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WELFARE: MYTH vs. REALITY

Nixon's Family Assistance Plan (FAP), or H.R.1, calls for a basic federal guaranteed income of $2,400 a year for a family of four, with incentives for those who find employment.

Many categories of people previously eligible for regular public assistance payments will now be ineligible under FAP: students, single persons, childless couples (unless they are over 65, blind, or disabled.) Failure to apply for pension, annuity, unemployment compensation, or similar benefits by any family member results in a loss of benefits to the entire family.

No benefits are payable on behalf of any family member who is an alcoholic or drug addict, unless he or she is in a treatment program. A family may be excluded if its head is self-employed and earns too high a gross income, even if the net income (after taxes) is insufficient for meeting the family's needs.

Let's take a look at some of the most common misconceptions about welfare recipients and the program.

"MOST WELFARE RECIPIENTS ARE ABLE-BODIED MEN WHO ARE TOO LAZY TO WORK."

H.E.W. reports that less than 4% of the nation's welfare recipients are able-bodied men, and these men have to be seeking jobs through their state employment agencies to be getting any welfare at all.

Considering that the unemployment rate in September 1971 was 6% of the labor force, the number of able-bodied men receiving welfare is remarkably small. According to a recent survey by H.E.W.:

24% are old-age recipients.
8% are permanently and totally disabled.
1% are blind.
50.3% are children.
2.9% are incapacitated parents in the home.
The remaining 13% are mothers.

"POVERTY MAY BE GOOD FOR YOU"

Ignorance, lack of specialized training, discrimination and substandard wages are the reasons usually cited for the persistence of poverty in the affluent U.S. But sociologist Herbert J. Gans of M.I.T. believes there is a more subtle underlying cause for the substandard living conditions of millions of Americans. Poverty, Gans says, continues to exist because it performs useful functions for many members of society.

Writing for the July-August issue of Social Policy, Gans lists more than a dozen economic, social and political uses of poverty. One of the most important is the job market that it creates for penologists, criminologists, social workers, public health workers, crusading journalists and SOU pure professionals. In other words, Gans suggests, many people who are presumably fighting poverty actually profit from it.

Besides, the poor "support medical innovation" as patients in teaching and research hospitals, and they constitute a labor pool that is willing or, rather, unable to be unwilling to perform dirty work at low cost. Poor people "prolong the economic usefulness" of day-old bread, secondhand clothes and cars and deteriorated buildings: they also provide income for incompetent doctors, lawyers and teachers who might otherwise be an economic drain on society.

Among the social functions performed by poverty, says Gans, is the guarantee of status to the non-poor. The working class needs the poor to look down on; the aristocracy, by busying itself with settlement houses and charity balls, justifies its existence and proves its superiority to workers who grub for money. Beyond that, the poor "offer vicarious participation to the rest of the population in the uninhibited sexual, alcoholic and narcotic behavior in which they are alleged to participate." They have a cultural role.

(Cont. on page 4, column 2)
Listening to "The Stone" Stoned
(Stone Eagle Concert - Oct. 9)

A group's greatness judges by
its own standards.

Making the scene

Where it's at, brother, yes
Where it's at

To take part in this disoriented
rush
To this music that shatters my ears
A group's greatness judges by
its own standards.

That roars and dives
Scratches and slides
Bounces and Jives
Is it great?
Is it musical?
In this scene
where, who cares
In rain, in misery, I come
Soruches and slide:--
Wiser-
Whens' It at^bothe^,- yea.
To take part in this disoriented
rush
To this music that shatters my ears
A group's greatness judges by
its own standards.

Can I contemplate the noise I
hear
Dare I?

Little groups form
The cool form with anyone
the beat goes on
On, on and on
Wine feathered friends, I favor
They lose themselves with the
"more their type"
On, clique, What is your founder
Clique, Clique
What does Japanese Cricket say?
Everybody's happy

Swallowed by dark
Encased in crowds
The group and the groups
Conduct their endless affairs

sitting alone, supremely content
by wood controlled by chemical
narc
Buzzing of the ban and watchers
blind
I hear the hum and bust
Of shoes and the thump

My feet on the floor
Might, impatient night, wears on
I do not love it here so
And to my discovery, my utter de-
light
Happiness, in a nickel ounce

-B. T.-

FRESHMEN & UPPERCLASS
MALES & FEMALES-NON
FOR INTERVIEW FOR ECOLOGY
PROJECT
CALL BOB - 5982

- GETTING
A
LOW COST
LEGAL ABORTION

When you or someone in your
family needs an abortion today, you
will find it surprisingly avail-
able, often reasonably priced, and
completely legal in most cases--
if you know the facts.

First key factor: your resi-
dence. Each state has its own ab-
ortion law. Iowa falls into three
categories: (1) "on request" laws-
abortions available for the ask-
ing, (2) "Health" laws--approval
depends on impairment of woman's
physical or mental health, (3)
"Old" laws (pre-1967)--so restric-
tive you usually have to go
elsewhere. In addition, in one
state--Iowa--abortions are available
outside the U.S.

Second key factor: your choice
of in-hospital abortion (prefer-
ed by medical conservatives, but
more expensive due to overnight
stay, board, lab tests, etc.)
versus abortion in doctor's office
or clinic (two to four hours, in-
cluding rest; considered safe and
efficient by National Association
for Repeal Abortion Laws, and many
other medical societies.)

Third key factor: length of
pregnancy. Get an abortion early,
harder increase after 12 weeks,
become almost insurmountable af-
fter 20. Most important: make firm
appointment well ahead by phone,
certain confirmation in writing, if
possible.

"On Request" States
Washington, D. C. Theoretically "on
request." Through Federal court de-
cision. Most humane surgeon in town
(takes pre-11 week, office cases).
Dr. Milan Vultch, 1712 "I" St.
Phone: (202) 362-4526.

Costs: $300

(will charge less for hardship).
Also, your doctor can look at pri-
ate hospitals through personal
contacts, giving Washington address
for you. About $500, for low-cost
or free abortion; D. C. General Hos-
pital, forced by court to increase
acceptances, but tough on non-resi-
dents. For emergency help: Women's
Lib, P.O. Box 13096, T St. Station,
Washington, D. C, 20009.
Phone: (202) 325-4526.

Mcneyworth, Oct. 19, 1970

(The Fixer staff did not vote unani-
mously to print this article.
Those who did not vote for it can-
not be held responsible.)
"YES SIR, I BELIEVE IN WHITE SUPREMACY"-INTERVIEW WITH A KU KLUX KLAN MAN

The Ku Klux Klan was founded in 1865 in Pulaski, Tennessee by six young college men, formerly officers in the Confederate Army. At first they occupied themselves with initiation rites and pranks on horseback after dark. But two years later, when Reconstruction measures were enacted, the Klan began the campaign of terror and violence which established it as the guardian and avenger of all that was white and male (including the flower of white womanhood, a fantasy of the male mind.)

The Klan began as an upper class--in fact aristocratic--organization. It was disbanded in 1869 by General Nathan Bedford Forrest III, when the Klan's membership began to include other social classes.

Following World War I, the Klan experienced a revival among the rising middle class. Protestant ministers, business leaders, local government officials and local police were almost always among the first recruits in any town, lending legitimacy to the Klan's further organizing among the population at large.

The second Klan was almost exclusively a phenomenon of the towns and cities. It never established a base among the rural poor, and in many cases was run out of rural communities by physical force.

Like the first Klan, the organization was anti-black, but it was even more vigorously anti-Catholic and anti-foreign. It was "pro-American businessmen:" "Buy American goods from Americans," but anti-

"This has proven to be a successful begging position in America.... it should work in China."  – Muhammad Speaks

The Depression eventually withered the second Klan, and it did not reappear in any strength until the last few years.

The present United Klans of America attracts small businessmen, shopkeepers, and blue collar workers, especially those that have recently moved to the cities from rural areas. Middle-class conservatives find greater intellectual appeal in the John Birch Society.

It would be an oversimplification to say that the Klan is merely a racist organization, although a real basis for the Klan appeal is the fraternity of white supremacy. The Klan identifies with the plight of the over-taxed over-worked, under-recognized white working man, and distrusts big business, big government and the affairs of both.

The Klan recognized the corruption and self-interest working there, but because of its belief in white, Anglo-Saxon superiority, the Klan is unable to identify the true enemy. Instead they see a shadowy, worldwide Jewish conspiracy which pulls the international strings to the advantage of communists and their "assorted lackeys," notably the blacks.

The Klan's public program for dealing with the concentration and misuse of power calls simply for educating people to the true nature of the system so that they can elect officials who will be more representative (i.e. George Wallace.) The Klan, however, does not propose any radical alteration in the social or economic structure. Rather, it encourages men and women to sustain a strong belief in the possibility of unlimited upward mobility for any citizen equipped with natural white intellectual abilities and the stamina for hard work.

The only political commitments worthy making are those that seek to reduce the amount of human suffering in the world. Much of politics, of course, is too ordinary to evoke commitment of any depth. Most of the rest is crime, illusion, or the self-indulgence of intellectuals. Peter L. Berger

Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.
WELFARE MOTHERS COULD WORK IF THEY WANTED TO

First, day-care services for children are totally inadequate to the 75% of all welfare children who are under 12 years of age. Last year, EPW estimated there were some 5 million children who desperately needed day-care; but there were only 60,000 spaces available in licensed facilities. And, even if you can find it, day-care is very expensive—at least $1,015 per year for pre-school children and $253 per month for older children. Only 18% of all welfare mothers have ever completed high school. Nearly 40% have never gone beyond the eighth grade. Considering what it takes to find a steady job today, most unemployed welfare mothers would have to finish high school and complete a training program before even trying to enter the job market.

EMPLOYABLE WELFARE MOTHERS CAN FIND WORKING JOBS

Even if a mother could find child care, complete her education and obtain a skill, she still would be hard put to find any work at all. For instance, last year in Cleveland, Ohio, there were some 16,919 jobs available to women. But there were 22,356 women looking for jobs.

And the few jobs that are available rarely provide enough income to support a family. Although women in general are better educated than men, unemployment has been consistently more severe among women over the last decade. In 1967, for example, the unemployment rate for women was 5.2% as compared to 3.8% for men. Not only are women discriminated in hiring, they are also grossly underpaid for doing the same kind of jobs that men do.

WORKING WOMEN DON'T NEED WELFARE

Having a job is no guarantee against poverty; among all women who worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in 1965, 26% had incomes from all sources of less than $3,000. Nixon's FAP will require both men and women on welfare to accept any job that pays $1.20 an hour, even though the Federal Minimum Wage is $1.60 an hour.

(Pollution cont'd.)

...
Detergents that pollute produce nearly twice the profits of soaps that don't. High profits in agribusiness depend on nitrogen fertilizers that pollute rivers and streams. The automobile industry, which controls about one-sixth of the United States economy, is killing urban America with exhaust fumes while ecologists' proposals for non-polluting mass transportation fall on deaf ears in Washington.

In other word, says environmental expert Dr. Barry Commoner, pollution pays.

"Now, more polluting technologies yield higher profits than the older, less polluting technologies they have displaced," the Washington University biologist says in a new book, The Closing Circle.

The bulk of the damage has taken place in the period since World War II. For example, Commoner points out that the soap industry increased its profits from 31 percent of sales in 1947 to 54 percent in 1967 by emphasizing the sale of detergents over soaps. Detergents now have two-thirds of the laundry market.

"This helps to explain why, despite its continued usefulness for most cleaning purposes, soap has been driven off the market by detergents. It has benefitted the investor, if not society," Commoner observes.

American agribusiness produces more food on less land than farmers anywhere else in the world. And it is this high productivity that produces profits for the big farmers. But, Commoner says, the new technology that allows American farmers to produce so much takes a heavy toll on the environment.

The new technology includes the heavy use of pesticides that threaten wildlife and human beings as well as fertilizers that pollute waterways. There have been many studies showing that a normal diet of American foods now includes the steady ingestion of poisons that can lead to illness or even death.

The water pollution from nitrogen fertilizer, Commoner says, produces both the most insidious and the most dangerous form of pollution. In Decatur, Ill., he reports, the city's water supply has become polluted with nitrogen because of the high use of fertilizer by nearby farmers. Commoner quotes a study by Dr. Abraham Gelperin of the University of Illinois that shows that the death rate of baby girls born in the months with high nitrogen levels is twice as high as in the months with low nitrogen levels.

Commoner makes the same arguments for glass over plastics, natural fibers over synthetics, and small cars over large ones; glass, natural fibers, and small cars pollute far less than plastics, synthetics, and large cars. But plastics, synthetics, and large cars are where the profits come from and profit is still the law of the land.

There are also immense hidden costs of pollution which dig into everybody's purse. Those who are living in big cities get sick more often with each passing year at the same time as the medical business jacks up its prices and public health facilities decline. Some scientists estimate that breathing New York's air is the equivalent of smoking three packs of cigarettes per day.

But Professor Commoner is no flaming radical, unfortunately. He proves conclusively that profit is the motive and pollution is the result, that anything short of a major reorientation of the United States economy threatens the species - including the privileged inhabitants of the continental U.S. - with poverty and death. But Professor Commoner hasn't put enough two's together to make four.

"What is needed," he says, "is a kind of ecological impact inventory for each productive activity, which will enable us to attach a sort of pollution price tag to each product." And the system of producing goods will have to be changed to bring it into harmony with the world in which we live.

"The current crisis requires the development of major new technologies," says Commoner, "including systems to return sewage and garbage directly to the soil; the replacement of many synthetic materials by natural ones; replacement of synthetic fertilizers, as quickly as possible, with natural ones."
"It will require the discouragement of power-consuming industries; the development of land transport that operates with maximal fuel efficiency and with minimum land use; essentially complete containment and reclamation of wastes from combustion processes, smelting and chemical operations — smokestacks must become rarities. At, of course, the complete recycling of all reusable metal, glass, and paper products."

In addition, it will cost "hundreds of billions of dollars" to repair the damage already done to the environment. Commoner estimates the cost at $40 billion a year over the next 40 years.

Quite aside from the ecological destruction of Vietnam which has been far more drastic than anything inflicted on the American people, it seems totally absurd to expect the same business interests which have destroyed our own ecology to stave off the approaching disaster. Naturally, the PR men of a few large corporations have begun to mouth banal generalities about the "concerned Corporation" which seeks to curtail pollution and waste.

But the facts speak otherwise.

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But the facts speak otherwise.
The stereotype welfare family has 12 children; the real average welfare family has only three. The hypocrisy of this society's attitude toward "legitimacy" is apparent when we consider that the three means of avoiding "illegitimate" children---contraception, abortion, and "shotgun" marriage---are much more readily available to middle-class women, who do not want them, than to poor women, because of both high costs and a lack of information available to poor people. Contraceptives and abortion, because they prevent so many births for middle-class women, permit the retention of or a cruel and infamous label for many children of poor parents.

"WELFARE IS THE GOOD LIFE." In Mississippi, a welfare mother gets $30 a month to pay rent and buy food and clothing for herself and three children. Computation based on a Bureau of Labor Statistics survey show that a family of four needs at least $650 a month to live in substantial health and nutrition.

A Gallup Poll reported in February 1970 that the American public, when questioned about the minimal cost of living, felt that a family of four could not get by on less than $350 a month. Whatever definition of adequacy you choose, the level of welfare payments in every state in the union is nothing but guaranteed annual poverty.

"MOST WELFARE RECIPIENTS ARE CHEATERS." The U.S. government's own facts refute the charge. In 1969 a government investigation established that four out of every 1,000 claims were fraudulent.

"WELFARE TAKES MOST OF YOUR TAXES." Take a close look at the federal budget, here's where your money really go:

- Military: 36.0%
- Foreign affairs: 0.8%
- Space Program: 1.7%
- Farm Subsidies: 8.7%
- Interest on debt: 6.5%

Because welfare administrators are judged by their tight-fistedness, 35 states and the District of Columbia are violating one or more regulations to save money. There are about ten million Americans who are eligible but never get assistance because they are too proud or do not think they are eligible. Remember the state is not going to advertise the fact that they have free money available to help you out.

In the words of Mr. Frank Settenger, Public Assistance Director in Allegheny County, Pa., "The objective of this office is to give the least amount of money possible." Movin' Together

Peoples Coalition For Peace and Justice

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TODAY

THE FOOD WE EAT (second in a series on food)

CAFFEINE

Caffeine is found in coffee (1/2 grain per cup); cola drinks like Coke, Pepsi and Dr. Pepper (1 grain per bottle)--thanks to the Food and Drug Administration, which was pressured by the Coca people, there's nothing indicating that on the label, commercial teas (1 grain per cup)--but not herbal teas; cocoa and chocolate (3/4 grain to a chocolate bar).

An infinitely small amount of caffeine injected into the brain will cause convulsions. The amount of caffeine in a cup of coffee for the effects of the caffeine in it, far less than 0.2 grains for the effects of nicotine. Both are habit-forming, sometimes when people abruptly stop drinking coffee after they've been drinking a lot they get headaches and feel ill. These are symptoms typical of addiction. Caffeine increases the amount and concentration of stomach acid and therefore aggravates stomach ulcers and stomach troubles such as "acid indigestion." Also coffee has a dangerous effect on the bowels. The roasting of coffee produces tars in a cup of coffee, coffee and tobacco tars add up and cause cancer.

Caffeine causes your heart to beat faster and raises blood pressure. If the heart is stimulated and the brain is in a hyperactive state due to caffeine intake, it can cause heart attacks. Caffeine also causes the blood sugar to increase momentarily, by stimulating the

(continued on page 8)
WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT YOUR ENVIRONMENT

This is the second in a series on environment.

Now we can cut down on litter and garbage.

Garbage reduction:
Buy reusable goods and goods in reusable containers. Buy pop in returnable bottles and bagasse, rather than patronize stores which do not sell them. Return remunerable bottles to the store where you bought them and let them buy the extra garbage cans. Use lunch bags and waxed paper over and over. School kids can fold them up, stick them in pockets, and take them home. Or get a lunchbox.

Buy unwrapped produce in open-air markets. Don't buy overpackaged products such as vegetables wrapped in cellophane. Pay more for it and be sure to throw more in your garbage than is necessary.

Take your own permanent shopping bag with you to the market. Ask grocery-store owners to stop stocking plastic vegetable bags; plastic does not break down. No food cans, jars, or bottles. Buy staples in quantity with others. Form your own food co-op; there's really nothing to it. Avoid wasteful aerosol cans and plastic containers. The cans are expensive and extremely dangerous to incinerate. Plastic is virtually indestructible except by burning which causes it to give off extremely toxic and dangerous gases. Plastic garbage falls into the same indestructible category and paper bags should be used if at all possible.

Reusing garbage:
When materials are reused they become a resource. The more things we reuse, the less waste we have to dispose of. You can start reusing right now. Liquor bottles and other bottle of similar size can often be given to hardware stores who will give you two cents each for them.

Use your municipality to reuse its garbage (glass, aluminum, etc.) This might mean you would have to sort it for collection. Tell them you care enough to do this.

Support paper, bottle, and tin drivers if there are none to support on your organizing committee.

Working to stop littering:
Set an example by picking up refuse at camp sites, parks, and picnic grounds.

Supplement the few and far between municipal garbage cans in your area with one of your own. This provides passers-by with an alternative to littering.

CANADIAN WHOLE EARTH ALMANAC

With a little help from...
Theresa, Pat Haddad; Mary Hill, Chuck Lynn, Dennis, Richard, Polly, Joni, Rangey, Tina, Joyce, Sarah, Wendy, John, Susan, Val, Karan, Jean and Jay. * * *