

NALEO Criticizes Bill on Voter Citizenship

WASHINGTON, DC (ARB) - The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) joined other Hispanic organizations to oppose H.R. 1428, The Voter Eligibility Verification Act.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Stephen Horn, R-California, has been scheduled on the House "suspension" calendar, which is usually reserved for non-controversial legislation. The process has allowed this legislation to bypass the Committee of jurisdiction and be brought before the full house with no amendments permitted and requires a two-thirds vote for passage.

NALEO and other members of a coalition of voter and civil rights advocates oppose such legislation purporting to verify the citizenship of would-be voters, because it imperils the rights of millions of Americans to cast ballots.

Becky Cain, president of the League of Women Voters, said the bill would undermine the so-called motor-voter law aimed at making voter registration as easy as applying for a driver's license. And she said it would open the door to new discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities.

At a news conference on Capitol Hill, she and representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union, NALEO, National Council of La Raza and organizations championing the disabled, and blacks said the measure is unnecessary because existing perjury penalties keep voter rolls largely free of noncitizens.

Cain claimed that the bill is a response to allegations by former Rep. Bob Dornan, R-Calif., that his 1996 election defeat by Rep. Loretta Sánchez, D-Calif., came through the fraudulent votes of noncitizens.

Sánchez has disputed Dornan's charge. After a lengthy in-

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"El Respeto al Derecho Ajeno es La Paz."
"Respect for the Rights of Others Is Peace."
Lic. Benito Juárez

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Alcaldes Dicen Que Democracia Coexiste Con Desigualdad

México, 29 jul (EFE).- América Latina y el Caribe viven un impulso democratizador que coexiste con la desigualdad, la crítica y la desconfianza social en los políticos, reconocieron alcaldes y funcionarios de Gobierno en la Declaración de la Ciudad de México suscrita anoche en esta ciudad.

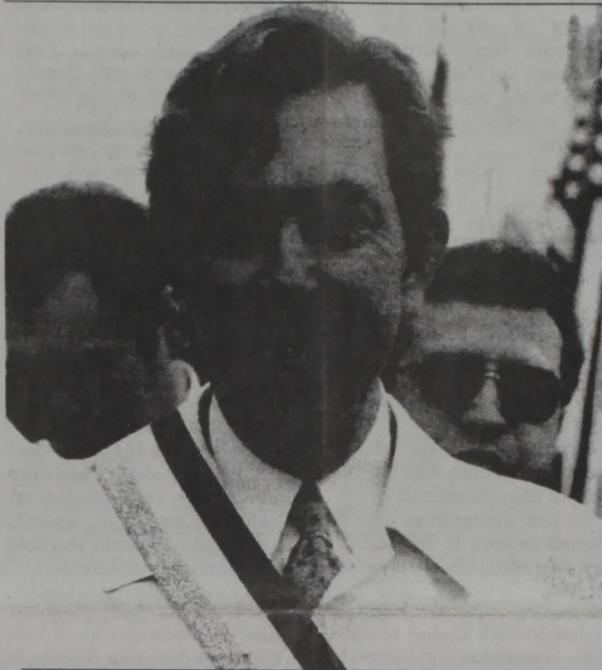
Al clausurar el Seminario Internacional "Participación Ciudadana, Gobernabilidad Democrática y Cultura por la Paz", los alcaldes, jefes de Gobierno, Síndicos, Intendentes, Delegados, Concejales y ex alcaldes acordaron reunirse el próximo año en La Paz, Bolivia, para revisar los resultados de este encuentro.

En la Declaración de la Ciudad de México, que puso fin a dos días de trabajo, los alcaldes y funcionarios de 16 países reafirmaron su convicción de que América Latina "no es la región más pobre del mundo, pero sí la más desigual".
"Ha habido avances en la construcción democrática, pero se ha retrocedido en la igualdad social", dijeron alcaldes de ciudades de Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, Perú, República Dominicana, Uruguay y Venezuela.

Destacaron que los obstáculos que enfrentan sus urbes para alcanzar el pleno desarrollo son atribuibles a "viejas culturas políticas y formas institucionales anquilosadas", que impiden superar los retos de las ciudades y de sus habitantes.

Consideraron que si bien el proceso de globalización de fin de siglo deja "retos inmensos" a las sociedades iberoamericanas, también es verdad que los Estados construyen, "con dificultades y resistencias, soberanías regionales compartidas".

Estas soberanías terminarán por actuar como una "comunidad latinoamericana de naciones en la disputa por lograr para todos los beneficios de la economía global, del desarrollo político, solidaridad moral e intelectual construyendo la gobernabilidad global".



Los alcaldes destacaron el hecho de que los ciudadanos de "nuestras democracias emergentes", comienzan a recuperar y construir una soberanía individual y unos poderes locales y regionales.

Se pronunciaron por ampliar las formas políticas representativas con aspectos nuevos y directos de expresión de la voluntad cívica, de mayor participación ciudadana en la toma de decisiones, gestión, seguimiento y evaluación de políticas públicas.

Definieron el municipio como "espacio privilegiado" para la participación ciudadana, que constituye una reforma de Estado pues "obliga a una nueva forma de gobernar" y de la sociedad porque educa a los habitantes en sus derechos y deberes.

En la declaración, los alcaldes apoyaron la descen-

tralización democrática de la vida pública que comprenda la transferencia de funciones y de recursos al considerar que lo contrario incrementa las tensiones entre los poderes locales y los federales.

Resaltaron que las ciudades soberanas, democráticas, equitativas, sustentables, justas y solidarias son "garantía de estados democráticos".

Esta nueva manera de gobernar "implica concebir a la educación como el eje de la acción gobernante" por considerar que el vacío educativo y la participación ciudadana resultaría simbólica e inexistente.

Los alcaldes acordaron pedir a la UNESCO la creación de una Cátedra Itinerante en Cultura de Paz y Gobernabilidad Democrática y constituirse en los promotores de una red solidaria latinoamericana y caribeña de ciudades por la paz.

"La realidad está mostrando que las ciudades latinoamericanas son ya

laboratorios del cambio y que la participación ciudadana, la gobernabilidad democrática y la cultura de paz, pese a las dificultades y las atrocidades subsistentes, son ya procesos que viven y crecen en nuestras ciudades", añadieron.

En el seminario participaron el jefe de Gobierno de la capital mexicana, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, los alcaldes de San Pedro Sula (Honduras), Roberto Larios; Santiago (Chile) Jaime Ravinet; Caracas (Venezuela), Antonio Ledezma; de Managua (Nicaragua), Roberto Cedeño.

La alcaldesa de San Juan (Puerto Rico), Sila María Calderón; el alcalde de La Paz (Bolivia), Germán Monroy, Rosario, (Argentina), Hermes Juan Binner; y el intendente de Porto Alegre, Brasil, Tarso Genro.

Funcionarios y ex funcionarios de gobierno de las principales ciudades de Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Perú, República Dominicana y Uruguay.

News Briefs

Civil Rights Groups File Appeal to Delay Implementation of Proposition

Public interest advocates announced today that they have appealed the July 15th ruling by federal Judge Charles Legge denying their request to block implementation of Proposition 227. The appeal was filed with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and asks that implementation of Proposition 227 be delayed until the appeal is decided.

Plaintiffs in the case against Proposition 227 stated that the district court committed several errors in denying their request for a preliminary injunction, and misinterpreted the case as an attempt to establish a requirement for bilingual education. The issue to be decided, which the court did not address, was that Proposition 227 fails to meet the state's affirmative duty to provide LEP students with equal educational opportunity.

META staff attorney Deborah Escobedo said, "Even the State Board of Education admits that Proposition 227 will not serve the interests of many children who are not fluent in English. The state is willing to put these children's future at risk. We are not, and they shouldn't be."

Employment Law Center staff attorney Christopher Ho said, "Implementing a program as drastic and complicated as this by August 2 will cause tremendous disruption to the education of all students in California. It will hurt all of the kids in our schools, especially the children who are already the most vulnerable."

MALDEF staff attorney Silvia Argueta said, "Under Proposition 227 the state will force school districts to eliminate proven, successful programs in favor of an uncertain, experimental one. It puts the burden on school districts to implement Proposition 227 next month, without regard to the impact it will have on local schools. Where are they going to find new materials on such short notice? How are teachers supposed to develop a new curriculum in such a short time? The State Board is not providing any guidance for local schools."

The original lawsuit, Valeria G. v. Pete Wilson (C 98-2252 CAL), was filed June 3 on behalf of limited English proficient students and their parents. The suit argues that Proposition 227 violates the Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1974, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and denies the right of language minority children to equal access to educational opportunity.

Contact: Ruth Grabowski, Mark Savage, META, Inc., (415) 546-6382, Public Advocates, (415) 431-7430

Bill Will Leave 1 Million Kids Homeless

WASHINGTON, David S. Liederman, executive director of the Child Welfare League of America, HN3898@handsnet.org, has issued the following statement on the impact of H.R. 4194 on children:

"The U.S. House of Representatives is considering a bill (H.R. 4194) that includes a measure that would effectively leave more than one million children homeless. We already face a severe shortage of affordable housing in this country. More than 5 million households either spend over half their income on rent or live in severely substandard housing. Raising income limits for public housing eligibility would cause the poorest American families to be squeezed out of the only housing they can afford.

"Nearly half of public housing residents are families with children. Many of these families have only just begun to resolve issues and clear hurdles that would enable them to move toward self-reliance. Denying the poorest families with children access to public housing, at a time when welfare reform is turning their worlds upside down, is tantamount to setting them up for failure. If they can't get housing subsidized by the government, where will these poorest families go? To the streets?"

"Families will be thrown into the cycle of poverty and homelessness that they've struggled to avoid. Twenty-one percent of children in the U.S. live in poverty, and nearly six in 10 children under age 6 living with a single mom are in poverty. The children of these families will be subjected to a variety of social ills that could be avoided through providing a simple housing subsidy. They will face higher rates of foster care placements, incarceration and serious health problems. At a time when we are pressuring families to become financially sound, why are we now discussing legislation that would leave these families homeless?"

"The unfortunate result of this add-on provision would be to force our lowest income families out of the only housing they can afford, public housing. This move flies in the face of efforts to move families toward economic self-sufficiency and places these vulnerable children at tremendous risk for numerous social and economic problems. Congress needs to delete this misguided and harmful amendment and support housing assistance that can meet the needs of families who need it the most."

Contact: Joyce Johnson of the Child Welfare League of America, 202-942-0244

Legal Services Under Assault Again

For the third straight year, a House subcommittee led by Rep. Harold Rogers (R-Ky.) has recommended cutting the Legal Services Corp, HN1197@handsnet.org, \$283 million annual budget in half.

The appropriations bill may come up for a House vote this week.

LSC President John McKay said he thinks the full House and the Senate again will disregard the call for "a shutdown budget," and might even approve a modest increase. He and the Clinton administration are seeking \$340 million for the program in fiscal 1999.

It will be a struggle, as it has been since the early 1980s when conservatives declared war on what they considered its liberal agenda.

"When you ask the special interests why they oppose us, they either mention an old case or one not even associated with an LSC provider. They never talk about the 52,000 restraining orders" LSC-funded lawyers obtained last year to protect women against domestic violence, says McKay.

Of the 1.5 million civil cases handled by LSC-funded programs last year, about 250,000 involved efforts to protect women and children.

Congress has restricted what kind of law gets practiced with LSC money -- no redistricting, abortion-related or class-action lawsuits are allowed. Representing prison inmates or suing for welfare reform also are barred.

The most frequent cases involving Legal Services concern domestic relations, landlord-tenant, health care and consumer-credit disputes.

A recent Supreme Court decision has placed a cloud over the second largest source of funding for legal services for the poor -- multistate programs that for two decades have provided up to \$100 million worth of free legal help a year. Those programs have been supported by the interest earned on short-term deposits that lawyers hold in trust for their clients, such as various escrow accounts. Individually, almost none would generate

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Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

Although our investigation as to the what the programs funded by the 79415 grant is doing, the amount of money each has and how successful they are functioning will be delayed one week more, it's interesting to see that some of the programs are advertising and inviting persons from the barrios to go to their programs. Most are offering free food, child care and some are even giving money, gift certificates or vouchers for those who complete their program.



It's interesting that most all the programs are utilizing facilities that have been in the barrios ever since I can remember and have teenagers regularly going to each. I guess it's convenient to start new programs where a ready made audience is available. One such program is having sessions at the Lubbock Boys and Girls Club, You might remember that the Boys Club program was turned down for funding. As of yet we don't know if the funded program is paying rent or at least helping with a little money to sustain the Center. Others are using Maggie Trejo Center, again another program that was refused funding.

It's also interesting to note that people in the neighborhoods didn't have to be paid or given food for them to go to the Centers, perhaps because contrary to statements by some of the advisory committee that said that the old programs weren't working, something good was happening.

It's also interesting to note that all the programs thus far are aimed at residents of Arnett Benson. Perhaps they forget that the Jackson and Mahon areas are part of the 79415 area.

Hopefully -- if our computer cooperates -- we can have a complete report next week.

****Pico de Gallo****
LULAC, the GI Forum, Hacemos, TACHE and other groups will be handing out scholarship at a function at Maggie Trejo Center on Friday Aug. 7 at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited. This Hispanic Camber handed their's out today. Congratulation to all on helping to advance education to our youth.

MOST IMPORTANT!!
Congratulation to my daughter Zenaida and her husband Robert on the birth of a baby girl - Eliana Maria Reyes - born last Friday on July 24th a day after my birthday, 49 years later.

Democracy In Latin America Coexists With Inequality-Mayors

Mexico City, Jul 29 (EFE).- Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean coexists with inequality, criticism and the people's lack of trust on politicians, according to a declaration prepared by mayors and other officials at a seminar in the Mexican capital.

At the closing Tuesday evening of the international seminar "Civic Participation, Democratic Governance and Culture for Peace," government officials and labor leaders agreed to meet next year in La Paz, Bolivia to assess the results of this meeting.

In their declaration, which capped the two-day meeting, the participants reaffirmed their conviction that Latin America "is not the world's poorest region, but the most unequal."

"There has been major progress in democracy, but a reverse in social equality" in the region, said the delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba,

Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The declaration pointed out that the obstacles to full growth stem from "outdated political cultures and institutions."

It also stressed that citizens of "our emerging democracies" are beginning to recover their individual freedom and are starting to build local and regional governments.

The document also called for wider political representation with a new and direct expression of the people's will, and greater participation of citizens in decision making and the evaluation of public policies.

It referred to the municipality as a "privileged space" for civic participation, and said free and democratic cities that are just, sustainable and strong are the "guarantees of democratic states."

Say It Again:

Immigrants Give More Than They Receive

By Vanessa Colon & Ronald Sal Panuco

Let's say it again, only this time a little louder, with more conviction: Immigrants are a boon to the U.S. economy, paying far more in federal, state and local taxes than they draw out through benefits and use of government services.

Another report contradicting the accepted premise that immigrants are a drain on the U.S. taxpayer was made public this month. Actually, while this one includes some original research, it draws heavily on 30 other recent studies that examine the fiscal impact of immigration to the United States.

It was released jointly July 7 by the National Immigration Forum and the Cato Institute. Although labeled liberal and conservative respectively, both groups have historically viewed immigration with favor.

The raw numbers in their report, "A Fiscal Portrait of the Newest Americans," support their case well: Immigrants -- both legal and undocumented -- generate over the course of their lifetimes an average of \$80,000 in taxes more than they consume in tax-supported services.

In 1997, immigrants paid an estimated \$133 billion in federal, state and local taxes, the report concluded, noting that many economic studies fail to mention an additional \$29 billion that immigrant-owned businesses generate in tax receipts. The United States also saves an estimated \$1.43 trillion in

educational costs, it claims, because 70 percent of the immigrant population arrives here at age 18 years or older.

Additional points it highlighted:

-- Most immigrants, from whatever countries, tend to consume more than they pay in taxes during their first 10-to-15 years here. They require government help due to a lack of work skills, education and language barriers.

Rodolfo O. de la Garza, vice president of the California-based Tomas Rivera Policy Institute, concurred that this is true of Latino immigrants.

Frank Sharry, executive director of the National Immigration Forum, emphasized that while welfare is initially necessary for immigrants to become economic contributors, working-age Hispanic immigrants use welfare less than working-age native-born citizens.

-- Immigrants are key contributors to the Social Security and Medicare programs and are an "essential component to solving the long-term problem of financing the Social Security system." They will make a net contribution of \$500 billion to Social Security from 1998 to 2022.

-- Families with an adult, foreign-born, naturalized citizen average an adjusted gross income of \$40,502 annually, paying \$6,580 in taxes. This exceeds incomes of families with all native-born members, who average \$35,249 and pay \$5,070 annually in taxes.

Cato Institute economist Stephen Moore observed that

immigrants tend to be more ambitious than native-born U.S. citizens. But by the third generation, he said, they lose their vitality for success.

Moore said the economic contributions of immigrants will be greater in years to come due to the 1996 welfare law that prohibits new immigrants from receiving benefits.

In response, U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas), who advocates cutting back severely on immigration, stressed that a National Academy of Sciences study that found immigrants are poorer, have more children, and earn less than native-born citizens. That, he said, results in a greater reliance on state and local services.

The report did find that most of the immigrants' tax contributions went to the federal, rather than state or local treasuries.

Joel Najjar, an analyst with the National Council of La Raza, challenged the congressman. "What Lamar Smith is trying to say is that immigrants are hurting the economy, but California, which absorbs the most immigrants, is experiencing economic growth."

Juan Jose Gutierrez,

executive director of California-based One Stop Immigration, concurred: "Studies can come to whatever conclusions. But historically, immigrants have been a net benefit to the economy."

Praising their productivity, Gutierrez commented that immigrants earn a fraction of what they should be receiving.

Other Hispanic leaders added that the growth of Hispanic businesses, many owned by immigrants, has been instrumental in revitalizing cities and creating jobs for Hispanics and others. Between 1972-1997, such businesses in Los Angeles County alone catapulted from 25,000 to more than 200,000, the study noted. Nationally, there are more than 1.3 million Hispanic-owned businesses.

League of United Latin American Citizens spokesman Cuauhtemoc Figueroa credited the financial contributions made by immigrants as a major factor why the nation's economy is the strongest in 30 years.

(Vanessa Colon and Ronald Sal Panuco are reporters with Hispanic Link News Service in Washington, D.C.)

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Diganlo Otra Vez:

Los Inmigrantes Dan Mas Que Lo Que Reciben

Por Vanessa Colon y Ronald Sal Panuco

Digámoslo otra vez, sólo que esta vez un poco más alto, con mayor convencimiento:

Los inmigrantes son un beneficio para la economía de los Estados Unidos, ya que pagan mucho más en impuestos federales, estatales y locales que lo que obtienen en beneficios y servicios gubernamentales.

Este informe que contradice a lo aceptado de que los inmigrantes son una carga sobre el contribuyente estadounidense fué publicado este mes. Realmente, aunque éste incluye algunas investigaciones originales, también toma en gran medida de otros 30 recién estudios que examinan el efecto fiscal de la inmigración a los Estados Unidos.

Fué dado a conocer el 7 de julio por el Foro Nacional sobre la Inmigración y el Instituto Cato. Aunque se les cataloga respectivamente de liberal y conservador, ambos grupos han visto históricamente a la inmigración de modo favorable.

Las cifras básicas de su informe, titulado "Un Retrato Fiscal de los Mas Recientes Estadounidenses", apoya bien a su caso:

Los inmigrantes -- tanto legales como indocumentados -- producen un promedio de \$80,000 en impuestos mas de lo que consumen en servicios.

En 1997, los inmigrantes pagaron lo que se calcula ser \$133,000 millones en impuestos federales, estatales y locales, concluyó el informe, haciendo notar que muchos estudios económicos dejan de mencionar a los \$29,000 adicionales que producen en impuestos los negocios con propietario inmigrante.

Los Estados Unidos ahorran también un estimado de \$1.43 billones en costos educativos, según el informe, porque el 70 por ciento de la población inmigrante llega aquí a la edad de 18 años o más.

El informe destacó otros puntos adicionales:

-- La mayoría de los inmigrantes, de cualquier país que vengan, tienden a consumir más que lo que pagan en impuestos durante sus primeros 10 a 15 años en Estados Unidos. Ellos necesitan ayuda del gobierno debido a la falta de

adiestramiento educativo, laboral e idioma.

Rodolfo O. de la Garza, vicepresidente del Instituto Investigativo Tomás Rivera en California, estuvo de acuerdo en que esto es cierto respecto de los inmigrantes latinos.

Frank Sharry, director ejecutivo del Foro Nacional sobre la Inmigración, hizo énfasis en que, aún cuando la asistencia económica pública sea necesaria al principio para que los inmigrantes se conviertan en contribuyentes económicos, los inmigrantes hispanos en edad de trabajar se acojen de esa asistencia menos que los ciudadanos nativos de la misma edad.

-- Los inmigrantes son contribuyentes claves al Seguro Social y los programas de Medicare, y son un "elemento indispensable para la solución del problema a largo plazo de financiar el sistema del Seguro Social". Ellos harán un aporte neto de \$500,000 millones al Seguro Social desde 1998 hasta 2022.

Las familias con un adulto ciudadano naturalizado promedian un ingreso bruto de \$40,502 anuales y pagan \$6,580 en impuestos. Esto supera a los ingresos de las familias con ciudadanos nacidos en los Estados Unidos, que promedian \$35,249 y pagan \$5,070 por impuestos anualmente.

El economista Stephen Moore, del Instituto Cato, observó que los inmigrantes tienden a ser más ambiciosos que los ciudadanos nacidos en los Estados Unidos. Pero hacia la tercera generación, según él, pierden su deseo de progresar.

Moore dijo que los aportes económicos de los inmigrantes serán mayores en los años venideros, debido a la ley de la asistencia económica pública de 1996 que prohíbe el que los nuevos inmigrantes reciban beneficios.

En respuesta, el congresista republicano Lamar Smith de Texas, que aboga por recortes a la inmigración, hizo énfasis sobre un estudio de la Academia Nacional de Ciencias que halló que los inmigrantes son más pobres, tienen más hijos y ganan menos que los ciudadanos nativos. Eso, dijo él, resulta en una dependencia mayor sobre los servicios estatales y locales.



Sittin' Here Thinkin'

by Ira Cutter

Foreign Affairs

Last night on the Seinfeld re-run George is reading the New York Times, sitting in a booth at the diner, and he says to Jerry, "When will they learn that anything about China is an automatic page turner?" I don't know about you, but I both laughed and nodded at that.

People in this country used to be caught up in foreign policy, deeply concerned about what happened "overseas," and knowledgeable about events all over the world. Heated arguments would occur over things like our support for Taiwan and whether it would be worth risking a nuclear holocaust to protect the Nationalist Chinese from the Communist Chinese. Political careers were ended in the "who lost China?" scandals of the late 1940's and early 1950's, when China was taken over by Communists and people expected the United States to have prevented it, or at least seen that it was coming. Nixon and Kennedy debated about support for the non-Communist Chinese and elections turned on such things.

I used to be able to name the heads of many foreign countries and they seemed to me to be big deals, because they were evil, or heroic, or frighteningly incompetent. I used to be able to name the members of the President's cabinet, too, and probably 75% of the Senators. It no longer seems so important to know these things.

I am of the generation of school kids who used to practice how to survive a nuclear bombing. In the early 1950's, during and just after the Korean War, we used to get under our desks, butts facing the windows so that we would not get glass in our eyes, covering our heads and ears, and stay there until the sirens signaled that it was "all clear." The teachers called these exercises "shelter drills" to distinguish them from "fire drills," which had the very different strategy of getting quickly out of the building. My peers and I wore dog tags around our necks, presumably so our bodies could be identified in the expected rubble. We all knew how little warning would precede the mushroom cloud.

I was born after the end of World War II, but I remember seeing numbers tattooed on the arms of the holocaust survivors who lived in my neighborhood. I remember when Castro was a hero, appearing on the Tonight Show with Jack Paar and visiting New York before he announced he was a Communist. I remember Nikita Khrushchev taking off his shoe and pounding on his desk at the United Nations, and saying that Russia would bury us. I was a teenager during the Cuban Missile crisis, when it looked like the super-powers might collide and I was a draft age young man during Vietnam, although I did not have to go.

Those experiences, those times, would naturally give you a sense of the immediacy and importance of foreign affairs. But things have changed, and so it seems here I.

Too many times I have witnessed the phenomena that George Orwell described in 1984, where the government regularly announces that yesterday's enemy is today's friend, and vice versa. Germany, Japan, Vietnam, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Cuba, have all been the best of friends and the worst of enemies in my lifetime. I have seen foreign leaders demonized and illogical positions held up as the rationale for military actions or in-actions that have resulted in the deaths of countless innocent people. For a very long time it was our national policy to support, arm and finance even the most brutal and oppressive dictatorships, all over the world, so long as the leaders of those countries were avowed anti-Communists. Only during the Carter Administration was their any sense at all of a moral underpinning to our foreign policy, and President Carter's insistence on the importance of human rights is now frequently dismissed as naïve.

Today, I see the Communist threat - how much of a threat was it really? - abated and a foreign policy is thoroughly dominated by trade considerations. Foreign nations are just big customers in a national foreign policy that is indistinguishable from American corporate interests. Twenty years ago we could not have imagined American foreign policy leaders flying to foreign capitals in government planes with corporate CEO's, and openly brokering deals for those corporations that gave the largest amounts to the President's campaign.

And so part of my disinterest in foreign affairs has to do with fundamental distrust of the information I receive, suspicions about the motives of our leaders and a sense of having been down all of these roads before. I just do not buy it any more.

Perhaps as important, I have noticed in my fifty plus years on the planet that, unless there is a major war or global economic depression, not very much of what happens in foreign affairs has much to do with the nature and quality of my life. I never understood why it should matter to me that the Vietnamese chose one versus another form of political or economic system, or whether Iraq or Kuwait controlled those oil fields. I have never felt very much sympathy for American businessmen or diplomats who bravely stay in troubled foreign places and then get themselves in trouble. It is all too far away and too fuzzy to matter. None of it effects me as much as how my business is doing, or my kids' health, or the state of my love life.

I do not think that George Costanza and I are alone in our disinterest in foreign affairs, either. I see Jim Carey on the cover of Time magazine, looking goofy and filling a space where Mao and Churchill used to be. I see virtually no international news coverage, except in the New York Times, and little mention of the many wars, famines or atrocities that are going on around the world on a daily basis. Our atrocity interest threshold is very high these days - less than a million dead does not even make the evening news.

It's a funny thing, isn't it? For all the talk about globalization, the world wide web and technology supposedly bringing things closer, international travel at all time highs, the consolidation of Europe, nobody seems to care very much about foreign, distant places. We might care again someday, when all hell breaks loose in a country we feel close to, or when something happens to make us really afraid. Or maybe we will be incredibly lucky and foreign affairs will never be very interesting again.

I hope so. Ira Cutter, says he's seeking a semi-legitimate outlet for thoughts and ideas too irrelevant, too iconoclastic, or just too nasty for polite, serious, self-important company. He promises us a Monday column most weeks. More recently Ira has become involved in communicating in another way, through speeches which he calls Standin' Here Talkin'.

El informe halló que la mayor parte de los aportes fiscales de los inmigrantes fueron a la tesorería federal antes que a las de los estados o las localidades.

Joel Najjar, analista del Consejo Nacional de La Raza, no está de acuerdo. "Lo que Lamar Smith está tratando de decir es que los inmigrantes

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President Clinton Not Beaten Yet!

By: Ysidro V. Gutierrez

Most Americans have, by now, heard about President Clinton's alleged sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky and allegations of the couple's conspiracy to conceal their intimate trysts. Kenneth Starr, the Special Prosecutor who is investigating whether President Clinton has committed any crimes wants to determine whether they lied under oath.

Over the last several years, Mr. Starr has spent tens of millions of taxpayer dollars investigating the President. Starr who is considered a highly competent prosecutor has conducted his investigation carefully and professionally. He has been very prudent in taking his time to collect all the facts and has refused to be side tracked by his critics. He has taken testimony from over 70 witnesses including several Secret Service agents who say they know of no illegal acts committed by the President. Although the Special Prosecutor has successfully prosecuted several of the President's associates, he has not been able to prove any wrongdoing by the President.

This week Mr. Starr granted Monica Lewinsky total immunity from prosecution in return for her "full and truthful" testimony about the alleged affair. Since both the President and Ms. Lewinsky have denied all allegations under oath, the President would be guilty of perjury if a grand jury decided to believe Ms. Lewinsky's testimony.

The President, however is not about to give up without a fight. He is scheduled to testify at the White House on video tape and with his lawyers present on August 17, 1998. Because he is "The President," he will not have to answer questions from the members of the grand jury.

The President is an exceedingly intelligent man and a master strategist. He knows how to keep his enemies at bay and how to win the hearts and minds of the American people. While Starr is a competent and dedicated prosecutor he is no match for the Bill Clinton. The President has time and again proven his mettle. He unseated an incumbent president, and four years later was reelected making short work of the challenger, Bob Dole, while his enemies launched all manner of assault against him. Indeed, he has been under assault since his first day in office and has taken every punch. His strength is his masterful communication skills and his uncanny ability to feel the mode of a crowd and subdue it with a charm envied by every male in the country.

The President has made the Republican controlled Congress look like political amateurs. If a politically astute Congress can't stand against him what chance does a lone prosecutor have.

The President could fire Ken Starr at any time, but he has not done so. Why? Either the President has foolishly underestimated Ken Starr or the President is confident he can defeat Starr in the public, political, and legal arenas.

Many friends have advised the President to admit he lied and to apologize to the nation, but President Clinton is no fool. As a trained lawyer he knows he can never admit to perjury. Therefore he has no option but to stick to his original deny-deny-deny, strategy. If he does this, Ken Starr has nothing on him. A grand jury would have to decide whether to believe him or Ms. Lewinsky, who is an admitted liar.

If, by remote chance the grand jury were to believe Ms. Lewinsky, the President would then have to be impeached by the Republican congress. Although, the President has powerful enemies, the Congress as a whole may lack the political will to initiate impeachment proceedings.

Ken Starr thought he had won an important victory by granting total immunity to Monica Lewinsky, but the grant of immunity is in reality a victory for Monica Lewinsky. It's sole effect will be to keep Ms. Lewinsky out of jail.

Assuming the President sticks to his story, Kenneth Starr has nothing on the President. The battle proven Mr. Clinton, it appears, will win this fight and will add one more trophy to his "Politicus Animalous" collection: Species: "Kenneth Starrous Prosecutous Obsoleteous."

Cuando 'Mejor Que Nada' No Es Aplicable

Por Guadalupe Gamboa

Como el apartheid, la norma de "mejor que nada" para albergar a los trabajadores agrícolas de esta nación tiene que desaparecer.

Un artículo reciente del "Herald Republic" de Yakima, estado de Washington, señala a tres casos de giardia (fiebre de los castores), encontrados a principios de junio entre las familias de los trabajadores agrícolas que viven en las márgenes del Río Columbia. El mismo artículo describe a los niños con parásitos intestinales e infecciones de insectos en sus cabellos. Los

funcionarios sanitarios dicen que esto no es "nada inusitado".

En los años recientes, los negocios agrícolas han plantado millones de árboles frutales en nuestro estado. Sin embargo, nuestro estado y el gobierno federal han dejado de exigir una infra-estructura para apoyar a los trabajadores necesarios para recoger las cosechas.

En el estado de Washington, para acomodar a millares de trabajadores, incluyendo a mujeres y niños, los funcionarios de los condados establecieron servicios

sanitarios químicos portátiles a lo largo de las márgenes de nuestro río y después se fueron. Para muchos trabajadores, la única otra alternativa es vivir en los campos, donde el agua de la irrigación contaminada con insecticidas y no purificada les espera. Estas son circunstancias de vida del Tercer Mundo, que podría esperarse encontrar bajo un sistema de apartheid, pero no en los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica.

El estado de Washington y otros pueden costear el suministro de vivienda segura y sanitaria para los trabajadores agrícolas. La agricultura es un negocio que vale ahora \$6,000 millones en nuestro estado. Más del 50 por ciento de las manzanas que se consumen en la nación se producen aquí. Los cultivadores proclaman orgullosamente a Washington como la principal región productora de manzanas del mundo. Y ellos tienen los ingresos que lo prueban -- que alcanzan la marca de los miles de millones de dólares y que han aumentado en más de un 300 por ciento desde 1982.

Washington es también el principal productor de cerezas dulces de la nación. Los titulares del 3 de julio en "The Wenatchee World", un periódico diario situado en una próspera zona productora de cerezas, decían: "Los productores se sacaron el premio gordo", y "La calidad superior, una gran cosecha y los altos precios para las cerezas hacen que este año haya roto las marcas".

Pero la alta productividad no se traduce lo mismo para los trabajadores que para los cultivadores. Como lo hizo notar recientemente el histo-

riador y profesor de la Universidad de Washington, Erasmo Gamboa, las circunstancias de la vida para los trabajadores agrícolas son peores ahora que cuando John Steinbeck escribió su obra maestra "Las Uvas de la Ira" en el decenio de 1930, y cuando el famoso documental de Edward R. Murrow, "La Cosecha de la Vergüenza" reveló las circunstancias deplorables de los trabajadores agrícolas a nuestra nación en el Día de Acción de Gracias de 1961.

A pesar de esto, hace menos de dos años la Senadora Margarita Prentice presentó un proyecto de ley que permitiría a los cultivadores la construcción de tugurios para los trabajadores agrícolas sin calefacción, aislamiento térmico, electricidad ni instalaciones sanitarias y de cocina. "Es mejor que nada", dice la Senadora Prentice. Ella y otros hablan románticamente de las circunstancias de vida de los trabajadores agrícolas como si estuvieran hablando de "acampar".

Seamos honrados. Estas familias que trabajan árdamente, que llevan el botín de nuestra enorme industria agrícola a nuestras mesas, son moradores desamparados de las márgenes del río y de los campos. Los funcionarios de los gobiernos federal, estatal y local han estado haciendo, durante decenios, todo lo que han podido a fin de ayudar a asegurar que los trabajadores vengan a nuestro estado y se queden aquí hasta que mueran, pero han descuidado la necesidad de viviendas adecuadas para millares de trabajadores -- todos los cuales se hallan aquí legalmente.

Y digo "legalmente" porque los cultivadores nos dicen eso. Una vez que las identificaciones de los trabajadores sean comprobadas y validadas por los cultivadores, aquéllos son elegibles para el trabajo y una vivienda decente. La ley exige que todos los trabajadores tengan documentos legales para trabajar. Presumiendo que los funcionarios de la mayoría de los negocios agrícolas corporativos que dominan la industria agrícola del estado sean ciudadanos cumplidores de las leyes, debemos asumir que ellos no infringirían las leyes del empleo ni pondrían en peligro sus vastos imperios al emplear a millares de trabajadores ilegales.

No hay nada en las leyes que diga que las cosechas de los cultivadores deban ser recogidas. Hay, sin embargo, la Ley Federal de Protección a los Trabajadores Agrícolas Migrantes y Estacionales (Ley Pública No. 97-470), la cual dice:

"...ninguna instalación o propiedad inmueble puede ser ocupada por cualquier trabajador agrícola a menos que una autoridad estatal o local de salud, u otra dependencia adecuada, haya certificado que el local o la propiedad satisfacen las normas de seguridad y salud aplicables".

Si nuestro gobierno hiciera cumplir a todos los niveles las leyes existentes, los trabajadores agrícolas no se verían obligados a vivir en tugurios. La falta, tanto de cumplimiento como de administración del crecimiento en una industria agrícola próspera, ha creado pesadillas humanas y ambientales en nuestro estado.

Mientras muchos miembros

del gobierno se han dedicado a gestiones extraordinarias para asegurar que las cosechas lucrativas de los cultivadores sean sembradas y cosechadas, las circunstancias de vida del Tercer Mundo continúan traumatizando a millares de familias.

En el análisis final, la salud y el bienestar de los trabajadores agrícolas deberían ser una prioridad principal de las legislaturas estatales, del Congreso de los Estados Unidos y de la oficina del Presidente Clinton. Si la fortaleza y la riqueza de nuestra nación pueden usarse para rebajar los aranceles mexicanos o procurar ayuda para los cultivadores de trigo, aún cuando se cierna una crisis internacional, lo mismo debería hacerse para los trabajadores que hacen de la industria agrícola lo que es hoy.

Nosotros, como ciudadanos, decidiremos en última instancia si nuestra nación hará frente a un asunto que obscurece el corazón de las frutas que consumimos. Debemos proclamar colectivamente que la norma de vida de "mejor que nada", como se les ha aplicado a aquéllos que nos alimentan, es inmoral y repugnante. No debemos descansar hasta que los parásitos intestinales y las infecciones de insectos ya no sean comunes por más tiempo entre las familias de los trabajadores agrícolas que lo que son en las mejores vecindades de nuestra nación.

(Guadalupe Gamboa es directora regional de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos de los Estados Unidos, afiliados a la AFL-CIO, con sede en Sunnyside, Washington.)

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Hispanic Conference Features HandsNet Tech Training

San Jose, California - July 16, 1998 - HandsNet will offer hands-on learning opportunities about Internet technology to the more than 15,000 conference participants expected for the National Council of La Raza 1998 Annual Conference, scheduled for July 19 - 22 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA. This training opportunity continues the expansion of HandsNet's new Virtual Training Institute (VTI), a component of HandsNet's National Training Program. Training developed to help human services professionals understand and integrate information technology into their daily work will continue to be presented at professional conferences across the country.

More than 200 Hispanic community based organizations in 37 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, will have access to VTI's mobile training sessions, conducted by HandsNet and sponsored by Bell Atlantic. VTI is a hands-on mobile training program that teaches nonprofit professionals how to make effective use of the Internet and the World Wide Web. The program expands on curriculum and experience that HandsNet has built during the last two years of operating it's National Training and Resource Center in Washington, D.C.

NCLR conference attendees will learn about the power of Internet technology at the "Internet Cafe" which will offer training sessions and informal opportunities to surf the Net and ask questions. Sessions include topics such as "Getting Online," "Email Basics," "Mailing Lists and News Groups," "Browser Basics," "Find It! Tips for Searching the Web" and "Hispanic Resources." Training tip sheets will be available in English and Spanish. Participants interested in specific issues that relate to the Hispanic community will leave with a list of links that provide valuable information.

"We are enthusiastic about this opportunity to work with La Raza. Our goal is to work with a diversity of groups to provide a forum where people can learn the nuts and bolts of the technology, as well as some of the strategic applications of the Internet. A gathering like this will provide considerable peer-to-peer education about the challenges and successes of communicating in online arenas," said Lisa Silverberg, national training director for HandsNet.

"For 10 years, HandsNet's focus has been to help human services professionals integrate online technology into their daily work," according to Michael Saunders, executive officer of HandsNet. "VTI expands HandsNet's National Training Program to reach organizations across the country. With VTI, now we can take our trainers, and when appropriate our computer lab, to professional conferences where we can offer training to human service providers. We are looking forward to working with other organizations this fall."

Following the National Council of La Raza Convention, HandsNet will deploy HandsNet's VTI at the National Urban League Conference August 2-5 in Philadelphia. Training sessions are designed to meet the needs of each organization and range from introductory presentations to more advanced information management. Silverberg added that VTI is currently scheduling trainings at conferences and events for human services organizations nationwide. Any event planners who would like to discuss integrating Internet training sessions into professional meetings may write to vti@handsnet.org. About HandsNet

HandsNet is a national non-profit organization providing online information and training services to help human services professionals strengthen programs and policy work on behalf of children, families and people in need. HandsNet's Web-Clipper service and National Training Program allow human services professionals to address community problems by keeping up with program and policy developments in their field, to make connections with people doing similar work and to learn from their peers across the country.

WebClipper, a new member supported service, promotes information exchange and collaboration among human services professionals nationwide. This personal clipping service and professional library tracks issues a subscriber specifies on 500 websites selected by issue-area experts. Regularly updated information is then delivered by email on topics such as: children, youth and families; comprehensive strategies; nonprofit funding and resources; health; housing and community development; hunger and nutrition; immigration; legal services; substance abuse and violence prevention; and budget and policy analysis. WebClipper also includes a Professional Directory of human service professionals, a nationwide Job Bank of positions available at human services organizations, a Publications Center, Action Alerts about time-sensitive issues, online Discussions and a Calendar of upcoming conferences for human services organizations.

HandsNet's National Training Program helps human services professionals integrate online technology into their daily work. The training program includes a series of hands-on workshops about using the Internet and the World Wide Web, as well as management sessions about best practices for nonprofit organizations. Training sessions cover a range of introductory and advanced topics and are presented in Washington, D.C. at the Training and Resource Center and at other locations around the country through HandsNet's Virtual Training Institute (VTI).

Founded in 1987, HandsNet has worked for more than a decade with thousands of organizations to make online collaboration and information sharing a reality for the human services community. Headquartered in San Jose, California with HandsNet's Training and Resource Center operating in Washington, D.C. HandsNet is supported by membership fees, training fees, and with grants and donations from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Bell Atlantic, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft and Adobe Systems. Accessible on the World Wide Web at <http://www.handsnet.org>, the website offers a preview of the type of information that will be offered exclusively to members later this year. A free trial 30-day membership is available.

When 'Better Than Nothing' Doesn't Apply

By Guadalupe Gamboa

Like apartheid, the standard of "better than nothing" for housing this nation's farmworkers must go away.

A recent article in the Yakima (Wash.) Herald Republic points to three cases of giardia (beaver fever) found in early June among farmworker families living on the edge of the Columbia River. The same article describes children with "intestinal parasites and insect infestations in their hair." Health officials there say this is nothing unusual.

In recent years, agribusiness has planted millions of fruit trees in our state. Yet state and federal governments have failed to require an infrastructure to support the workers needed to harvest the crops.

In Washington state, to accommodate thousands of workers, including women and children, county officials set up portable chemical toilets along our river banks. For many, their only other choice is to live in the fields where untreated, pesticide-laced, irrigation water awaits them. These are Third World living conditions one might expect under a system of apartheid, but not in the United States of America.

Washington state and others can afford to provide safe and sanitary housing for farmworkers. Agriculture is now a \$6 billion industry in our state. More than 50 percent of the apples consumed in the nation are produced here. Growers proudly proclaim Washington as the premiere apple-growing region in the world. And they have the revenues to prove it -- reaching the billion dollar mark in 1995, and growing by more than 300 percent since 1982.

Washington is also the nation's leading producer of sweet cherries. July 3 headlines in The Wenatchee World, a daily newspaper located in a prosperous cherry-

growing area, read, "Growers hit the jackpot," and "Top quality, big harvest and high prices for cherries making this year a record breaker."

But high productivity doesn't translate the same for workers as growers. As University of Washington professor and historian Erasmo Gamboa has noted, living conditions for farmworkers are worse now than when John Steinbeck

wrote his masterpiece, "The Grapes of Wrath," in the '30s, and when Edward R. Murrow's famous documentary, "Harvest of Shame," exposed the deplorable conditions of farmworkers to our nation on Thanksgiving Day in 1961.

Despite this, less than two years ago state Senator Margarita Prentice introduced legislation that would allow

agricultural growers to build shacks for farmworkers without heating, insulation, electricity, or toilet and kitchen facilities. "It's better than nothing," Prentice says. She and others romanticize farmworker living conditions as "camping."

Let's be honest. These hard-working families, who bring the bounty of our huge

Continued on Page 5

Uno de Cada Diez Hispanos Tiene la Diabetes

Cualquiera puede tener la diabetes. Pero la probabilidad de que sufra de la diabetes es mucho mayor si es miembro de una minoría étnica, si es mayor de 45 años de edad, o si tiene sobrepeso.

Algunos de los síntomas de la diabetes son: vista borrosa o nublada, fatiga, sed o hambre excesiva, cambio repentino de peso, orina frecuentemente, y falta de sensación en las extremidades o siente que se le duermen las manos o los pies. Sin tratamiento médico, la diabetes puede causar pérdida de la vista, ataque cardíaco, infarto, colapso renal, amputaciones y hasta la muerte.

Si usted cree que está a riesgo de tener la diabetes, llame a su médico o tome medidas para someterse a pruebas médicas. Para más información, llame al 1-800-342-2383.

Factores de Riesgo Para la Diabetes

- Africano Americano
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- Hispano
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- Tiene sobrepeso
- Hace poco ejercicio
- Tiene 45 años de edad o más

Pruebas gratuitas para determinar si tiene diabetes se ofrecerán el martes, 4 de agosto, de 9:00 a 12 hrs. en Copper Rawlings Community Center, 40th St. & Ave. B.



The Point of Health Insurance

Friends: this is a good article about the larger picture on health care by a thoughtful journalist, Robert Kuttner. Bob is co-editor of "The American Prospect" magazine, his column appears in numerous daily papers, and he is a featured columnist of the Electronic Policy Network. EPN is a terrific on-line source of information on health and other issues from which this article was taken. Their web site: <http://epn.org>

By Robert Kuttner

President Clinton recently made headlines by ordering the Department of Health and Human Services to deny Medicare contracts to health insurance companies that discriminate against high-risk consumers. And the Democrats and Republicans are currently outdoing each other to crack down on the excesses of HMOs.

It is certainly encouraging to see both parties addressing the public's distress over misdeeds by private health insurers. But this sort of piecemeal regulation is useful only to spotlight the abuses of the present system. As policy, it runs the risk of adding more layers of bureaucracy without addressing the deeper problem of a fragmented, profit-oriented health system.

In such a system, insurers pursue profits in two basic ways. They avoid covering people who are sick or likely to get sick. And they work to minimize the costs of treatment of sick people they can't avoid covering. This strategy, of course, is at odds with the whole point of health insurance.

HMOs put out a great deal of publicity about how they emphasize wellness, prevention, and coordinated care. This certainly described the community-oriented, non-profit group health plans of a generation ago.

But today's for-profit HMOs lack that social mission. They are responsive mainly to Wall Street. They have much higher patient turnover than old-fashioned prepaid group plans, so it doesn't make economic sense to them to invest in your lifetime wellness. And the cost savings that can be garnered by more comprehensive screenings and vaccinations pale next to the savings available from avoiding sick people and limiting care.

Current regulatory policy towards HMOs mirrors the patchwork nature of the health insurance system. Most states now prohibit health



plans from denying a new mother two days in the hospital; they require HMOs to pay for reasonable emergency room care and inpatient mastectomies. But it is just not practical to regulate health care, one condition at time.

The federal Kennedy-Kassebaum law requires insurance companies to offer coverage at reasonable prices to people who've lost their health insurance because they moved or changed jobs. However, Kennedy-Kassebaum offers no assistance to people seeking insurance for the first time and it is maddeningly vague on what is meant by reasonable prices.

But the worst consumer abuses of the present HMO system are not touched by any of the proposed legislation or regulation. These include doctor-compensation formulas that make the doctor's income contingent on how much care is withheld; subtle marketing practices by managed care companies that make plans attractive to healthy subscribers and unattractive to sick ones; and elaborate protocols that get between doctor and patient, aimed mainly at saving money.

If government tries to remedy these abuses one at a time, the consequence will be ever more creative marketing and pricing by insurance plans, ever more astute legal maneuvers--and thicker books

of regulations. Meanwhile, private insurers are turning away from seeking contracts to operate Medicare and Medicaid programs, because it turns out that the old and the poor are expensive to cover--imagine that. And with for-profit companies skimming the cream of the well population, government gets stuck with the costly cases, which then busts government's budgets, which then leads to reduced government payments and so the cycle continues.

The only way to cut through this mess is, of course, to have universal health insurance. All insurance is a kind of cross subsidy. The young, who on average need little care, subsidize the old. The well subsidize the sick.

With a universal system, there is no private insurance industry spending billions of dollars trying to target the well and avoid the sick, because everyone is in the same system. There is no worry about "portability" when you change jobs, because everyone is in the same system. And there are no problems choosing your preferred doctor or hospital, because everyone is in the same system. There's a common theme here.

All national health insurance systems are facing cost squeezes, because people are living longer and costly new medical technologies keep being invented. But no

national health system rewards doctors for denying care. It took the U.S. private sector to come up with that one. It is ironic, to say the least, that our desire to keep health insurance in the private sector led to less patient choice, more gaps in coverage, more clinical interference by private bureaucrats, and a backlash of (mostly ineffectual) government regulation.

Labor of Love

The *Labor of Love* is a region-wide event where migrant families receive information and services from community service providers. Due to the drought, this year, families are more than ever needing assistance with basic necessities. Some of the *Labor of Love* activities for this year will include food and clothes distribution. Also, a RIF Book distribution will take place.

The date for the *Labor of Love* has been scheduled for Saturday, August 1, 1998, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Date Street Labor Camp, 1600 N. Date Street in Plainview, Texas.

Migrant families attending this event are from Lubbock, Bailey, Castro, Crosby, Deaf Smith, Floyd, Hale, Lamb, Lynn, Motely, and Swisher county. Over 750 migrant individuals are expected to attend this event.

The *Labor of Love* is being organized by the Texas Migrant Council, Inc. a non-profit organization which offers a Migrant Head Start program. For more information about the *Labor of Love*, please call Esmeralda Torres at 806-763-4187.

El Cruce De Peatones De Nuestra Calle Amenazadora

Por William O. Medina

University Avenue cabe dentro de la definición de una calle miserable. Corta la sección méxicoamericana de Riverside, California. Los pandilleros acostumbran situarse en las esquinas de la calle, y las prostitutas agresivas atraen a los clientes a la parte trasera de los edificios para evitar la luz pública.

Con todo, estos protagonistas indeseables de University Avenue no plantean el mayor peligro para la vida humana. El villano más amenazador es el automóvil, mientras recorre el cruce de peatones muy concurrido frente al Café Las Zacatecas, nuestro negocio familiar desde 1963. El restaurant deriva su nombre del estado mexicano de Zacatecas, que mi difunta madre Josefina dejó atrás cuando emigró al norte, hace casi medio siglo.

El cruce de peatones es como la Corriente del Golfo, un corredor que conecta a dos puntos de University Avenue. Las familias deben atravesarlo para llegar a la tienda y comprar leche, o para enviar a sus hijos a una escuela cercana. Algunas veces, las prostitutas ambiciosas se sitúan en el cruce en búsqueda de clientes. Es triste que, cada vez que alguien se adentra en el cruce, esa persona corre el riesgo de ser lesionada o muerto por un conductor.

¿Son los conductores y los peatones enemigos naturales, que se disputan el poder en nuestras calles congestionadas?

He visto a niños en el cruce de peatones imposibilitados de moverse, atrapados por autos que no les cedían el paso por ambos lados. He observado a mujeres maniobrando sus coches de niños para evitar los vehículos, mientras que las llantas llegaban a sólo unas pulgadas de distancia de sus bebés dormientes. Presencí cuando un auto envió a un peatón dando vueltas de carnero en el aire y a un anciano en una silla de ruedas sometido a un barrage de aullidos de bocinas porque estaba demorándose más de la cuenta para quitarse del camino del peligro.

El único peatón al que he visto alguna vez lograr algún respeto fué un hombre con una botella de cerveza, amenazando golpear fuertemente con ella si

cualquier auto se atrevía a atravesarse en su camino.

Una explicación de tales hostilidades se centra en el antagonismo de clases económicas. Es la antigua historia de los que tienen contra los que no tienen. El argumento, arraigado en arena movediza, es que las personas que tienen automóviles disfrutan de alguna semblanza de riqueza, mientras que los peatones se hallan amontonados en la base del poste totémico, sin que merezcan ni la más ligera de las cortesías.

Queriendo poner a prueba mi hipótesis sobre el antagonismo económico, traté de convencer a un amigo para que atravesara el cruce de peatones frente al café durante una noche ocupada. El llevaba un traje formal y parecía provenir de Wall Street de cabeza a pies. Si mi intuición era correcta, los autos se detendrían para darle paso. Pero él carecía del valor para atravesar University Avenue durante la hora del tránsito denso. "Es demasiado peligroso", se quejó él.

Una explicación de competencia para la conducta de matadero en el cruce de peatones es la notoria "carrera de los ratones". El llevar a niños ruidosos a las prácticas de fútbol, el observar los requisitos de horario de los patrones y el verse atorados en el tránsito de las carreteras, por ejemplo, destruye cualquier rasgo de civilidad. Cuando el ritmo del pulso se acelera, los conductores tienen poca compasión para los peatones. En un estado que vive de prisa, dudo que los conductores siquiera alcancen a ver a los peatones. Es como advertir a las hormigas mientras uno trota.

El temor da otra explicación posible. No es inusitado el ver que las ventanillas de los automóviles se cierran por completo a medida que los conductores se aproximan al cruce de peatones -- especialmente cuando lo atraviesa un latino o un afroamericano. El auto es la fortaleza sobre llantas del conductor, que le proporciona seguridad en los ambientes hostiles.

Me imagino que tal conducta sea comprensible. Los medios de información describen a menudo a las grupos étnicos raciales como depredadores, especialmente cuando viajamos en grupos. Hay que temernos. Aunque los miembros de las pandillas usan el cruce de peatones, la mayoría de los peatones no plantean amenaza alguna. Nunca he visto que atacaran a ningún conductor, pero he visto autos encimándoseles a los peatones.

La tecnología podría ofrecer una solución. Los automóviles, podrían ser equipados con un "sensor de personas" y detenerse automáticamente cuando detecte una persona en la calle.

O bien nuestro consejo municipal podría aumentar fondos aprobando una ley que impusiera multas más elevadas a los conductores que dejaran de ceder el paso a los peatones en uno de los cruces. Un escuadrón de agentes de policía, situado en el estacionamiento de la tienda que queda cerca del cruce de peatones, podría expedir multa en una semana como para rescatar a nuestra biblioteca.

Y quizás si hasta para salvar una vida.

(William O. Medina ayuda a administrar el negocio de su familia en Riverside, California.)

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Strike Or Strikeout In Puerto Rico?

By Anthony Stevens-Arroyo

In bowling, a strike is a good thing. In baseball, a third strike means you're out. In Puerto Rico, the telephone workers' strike began June 18 with the kind of bluster that is often generated between management and labor.

But in the aftermath of a massive public display of support July 7-8 from an estimated half-million Puerto Ricans for the strikers, it would seem that this is a labor issue with wide implications.

The issues behind the walkout do not seem very complicated. The government secured an agreement to sell the company to a consortium of private investors. The union protested, fearing loss of jobs and lowering of wages. That is a scenario familiar to everyone who has every heard the words "downsizing" and "privatization."

But the search for a common-sense solution is difficult in a land where almost every political decision is tied to political status.

The Puerto Rico Telephone Company (PRTC) is owned and operated by the Puerto Rican government. It is a model often cited in university classrooms as an example of how government can do some things more efficiently than private enterprise. Puerto Rico's phone system is integrated into today's net of global communications, but at the same time it preserves a fee structure that favors the individual consumer over the corporate client. You can make a call from a public phone in Puerto Rico for a dime largely because business users pay more for their usage. The ideas of local control and pride

in accomplishment that originally were promoted as reasons for government ownership have taken root in the public mindset.

The proposed terms for the sale to a private consortium headed up by corporate giant GTE are less than convincing: a sale price that nets less than \$330 million once the existing debt is assumed. Privatizing efforts of less sophisticated telephone systems have brought in more revenue. Venezuela, for example, sold its government-owned company for about double the cost per customer.

The Puerto Rican government did not help its case when it refused to make public all the conditions of sale. The public is still wondering why the consortium is purchasing less than 50 percent of the company but will hold a 66 percent control of the board of directors.

Last but not least, there has been no clear-cut statement by the new owners that workers today will still have their jobs tomorrow. Even some of those who voted for Gov. Pedro Rossello and his party see this deal as a bad one. Island-wide polls have shown that Puerto Ricans by a nearly 2-1 majority oppose the sale.

The PRTC usually turns in a yearly profit, while employing tens of thousands of native workers under Puerto Rican management.

The virtual shutdown of the island on July 7 sent a message that public support remains high for keeping the telephone company out of corporate control and challenges government plans to sell hotels and hospitals as well.

But if the sale makes so little sense in economic terms and is

so unpopular with the voting public, why would it be promoted by the media-conscious governor now in his second term?

While official spokespersons spin off issues like modernization and capital investments, many suspect that the underlying reason for the sale is to promote statehood for Puerto Rico. After all, no state of the union runs its own telephone company. The Puerto Rican experience resembles that of a Latin American nation more than that of a potential 51st state. Any reminder that Puerto Ricans significantly differ from the continental U.S. experience is unwelcome to statehood advocates.

In a similar vein, political opponents of the governor point out that with the Puerto Rican treasury depleted after six years of Rossello's administration, funds from the sale might finance some election-year pet projects that otherwise will go down as unfulfilled promises. And muckrakers will find lawyers who charge exorbitant fees for such transactions, while also making kickback donations to the political party authorizing the sale.

With control of both houses of the legislature in the hands of his pro-statehood party, Gov. Rossello is pretty much assured of getting his own way. Strike funds are nearly depleted, the island police have begun to tighten the screws on workers marching the picket lines, and government holds most of the cards in any showdown with public unions.

The only chance to stop the sale is to scare off one of the consortium partners, which is what happened in 1990 when a

similar privatization of the telephone company was proposed. Gov. Rossello has a reputation, however, for stubbornness. But while he will sell the telephone company, he may pay a price at the polls. If an unpopular economic issue becomes representative of the statehood ideology, the Puerto Rican public may decide to hang up on the governor and his operators.

(Anthony M. Stevens-Arroyo is professor of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and director of the Research Office for Religion in Society and Culture.)

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Your Ad Belongs In This Space From Page 2

estudios pueden llegar a las conclusiones que quieran. Pero históricamente los inmigrantes han sido un beneficio neto para la economía".

Al elogiar esta productividad, Gutiérrez comentó que los inmigrantes ganan una fracción de lo que deberían estar recibiendo.

Otros dirigentes hispanos agregaron que el aumento en la cantidad de negocios hispanos, muchos de propiedad de inmigrantes, ha servido para revitalizar a las ciudades y crear empleos para hispanos y otras personas. Entre 1972 y 1977, solamente en el condado de Los Angeles, dichos negocios aumentaron rápidamente desde 25,000 hasta más de 200,000, según hizo notar el estudio. En escala nacional, hay más de 1,300,000 negocios propiedad de hispanos.

Y el portavoz de la Liga de Ciudadanos Latino-Americanos Unidos (LULAC en inglés), Cuauhtémoc Figueroa, dice que el aporte económico hecho por los inmigrantes es un importante factor de que la economía de la nación sea la más sólida en 30 años.

(Vanessa Colón y Ronald Sal Panuco son reporteros de Hispanic Link News Service en Washington, D.C.)

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enough interest to cover administrative costs, but when pooled the interest is of considerable value.

The IOLTA programs, the acronym for "interest on lawyers' trust accounts," are in place in every state.

"That ruling puts IOLTA programs on a very shaky foundation and underscores the importance of federal funding," McKay said.

Report: There Is No Budget Surplus

An analysis by Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, HN0026@handsnet.org, of the latest Congressional Budget Office projections show that there are no significant "on-budget" surpluses — i.e., surpluses beyond those in the Social Security program — for at least the next seven years.

Except for the reserve building in the Social Security system, which is designed to cover some of the large Social Security costs the nation will face when the baby-boom generation retires in large numbers, there will be no significant surpluses until 2006, according to CBO.

CBPP says that to act this year to use the surpluses in the Social Security system to finance tax cuts, or for other purposes other than shoring up Social Security, risks leaving inadequate resources for the development next year of long-term Social Security solutions that avoid deep reductions in Social Security benefits.

Some Members of Congress have suggested in recent days that the sizable surpluses recently projected by CBO make it possible to cut taxes substantially without taking resources from Social Security. In actuality, says CBPP, 98 percent of the \$1.55 trillion in surpluses that CBO projects over the next 10 years are attributable to the building of reserves in the Social Security system.

Excluding Social Security, CBO projects deficits totaling \$137 billion over the next five years and a net surplus of only \$31 billion over the next 10 years. This means that proposals to reserve just \$600 billion or \$700 billion of the surpluses to address Social Security's financing problems essentially entail diverting more than half of the amounts that will be placed in the Social Security reserves over the next 10 years to finance tax cuts.

CBO continues to project that deficits in the unified budget will return several decades from now and climb to levels never previously seen except in war or recession. Enactment of large, permanent tax cuts now will make the long-term deficit hole deeper, says CBPP.

For the full report, see the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities website, <http://www.cbpp.org/724bud.htm>.

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From Page 3

agricultural industry to our tables, are homeless river- and field-dwellers.

Federal, state and local government officials have for decades been doing all they can to ensure that the workers come to our state and stay until the harvest season is over. Yet they have ignored the need for adequate living quarters for thousands of workers, all of whom are here legally.

I say legally because the growers tell us so. Once workers' IDs are checked and validated by growers, they are eligible for work and decent housing. The law requires that all laborers have legal papers to work. Presuming that most agribusiness officials are law-abiding citizens, we must assume they would not violate employment laws or jeopardize their vast empires by employing thousands of illegal workers.

There is nothing in the law

that says growers' crops must get picked. There is, however, the federal Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (Public Law 97-470) which states:

"...no facility or real property may be occupied by any migrant agricultural worker unless either a state or local health authority or other appropriate agency has certified that the facility or property meets applicable safety and health standards."

If our government at all levels enforced existing laws, farmworkers would not be forced to live in squalor. The lack of both enforcement and growth management in a booming agricultural industry has created human and environmental nightmares in our state.

While many in government have engaged in extraordinary efforts to ensure that growers' lucrative crops are planted and harvested, Third World living conditions continue to traumatize thousands of families.

In the final analysis, the

health and well-being of farmworkers should be a top priority of state legislatures, the U.S. Congress, and President Clinton's office. If the force and wealth of our nation can be used to curtail Mexican tariffs or seek help for wheat farmers even while an international crisis looms, the same should be done for workers who make the agricultural industry what it is today.

We as citizens will ultimately decide if our nation will come to grips with an issue that blackens the core of the fruit we consume. We must collectively proclaim that the living standard of "better than nothing," as it has been applied to those who feed us, is immoral and repulsive.

We shouldn't rest until intestinal parasites and insect infestations are no more common among farmworker families than in the best neighborhoods in our nation.

(Guadalupe Gamboa is regional director, United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, based in Sunnyside, Wash.)

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Ballet Folklorico Aztlan de Lubbock

Zenaida Aguero-Reyes/Director
SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

El Editor newspapers, David Martinez, Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock Convention Bureau, Steve & Palmira Hay, Dr. RJ Mehdiabadi, Ray Moran-Telemundo, Caprock Home Health, UNITED Supermarkets - N. University & E. Parkway, Texas Commission of Arts.

Thank you from all the students of the Ballet Folklorico Aztlan de Lubbock for your support and financial assistance. There were a total of 6 students who attending a week long conference in Aguascaliente, Mexico. By attending they were able to learn more about Mexican Folklorico through workshops that were directed by professional directors. The workshops consisted of different state dances, choreography design, costumes, make-up, and hair design.

The whole group appreciates that Lubbock for sure still has good people for the youth of today!! Lubbock, Texas, USA was very well represented. Once Again Thank You!!

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Tyson Loses Temper After Apology

By JOHN CURRAN
TRENTON, N.J. (July 29) - Unable to control the temper that got him banned from boxing, an angry Mike Tyson swore in front of regulators who will decide whether he can return to the ring.

Appearing before the New Jersey Athletic Control Board on Wednesday to get a boxing license to resume his career, Tyson first choked back tears as he apologized for biting Evander Holyfield's ears in their title fight last year.

At the end of his 35-minute appearance, however, his mood seemed to sour after being continually questioned about biting Holyfield. His lawyer, Anthony Fusco Jr., said Tyson would read a closing statement, but the fighter suddenly shook his head.

"I don't want to say it now, because I'm angry," he said.

Sensing Tyson's mood, Fusco hurried to finish his closing statement.

"What he did was wrong. How many times does one individual have to be asked ... 'Are you sorry for what you did?'" Fusco said.

"You know what I mean, man?" Tyson said, interrupting his lawyer. "Why do I go to go through this (inaudible) f---ing all the time?" he said, hitting the table with his hand.

"Relax, relax," Fusco said, putting his hand on Tyson's shoulder from one side. Lawyer Raymond Redding did the same from the other.

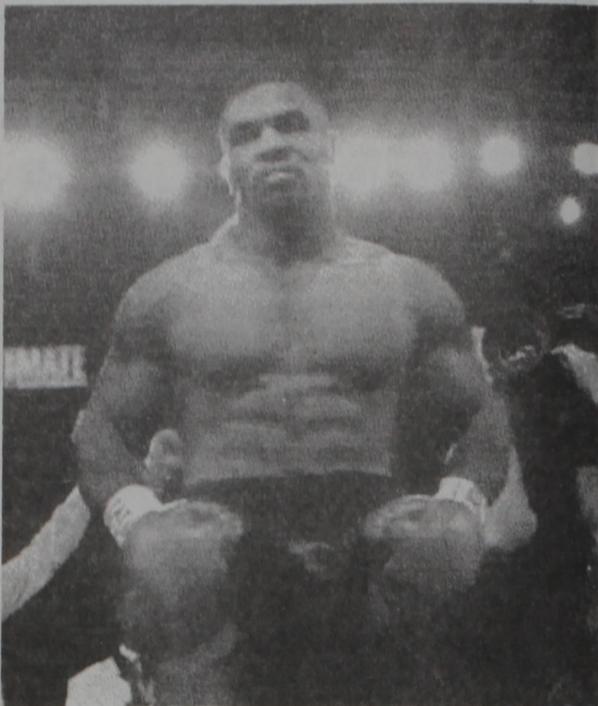
Tyson's show of anger came after three hours of testimony from his supporters, including his wife, that praised the former heavyweight champion.

Whether Tyson's temper will cost him the thing he needs most - a license to resume his career - is up to the three members of the board, which has 45 days to decide.

It will meet Aug. 6 to consider Tyson's application, but won't rule then, according to Roger Shatzkin, a spokesman for state Attorney General Peter Verniero.

Tyson bit both of Holyfield's ears - taking a chunk out of the right one - in their June 28, 1997, title fight in Las Vegas. That prompted Nevada regulators to revoke Tyson's license and fine him \$3 million, leaving him eligible to apply for reinstatement after one year.

But he reapplied for a license in New Jersey instead, hoping for a return to the ring in Atlantic City. Fusco and others say the 32-year-old fighter has



Mike Tyson

paid his penalty, but some boxing insiders believe he should have returned to Nevada to get his license back.

On Wednesday, he was cheered by office workers as he arrived for the hearing, wearing a charcoal gray pinstriped suit and holding the hand of his pediatrician wife, Monica. There also were some boos from members of the New Jersey chapter of the National Organization for Women, who protested his appearance.

In the hearing, he got more bouquets from friends, family members and fighters.

His spiritual adviser, Muhamed Siddeeq, said Tyson was deeply repentant and that he deserved a second chance. His new manager, Shelly Finkel, compared the bite to Roberto Duran's famous 1981 refusal to continue fighting Sugar Ray Leonard, when he said Duran just snapped.

"He wants redemption. He wants to have the opportunity to go back in the ring. I believe he's entitled to it," Finkel said.

Tyson had offers to fight - each worth \$10 million - during the one-year hiatus from Russia, Germany, Scandinavia and the Middle East, but turned them down because he wanted to

honor the spirit of the Nevada ban, Finkel said.

Psychologist Bert Rotman, who examined Tyson earlier this month for an hour, said he believed Tyson was trying to turn his life around.

"He looks back and realizes he's made some serious mistakes," Rotman said.

When it was his turn, Tyson responded in one-word answers to questions from Assistant Attorney General Michael Haas, most of them having to do with his 1992 rape conviction in Indiana and his application for a New Jersey boxing license.

He told Haas he'd broken off his relationship with longtime promoter Don King and that he is no longer under contract with any promoter. But he got more animated when Haas asked what happened in the third round of the Holyfield fight.

"I don't even know why I bit Mr. Holyfield. I don't even know how I did it," he said.

He said Holyfield had head-butted him in their first fight and that he was doing so again in the rematch. The blows left him disoriented, and he went "berserk," he said.

"I was in a rage. I just snapped. Nothing mattered anymore at that particular moment," he said.

Then, pausing to hold back tears, he said: "I'm sorry for

what I did. I wish it never happened. It will haunt me for the rest of my life."

When Haas asked if it would happen again were New Jersey to license him, Tyson said: "I doubt it very seriously."

Asked what he would do if he were fouled again, he said: "I would hope whoever's refereeing the fight would do something about it."

He answered in calm, even tones, giving no indication of the outburst to come.

When the proceeding ended, Tyson's entourage rushed him out of the hearing room, conferring with him in a conference room before they emerged and Tyson signed autographs.

"I never lost my cool," he insisted. "I was just expressing my hurt."

Cuba Beats U.S. In Goodwill Boxing

By IRA PODELL
NEW YORK - The United States learned that one good day doesn't guarantee a repeat performance.

That was just one lesson the experienced fighters from Cuba taught the young Americans in Wednesday night's semifinals at the Goodwill Games. Another one was how to win on the international stage.

A day after the United States gained three victories over Cuba, Olympic heavyweight champion Felix Savon and bantamweight Waldemar Font, the world championship silver medalist, used their ring savvy to turn the tables on their opponents.

Savon, 30, who won the world championship silver medal and the gold medal in both the 1992 and 1996 Olympics, beat Malcolm Tann of San Antonio when Tann's corner threw in the towel at 1:20 of the third round.

"I've only been boxing nine months," Tann said. "I was little intimidated by the two gold medals, just a little."

Font routed Antonio Rodriguez of Waianae, Hawaii, 21-5.

"He's a lot better than me," said the 19-year-old U.S. champion. "I just gave it all. It's a good learning experience for me."

Cuba won five of its six Wednesday bouts at the Theater at Madison Square Garden, including two of the three against the United States.

Savon will fight DaVarryl Williamson of Aurora, Colo., for the heavyweight gold medal. Williamson beat Igor Kshinin of Russia in a fight stopped in the second round because of a cut over Kshinin's right eye.

You Never Know Who To Root For

By JIM LITKE

The last time Mike Tyson had business in front of a state boxing commission, he didn't bother to show up.

It was the middle of summer in Las Vegas and he sent a very natty, very expensive criminal lawyer named Oscar Goodman in his place. Tyson lost his license anyway, but pretended not to notice. He stayed behind in New York and to keep up appearances, celebrated losing his livelihood by treating himself to a brand new, \$300,000 car.

A year later, Tyson can't afford nonchalance, nor such expensive mouthpieces.

This time, with his business being conducted today before state regulators in New Jersey, Tyson will have a lawyer or three on hand. But he will do most of his own bidding, and rely on a handful of unpaid character witnesses to help get his boxing career back on track.

One of those witnesses is Chuck Wepner, a local hero and former heavyweight whose claim to fame was that he bled a lot. Cynics might accuse Tyson of playing for the sympathy vote. Cynics might accuse him of playing New Jersey regulators off against their counterparts in Las Vegas.

But Tyson's lawyers are not among them.

"Legally, Mike was entitled the next day to apply for a license in another state or another country. He didn't do that," attorney Anthony Fusco Jr., reminded everyone. "He waited a year. That was a self-imposed exile on his part."

What wondrous amusement boxing is, even when the sparring takes place outside the ropes. You can never be sure who to root for.

Thirteen months ago, Tyson tried to make a snack out of Evander Holyfield. Today, he's the victim. Then, Don King was his promoter and biggest fan. Now, King is contractually still his promoter and the defendant in a lawsuit in which Tyson is asking for something like \$100 million in damages. Then, every state commission with even a modest boxing industry praised Nevada for having the wisdom to revoke his license. Now, they are speed-reading their by-laws, praying to find a loophole.

The only thing certain at the moment is that Mike needs money. So does boxing and the casinos and networks whose margins are suffering mightily in his absence. There hasn't been a

big-money heavyweight fight since Tyson left and there won't be one until he returns.

About between Holyfield and Henry Akinwande scheduled for New York in June was postponed at the last minute. The reason given was that Akinwande had contracted hepatitis B. Rumor had it that the promoters had contracted fright disease instead, that enough seats hadn't been sold to cover the cost of turning on the lights. No wonder Tyson figures people are in a forgiving mood right about now.

Most of us wouldn't lift the window shades to see Holyfield fight Akinwande, even if it took place in the backyard. But the pay-per-view audience for Tyson-Holyfield II was 1.8 million households at \$50 each. That was worth \$90 million. Foreign TV rights and closed-circuit telecasts kicked in another \$25 million. The live gate at the MGM Grand for that fight produced \$14 million. Casinos in Las Vegas expect to rake in as much as \$50 million more on a mega-fight weekend.

Add those numbers up - about \$180 million - and suddenly it becomes easy to understand why the commissioners will spend a day listening to Tyson and nearly six weeks drafting their letter of forgiveness. Holyfield and his handlers have already finished theirs.

"We don't have any ax to grind with Mike Tyson," Holyfield lawyer Jim Thomas said. "Evander thinks a year sitting out has been a substantial penalty. He paid it."

That opinion is not unanimous. In boxing, few things are.

State regulators and politicians in Nevada are plenty upset by New Jersey's unseemly rush to put Tyson back in the ring first. And rival promoter Bob Arum insisted that Nevada should "make the first ruling. To do anything otherwise is to destroy the sport of boxing."

This is the same Bob Arum, of course, who once answered a tough question by pleading, "I'm telling the truth, today. I was lying to you yesterday."

No matter what people claim today, there will be a Tyson-Holyfield III coming to a pay-per-view outlet near you, perhaps as early as Christmas. Don King will promote. The title will play on a missing body part and be, predictably, over the top. It will seem like Mike never left.

If their retirement's 30 years away, why are they saving for it now?

The answer is: They're smart. They know that once they stop working, they'll stop receiving their paychecks. Yet many of their expenses — housing, food, clothing, transportation — will remain. Some, such as medical bills, might even rise.

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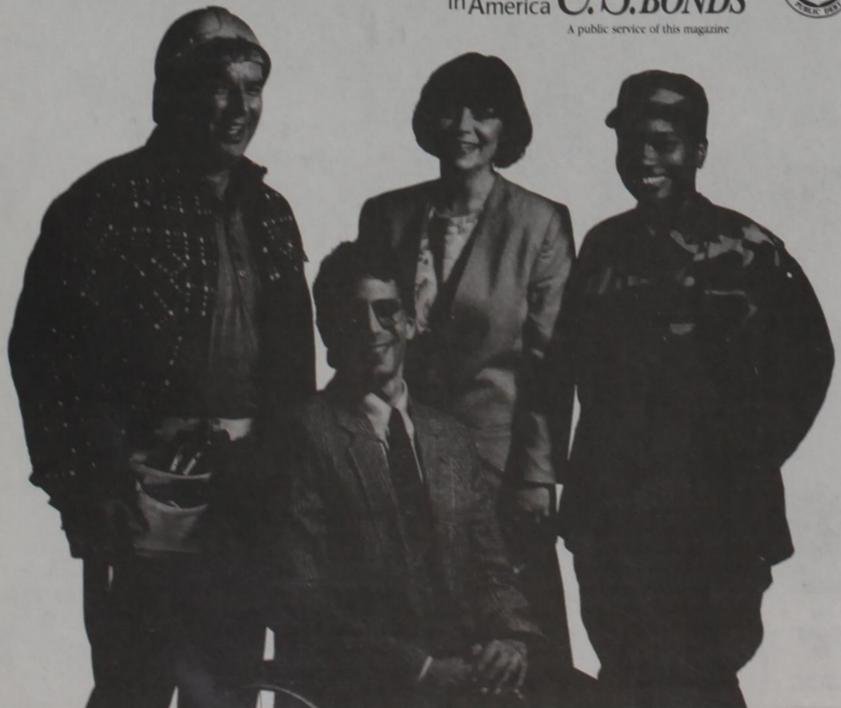
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El Editor

NALEO From Page 1

vestigation, the Committee on House Oversight recommended on an 8-1 vote last week to dismiss Dorman's challenge of the election results.

Cain contended the bill is actually "highly charged and extremely controversial" and should be subject to full debate. She urged President Clinton to veto it should it move all the way through Congress.

If it became law, she contended, "hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of native-born and naturalized citizens would be dropped from the rolls or have to prove their citizenship to be reinstated."

"It would erect substantial barriers to voter participation for most citizens and undermine the right to vote," she said. Horn, in a written statement, said the bill targets no group and is "not an attempt to stifle voting by immigrants who have naturalized and become American citizens."

"What it comes down to is, do you support remedies to eliminate voter fraud?" said Matthew Phillips, Horn's press secretary. "And they obviously don't see voter fraud in this country."

Under the terms of the Horn bill, local election officials would be permitted to submit the names of both registered voters and those applying for registration to the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Social Security Administration for verification of citizenship.

States would be allowed, but not required, to refuse applications or drop voters from the rolls unless the federal agencies confirmed citizenship.

Cain said the federal government does not maintain a comprehensive list of all native-born or naturalized citizens and would be unable to provide such information to election officials.

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