actions.

His message is becoming a more and more familiar one. It is part of a national political flim-flam act directed at voters in an effort to find a scapegoat for inappropriate taxing systems, the failure of local and national economies, and gross mismanagement of inept elected officials and their managers.

Public employees have been slow to respond. They are aware that there exists a pervasive feeling that government is unresponsive and

does little toward meeting citizen expectations. Public employees know that feeling well. How to respond is another question.

The public employee union for which I work tried one tack. The union recently issued a press release enumerating a long list of horror stories and Marx Brother-like bungling which occurred in a local county hospital. That hospital is one of the institutions included in the Supervisor's "random, personnel layoff fantasies."

Some of the items disclosed by the union included:

- Critical emergency medical supplies arriving at nursing stations 26 hours after being ordered from the hospital's Central Supply Department.

- An anesthesiologist not informed of an operation, leaving the assembled operating staff and a prepped patient waiting in the operating room. No one knew who the on-call anesthesiologist was because of the

poorly organized on-call system.

- A medical emergency notification system in the hospital's recovery room that fails to notify other medical staff when an emergency arises. Staff are forced to depend upon an unreliable phone system or to leave the patient in order to obtain assistance.

- Medical supplies stocked in no particular order in the hospital's Central Supply Department forcing the staff to check each aisle and shelf for any given item.

The response of county elected officials to the press disclosure was to denounce the union as "irresponsible" and exploitive of the administration's problems of transition to a new facility. Internally, hospital employees were admonished for talking to "outsiders" about hospital "business."

However, "blowing the whistle" on inefficient and bungling hospital management was a tremendous success. The employees were

elated that their story and frustrations were finally being explained to the public, which had always been quick to condemn them. And the union's disclosure forced the resignation of the hospital's administrator.

Since then our union has recognized that it must fight within local agencies to allow employee participation in reorganization and productivity programs. The union's Blow-the-Whistle for Improved Productivity Program is expanding with marked success. It seems to be one effective way to respond to the "lay-off more public employees" syndrome. Our union will continue to harass and embarrass elected officials and their managers until public employees are allowed to participate in agency decisions which affect their work and their ability to be productive in the public service.

James D. Wright is Executive Director of AFSCME Local 449, in Tucson, Arizona

on alternative energy measures (including solar, wind, energy conservation, etc.) pending before Congress. The compendium will be updated periodically and will include a run-down on how each member voted on key energy conservation measures. In April, 1977, *The Elements* published a detailed analysis of all solar programs pending before Congress. The journal will publish a similar run-down on alternative agriculture and family farm legislation. Subscription rate is \$7 per year for individuals; \$20 per year for institutions, including business and government agencies. Write to: *The Elements*, 1747 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, DC 20008

School Food Programs

Federal law P.L. 94-105 calls for breakfast and lunch programs to be available in all public schools. However, the law offers no concrete im-

plementation for local school boards. State legislatures have to enact compliance measures and set rules and deadlines for participation in the program.

During the past seven years only nine states have passed some compliance legislation. Most of it has been unsatisfactory: lack of voluntary participating and accountability on the local level, and no enforcement agencies.

The Department of Agriculture is required to pay the school district for each free or reduced meal served in the program.

A Guide for State School Breakfast and Lunch Legislation can be ordered from the Food Research and Action Center, 2011 Eye St. N.W., Washington, DC 20006. Along with analysis of existing state bills, the guide also includes contact people and strategies for introducing and gaining support for legislation.

56 State Women's Meetings

by Karen Lynch

Fifty-six State Women's Meetings have been scheduled for this year by the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year (IWY), to enable women of diverse backgrounds and opinions to share ideas about issues which effect them. Coordinating committees were established in each conference area to plan outreach strategies with the goal of attracting thousands of women from a spectrum of ages, incomes, ethnics, racial, religious and professional backgrounds. The Commission hopes to include homemakers, students, working women, civic leaders, union members, church workers, and especially women who have never been to a women's meeting.

State Meeting workshops focus on employment, educa-

tion, homemakers' legal rights, rape, wife abuse, child care, the image of women in the media, and many other problems faced by women. Pamphlets and fact sheets have been prepared for the State Meeting by the IWY.

A National Women's Conference will be held November 18-21 in Houston, TX with representatives elected at the State Meetings and appointed by the National Commission. Based on the results of the State Meetings, the National Conference will make recommendations to eliminate the barriers that prevent women from participating fully and equally in all aspects of national life. These recommendations, together with a final report, will be submitted to the President and the Congress in 1978.

In Vermont, where the first State Meeting was held in
Continued on page 15

Democratically Controlled Health Service Proposed

by Leonard Rodberg

Congressman Ronald Dellums has introduced his long-awaited Health Service Act, providing for the creation of a comprehensive, nationally-financed but community-controlled health service. Dellums' proposal puts on the national agenda—and on state and local agendas as well—the issue of whether to proceed with more and more stringent Federal controls on a chaotic and inflationary private health system, or to move toward a democratically-planned, publicly-funded health service.

In sharp contrast with the proposals for national health insurance—which would only prop up with Federal money an inadequate, maldistributed, and inflationary private health industry—a health service such as Dellums has proposed would ensure that high quality health care services were available in every community and were accountable to the residents of those communities.

The Dellums Bill has been under discussion since the early 1970s, when the Medical Committee for Human Rights, working with other progressive groups, proposed a set of principles for a national health program. These included such basics as comprehensive accessible care to be available without discrimination and without charge at the time of delivery, thorough health care institutions controlled by representatives of patients and health workers. Dellums declared his willingness to introduce legislation embodying these principles, and a task force of health professionals and organizers was assembled to develop the legislation. A model bill was prepared by the Community Health Alternatives Project (originally at the Institute for Policy Studies but now located at the newly-created Public Resource

Center in Washington, DC).

The Health Service Act that emerged from this lengthy drafting process establishes the U.S. Health Service Organization, a non-profit corporation mandated to provide comprehensive health services without charge to everyone within the boundaries of the United States. The Organization is to be controlled through a "community-federalist" system that begins with elected community health boards ("communities" contain 25,000 people—less for isolated rural areas). These boards oversee the provision of primary, outpatient care as well as nursing homes and other facilities in the community.

Community boards elect members of district boards which, in turn, oversee general hospitals for "districts" of about 250,000 people. These boards, in turn, choose members of regional boards which conduct planning and coordination for regions of a million or so people.

Health care facilities would be managed on a day-to-day basis through a program of democratic worker self-management appropriate to each facility. The provision of health care would emphasize health team organization and delivery. The Health Service Organization is funded by a progressive federal income tax, with funds distributed on a capitation basis to the various levels. It is this prepaid, community-based-budgiting, and the provision of services through an organization that employs salaried health workers under "consumer control" that makes the Dellums Bill such a departure from any of the national health insurance proposals now extant.

Many parts of the bill could be adapted readily for implementation at the state and local level. The three-

Conference Publications NEW DIRECTIONS SERIES

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- ☐ **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. \$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. \$1.50, \$3 to institutions.

level planning, the community-based governance and provision of care, the equitable financing, and other measures could all be introduced, even before the Federal Government acts, by individual states and localities.

Summaries and copies of the bill are available from the National Conference as well as from the Health Service Action, P.O. Box 6586, T St. Station, Washington, DC 20009. A contribution to Health Service Action of \$5 or more will put you on their mailing list to receive additional material and a newsletter containing information on regional conferences and hearings that are being planned around the bill.

Leonard Rodberg is a Director of the Public Resource Center.

Notes Continued . . .

February, more than 1000 people traveled to Montpelier, exceeding the 300 expected participants, and passed resolutions in support of the Equal Rights Amendment, affirmative action, and scholarships for older women students. An informal poll showed that 45% of the women participating in Vermont had never attended a meeting of that kind before, and 54% did not belong to any women's organizations.

For further information about the State Meetings or the IWY publications contact: IWY Commission, Room 1004, Department of State Building, Washington, DC 20520, (202) 632-8978.

Karen Lynch is an intern with the National Conference from Dartmouth College.

ALTERNATIVE POLICY PACKETS

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- **The Cities' Wealth: Programs for Community Economic Control in Berkeley, CA,** compiled by the Community Ownership Organizing Project. The programs and organizing strategies of the Berkeley Coalition toward winning a majority on the Berkeley City Council.
- **"Public Control of Public Money",** by James Rowen. A 6-page reprint from *Progressive Magazine* capsulizing the programs and proposals presented at the Estes, CO banking conference.
- **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.
- **The Manitoba Auto Insurance Plan,** by Sherman Bernard. A report on the operation, costs, and social and economic considerations of providing auto insurance through a public corporation.
Price: \$12, \$24 for institutions.

☐ Toward Public Employees Rights and Working Public Management

A digest of articles, legislation and alternative proposals put into practice by public officials, practitioners and public employee unionists. Edited by Robb Burlage.
Price: \$2.50, \$5 for institutions.

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- **The RUCAG Proposal.** Model state legislation, with comment analysis, to establish consumer representation before state regulatory agencies, paid for by a voluntary check-off on monthly utility bills. Reprinted from *Harvard Law Review*.

Individual Price: \$6.50 (or \$1.00 each)
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- ☐ **National Community Health Service Act (H.R. 6894).** 1977 model legislation for a community-based, nationally funded health service.
- ☐ **South Dakota Homestead Land Act.** A bill to help new farmers get started by purchasing and then leasing back farms at low cost.
- ☐ **Advisory Neighborhood Commission Act.** A Washington, D.C. statute passed in 1975 that created basic institutions of neighborhood government to advise the city government on policy questions.
- ☐ **Metropolitan Government Act.** Minnesota law establishing integrated land use planning with strong authority in the St. Paul-Minneapolis seven-county area.
- ☐ **State Bank Acts.** Bills from New York and Oregon establishing state-owned banks.
- ☐ **Non-Criminal Police Surveillance Act.** District of Columbia bill prohibiting intelligence-gathering related to "political, economic, social or sexual preferences or ideas" where constitutionally protected or not unlawful.
- ☐ **Model Anti-Surveillance Legislation.** A draft model statute by Jerry Berman, Center for National Security Studies, to prohibit political surveillance activity by local police and to regulate police conduct that may intrude on First Amendment activity.
Price: \$3.
- ☐ **Runaway Plants Acts.** Ohio and Michigan bills requiring notice to affected employees and communities before any industry shutdown, relocation, or reduction in operations.
- ☐ **Family Farm Security Act.** 1976 Minnesota legislation creating a Family Farm Security Board to administer a guaranteed loan fund for farmers seeking to buy land.
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- ☐ **Displaced Homemakers.** Bill to establish multipurpose centers to provide counseling, training, skills and referral services to displaced homemakers.
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Notes to Note

"Nuclear Power: The Bargain You Can't Afford"

The Environmental Action Foundation, a national clearinghouse on electric utility issues for more than 1000 consumer and environmental groups, has just published another excellent booklet which explains how citizens can challenge the construction of nuclear power plants before state utility commissions and other agencies. *Nuclear Power: The Bargain You Can't Afford*, by Richard Morgan, claims that electricity from new nuclear plants will cost considerably more than would coal power or energy conservation. The book charges that most state regulators have given utilities a "blank check" to charge customers for any costs associated with atomic energy—thus insulating the utilities' stockholders from risk, and forcing electricity consumers to pay for the cost overruns and malfunctions which have been commonplace at atomic reactors.

The book is available from EAF, 724 Dupont Circle Bldg., Washington D.C. 20036. Price: \$3.50 (\$15 for profit-making businesses).

Energy Planning for Public Buildings

A comprehensive report on creative energy designs and planning for public buildings and facilities, has been prepared by *Rain*, a journal of Appropriate Technology, for the California Office of the

State Architect. The definition of "energy" is broad—the use of electricity and fuels within the building is only part of the picture. The aim of the report is to present basic information, policy guidelines and a checklist of considerations which client agencies can refer to in the programming, planning, design and evaluation of public facilities. Available from the State Architect's Office, P.O. Box 1079, Sacramento, CA 95805. Copies of *Building Value: Energy Design Guidelines for State Buildings*, cost \$3.25 each.

Consumer Protection Units

Ombudsman-type consumer protection units to deal with utility commissions can now be funded on the state level by grants from the FEA. Guidelines for the new, \$2 million a year program are now being set. The state offices will assess the impact of proposed rate changes on consumers. They will also assist consumers in presenting their positions before utility regulatory commissions, and can argue consumer positions on their own behalf. The consumer offices will be able to assign staff members to work directly with consumer groups to provide legal services or expert witnesses, and can employ consultants or contractors to provide technical services to citizen groups.

For details, contact Nancy Tate Gavin, FEA, 1200 Penna. Ave., N.W. Washington DC 20461 (202) 566-7472.

Disclosure & Neighborhood Reinvestment

A series of resource guides on neighborhood revitalization, written for public officials and community action groups, are being published by The National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs. The most recent, *Neighborhood Reinvestment: A Citizen's Compendium of Programs and Strategies*, by Karen Kollias, describes a wide range of reinvestment programs throughout the country. The Compendium (\$4) and other materials can be ordered from the Disclosure & Reinvestment Project, NCUEA, 1521 16th St., N.W., Washington DC 20036.

In addition, a NCUEA subsidiary, the Organization for Neighborhood Development, Inc. can provide technical assistance to community groups, public officials, and lending institution representatives for neighborhood development programs. For more information, write to Bob Corletta, ONDI, above address.

Neighborhood Empowerment

A pamphlet that details possibilities for strengthening neighborhood cohesion has recently been published by the Policy Options for Neighborhood Empowerment. Written by Arthur J. Naparstek, it is available from the Academy for Contemporary Problems, 1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201.

Agri Publications

Two new publications on corporate farming are available from the Center for Rural Affairs. *A Land Research Tenure Guide* outlines how to research agricultural land ownership. *Who Will Sit Up with the Corporate Sow* reports on the growing corporate control of hog production in Nebraska. For copies contact the Center for Rural Affairs, P.O. Box 10, Walthill, NE 68067.

New Housing Finance Publication

A 10-point Housing Finance Plan has been published by the D.C. Commission on Residential Mortgage Investment following a study of where lending money in Washington has gone in the past. While the study showed that past practice was clearly discriminatory, it also determined that minority neighborhoods are no higher lending risks than others. In the planning stages are the establishment of a housing loan pool to benefit moderate income groups, and the creation of a Loan Review Committee to hear complaints. These will be projects of the D.C. Neighborhood Reinvestment Commission, an outgrowth of the investment commission. The 10-point Housing Finance Plan is available from DCPIRG, 1346 Connecticut Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20036.

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National Conference Newsletter

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

STAFF OF NATIONAL CONFERENCE
LEE WEBB
BARBARA BICK
ANN BEAUDRY
JOSIE ANDERSON

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