

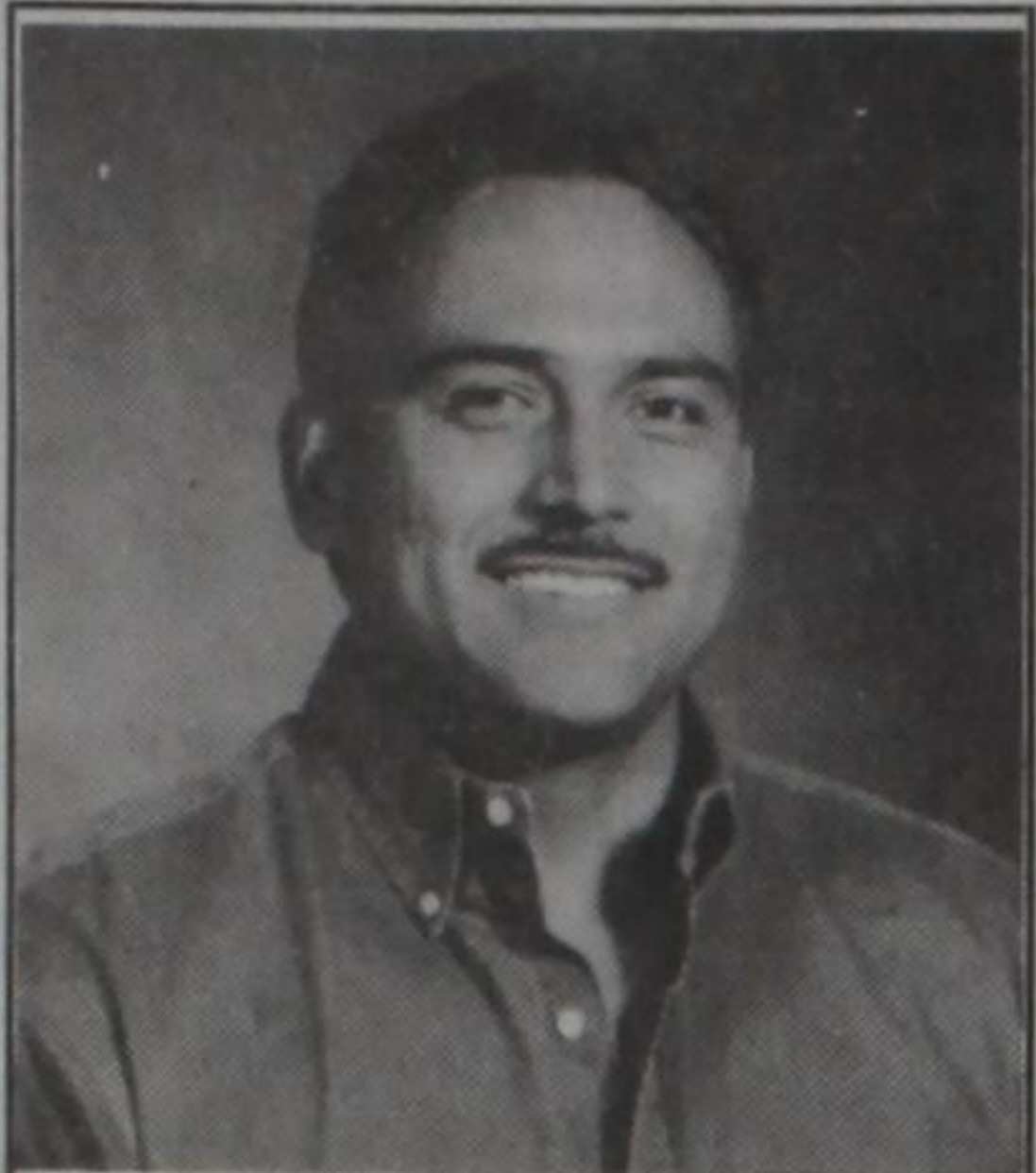
mercio Hispana, El Editor piden que

comunidad apoye resolución para el progreso de Lubbock

Dos organizaciones de la comunidad Hispana de Lubbock se unieron a las fuerzas en pro de el pasaje de una proposición que aumentará los impuestos sobre ventas en Lubbock.

La organización de la Camara de Comercio Hispana de Lubbock el dia de ayer dio su respaldo a el aumento de

impuestos urgiendo a nuestra comunidad que votara al favor de el aumento en impuestos que esta para decidirse finalmente en una eleccion que se llevara acabo el sabado día 17 de enero.



Robert Dominguez

Adicionalmente, este periodico, El Editor, atravez de la columna semanal del director Bidal Agüero tambien pidio que la comunidad Hispana votara al favor de el aumento.

La cuestion sobre el aumento a traído controversia dentro de la ciudad de

Lubbock con la oposion diciendo que ya son bastantes los impuestos que pagan los ciudadanos y con las personas a favor diciendo que se necesida el aumento para el progreso de Lubbock y para crear nuevos trabajos.

El mas fuerte portavoz encontra la proposición dentro de la comunidad hispana hació el Consejal Victor Hernandez diciendo que el aumento

afectara gravemente a los mas pobres de la ciudad.

El Consejal Hernandez logro conseguir el apoyo de dos, Gilbert Flores y Marina Garcia, de los seis elector oficiales hispanos en una resolucio opuesta a el aumento. Los tres no firmando fueron la esposa de Hernandez, Juez Aurora Chaidex-Hernandez, Juez Sam Medina y Linda



Victor Hernandez

DeLeon, miembro de la mesa directiva de las escuelas. Se piensa que aun estar opuesta tambien a el aumento, la Juez Chaidex-Hernandez no pudo firmar la resolucio por reglas judiciales.

Para dar mas enfasis a su oposicion el Consejal Hernandez juro que no buscara ser re-electo si la mayoría de los votantes de su distrito votara a favor de el aumento.

En una conferencia de prensa, la Camara de Comercio, atravez de su presidente Robert Dominguez, dijo que el grupo de negociantes habia decidido apoyar el aumento en impuestos aun que estaban dissatisfechos en la manera en la cual se promovio y se organizo el esfuerzo.

"El grupo de Ciudadanos Para Mejores Trabajos quien ha promovido el esfuerzo junto con el Alcalde y su administración actual hansido insensible a la comunidad minoritaria y no han incluido en el proceso. Ademas no se han declarado en como se van a usar los dineros colectados por el aumento en impuestos," dijo Dominguez.

Aun sus preocupaciones, los miembros de la Camara dijeron que el aumento en los impuestos era imperativo en mantener

a Lubbock a un nivel competitivo.

En su columna "Comentarios", Bidal Agüero examino el porque y porque no votar en favor o encontra de el aumento de impuestos.

Agüero dijo que no habia duda que la voz de la comunidad Hispana habia ser la mas importante en la ultima decision.

"Si escuchamos las voces de muchos de mis amigos, la mayoría quienes son de opiniones liberales y mas del tiempo tratan de hacer por los que "no tienen", uno se imaginaba que estaria encontra de el aumento de impuestos," dijo Agüero.

"Al examinar la cuestion y leer muchas de las cartas al periodico local, no puedo mas que notar que la mayoría de esos intimos amigos no han hecho un compromiso definitivo o un declaracion publica exponiendo su oposicion encontra el aumento. No puedo mas que pensar que quizas a mis amigos no les importa, estan a favor de la resolucio n o no quieren hablar encontra esas personas poderosas como Montford, presidentes de bancos y gente por el estilo. ¿Que mas puede explicar el hecho de que no ha habido conferencias

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

EL EDITOR

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King, Chavez Cleared Path For All Of Us To Follow

By John Trasviña

As we celebrate the 69th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birth, the torch of leadership he lit continues to illuminate a path for justice

seekers everywhere.

Far from losing relevance in an increasingly multicultural society that some say barely resembles the United States of 30 years ago, his



Cesar Chavez, antes de su muerte junto con Riche Lopez y su hijo en una conferencia sobre los derechos de los campesinos.

calls for justice and vision-ary steps embolden and inspire all of us today.

In paying tribute to Dr. King and recognizing how he took the country forward and re-introduced its highest ideals, many people use this occasion to review his dramatic speeches and powerful writings, and how he reshaped the national character of the 1960s.

It was no mere coincidence that during the '60s grape boycotts led by the late César Chávez, marchers sang,

"Nosotros venceremos," the Spanish language version of "We Shall Overcome." Chávez explained to his biographer Jacques Levy that the early bus boycotts led by Dr. King in the streets of Montgomery, Ala., ignited in his mind the notion of applying a similar strategy, as founder and president of the United Farm Workers, in the fields of California's Central Valley.

Although they worked together infrequently, Dr. King and César Chávez provided each other support and comfort. A turning point for farmworker organizing efforts was the hard-fought election victory at one large ranch in Delano, Calif., in 1966. In a telegram to Chávez marking the victory, Dr. King wrote: "The fight for equality must be fought on many fronts -- in the urban slums, in the sweatshops of the factories and the fields. Our separate struggles are really one -- a struggle for freedom, for dignity and for humanity...We are together in spirit and in determina-

tion that our dreams for a better tomorrow will be realized."

Following his death, Dr. King continued to have an impact on Chávez and the cause to improve working and living conditions of agricultural workers. In a letter to a grape industry leader in 1969, Chávez described Dr. King as one who "gave himself totally to the non-violent struggle for peace and justice" and quoted from King's "Letter from the Birmingham Jail."

Chávez himself was jailed in 1970 for violating an anti-boycott injunction. Mrs. Coretta Scott King visited him there. She was one of the few whom Chávez felt understood the political impact of his jailing.

What ties the legacies of Dr. King and Chávez is their roles not just as an African American leader for African Americans and a Latino leader for Latinos. It is their call upon persons of all ancestries, faiths, races and generations to take a stand for justice for the benefit of every-

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Read The Latest About Super Bowl XXXII



& About the Cowboys Game Next Sunday

News Briefs

Clinton Considers Minimum Wage Hike

At the urging of allies in Congress, President Clinton is considering seeking an increase in the minimum wage, reports Associated Press.

"It's being looked at," press secretary Mike McCurry said. "I don't think there's been any decision at all one way or the other."

In 1996, Congress raised the minimum wage by 90 cents an hour in two steps: from \$4.25 to \$4.75 an hour Oct. 1, 1996, and to \$5.15 an hour on Sept. 1, 1997.

Republicans in Congress likely would fight any increase. They opposed the last increase -- arguing that it would cost jobs -- but retreated under political pressure.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., has proposed increasing the minimum wage by \$2.10 an hour to \$7.25 over the next five years.

"An increase in the minimum wage has been suggested by many of our friends and supporters in Congress," McCurry said. He said Clinton was exploring a number of ideas about how to restore the economic power of the minimum wage relative to what it has been in the past.

McCurry said the 1996 increase "did not bring it up to the full value it had" in years past.

Clinton Urged to Support Affirm Action

Activists are urging President Clinton to remain steadfast in his support for affirmative action and use his national dialogue on race to educate Americans about the issue, reports Associated Press.

"Don't back off, don't back down. Meet it head on. Debate the people ... and let us all put our cards on the table," Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., told Clinton on Monday during a meeting on the president's race initiative. "I think you just have to speak in a very plain way to the American people."

Eleven activists and four members of Congress attended the session, a follow-up to his similar meeting last month with conservatives. The White House provided a transcript of the discussion today.

The nearly two-hour meeting seemed to have a different tone from the earlier session, which dissolved into a philosophical debate about what affirmative action is and whether it remains necessary.

Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia's delegate to Congress, suggested that Clinton talk about race in the annual State of the Union address. "It would be important to call upon the Congress to ... resist the temptation to make affirmative action a wedge issue," she said.

Clinton did not indicate whether he would do so, but said he would try to discuss his race initiative with House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga.

"I think I'm going to try to follow this tack in dealing with our friends who disagree with us on so much," Clinton said.

The chairman of Clinton's race advisory board, historian John Hope Franklin, attended the session but did not comment afterward. He traveled today to Phoenix, where the board was holding a two-day meeting on employment issues.

Those at the meeting Monday support affirmative action, and they praised Clinton for appointing Bill Lann Lee as assistant attorney general for civil rights, despite Senate opposition because of Lee's support for affirmative action.

Clinton closed the meeting by saying that both sides in the affirmative action debate "might find we have a lot more agreement than we thought."

But the discussion focused mainly on education and ways to get local leaders more involved in the president's race effort. Clinton sought suggestions on other matters as well, including his next budget proposal to Congress and the State of the Union address.

Health Care Costs Top \$1 Trillion

U.S. spending for health care is growing at the slowest pace in nearly four decades but private insurance costs may be about to pick up steam again, reports Associated Press.

Although the nation's medical costs topped \$1 trillion in 1996 for the first time, total spending was up just 4.4 percent from 1995. That was the smallest increase since the Health and Human Services Department started keeping track of public and private spending on everything from aspirin to open-heart surgery in 1960.

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Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

As I mentioned last week, there is no doubt that the Hispanic vote will have a definite role in the passage or failure of the 3/8¢ sales tax. This because analyst are seeing the majority population split with the conservative and elderly on one side and the more affluent and business community on the other.

Yesterday the Hispanic Chamber endorsed the passage of the increase in a news conference.

Other groups within our community have not taken formal stances although many individuals are following the lead of Councilman Victor Hernandez in opposing the tax pointing to the fact that all sales taxes are regressive and adversely affect the poor and disadvantaged, commonly referred to as the "have-nots," more than the well off or "have's".

In listening to the many arguments and to many of my friends, the majority of whom are liberal minded and more often than not try to be concerned about the have-nots, one would think that I would oppose the sales tax.

As I examined the issue and read the many letters to the editor in the daily newspaper, I couldn't help but notice that most of those close friends hadn't made a definite commitment or public statement opposing the increase in the tax. In fact, only one person - Alberto Peña - even took the time to write a letter.

I can't help but think that perhaps many of my friends are either not really concerned, favor the tax or are afraid to speak their minds for fear of upsetting those high-powered Lubbockites, such as Montford, all of the bank presidents and the likes, who are pushing for the passage of the tax. What else could explain the fact that no major news conference was called by Chicano leaders who oppose the issue.

As I read the many letters, I also noticed that one of the main reasons for people being against the tax was because some people want Lubbock to remain at a status-quo, keeping it's small town image, not welcoming big business and hoping to keep everybody "quietly back at the ranch".

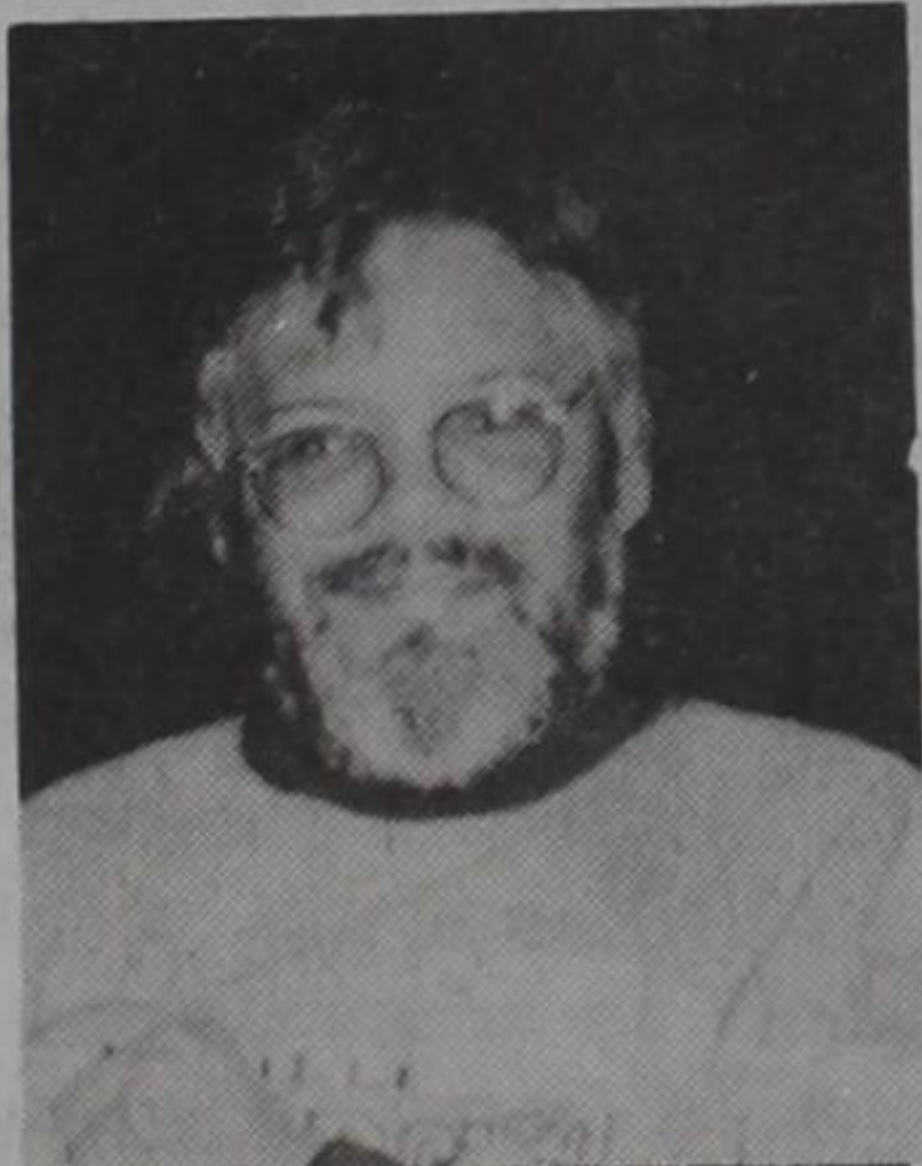
Now where does that leave us?

First of all, I for one, don't want to "stay quietly back at the ranch." I, for one, wouldn't mind taking a major step toward becoming a more progressive City. Maybe even getting to the point where both big business and "have-nots" would team up to pass an affirmative action program much the way Houston retained their affirmative action law.

It's true that we have no guarantees that the jobs that "they" are saying will be created will benefit our community. It's true that our community will not have guarantees that help given to businesses will ever reach small business owners.

Despite the aforementioned drawbacks and adverse effects on the "have-nots" by the increase in the sales tax. I think I'll take a chance and I would ask our community to join me in taking a chance that what has been promised about jobs, progress and a better Lubbock will be honored.

I'm going to vote FOR the increase in the sales tax and would encourage our community to vote FOR the passage of the increase. I don't suggest this because I like taxes but mainly because I don't want our community to remain being have-nots.



Apoyan Resolucion

de la Pagina Primera

de prensa llamadas por lideres dentro de nuestra comunidad" dijo Agüero.

Agüero continuo diciendo que al leer una grande cantidad de cartas, la principal razon porque gente esta en contra la resolucion era porque quieren que Lubbock se mantenga a una posición relativamente estanca, manteniendo un imagen de ser un pueblo pequeño y desiendo que la gente de Lubbock se quede cayaditamente "en el rancho."

"Ahora endonde no deja a nosotros," pregunta Agüero. "Primeramente, no no quiero quedarme en el rancho. Ni tampoco me fastidiara que Lubbock empesara a ser una ciudad mas progresiva. Y quiza aun llegar a el nivel en donde negocios grandes se unen con esos que 'no-tienen' para instituir un program de accion afirmativa mucho como se hizo en Houston."

Agüero dijo que aunque era verdad de muchos de los oponentes a la resolucion que no habia garantias que los trabajos y mejoramientos prometidos iba a beneficiar a la comunidad Hispana, es esta dispuesto a tomar un riesgo.

"Voy a tomar ese riesgo y le pido a nuestra comunidad que tome el riesgo de que posiblemente se cumplan las promesas de mejores trabajos y el progreso de Lubbock," continuo Agüero.

Agüero dijo que el iba a votar "A FAVOR" de el aumento en impuestos y que alentaba a la comunidad que votara "A FAVOR".

"Sugero esto principalmente porque no quiero que nuestra comunidad siga siendo de los que 'no-tienen'," termino Agüero.

La cajillas electorales para votar en la resolucion estaran abiertas desde las 7 de la mañana hasta las 7 de la tarde. Para informacion en saber en donde votar se puede llamar al 775-3000.

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Six Signs:

Will GOP Take High Road or Low Road in 1998?

By Miguel Pérez

A year after passing some of the most draconian anti-immigrant measures in U.S. history, Republicans in Congress spent 1997 trying to undo the damage they caused in 1996 -- not only to immigrants, but to themselves.

But what's in store for the new year? After feeling the sting of an electorate backlash, have the immigrant bashers finally learned their lesson?

The answer is clearly negative. They're out there, with new draconian measures designed to roll back civil rights protections for racial and ethnic communities.

The real question is whether the Republican leadership will continue to follow the bashers' game plan, since it has been proven not to be politically expedient.

After all, it wasn't the inhumane consequences of their 1996 laws that made Republicans react in 1997. It was an effort to save their own hides.

It wasn't the sudden compassion for the elderly and disabled legal immigrants they had been willing to cut off from social services just one year earlier, or for the parents of U.S.-born children they wanted to deport, or for the Nicaraguan refugees they wanted to betray after welcoming them here as our Cold War allies.

It was simply the Republican-controlled Congress realizing that immigrant-bashing made bad politics.

In the 1996 elections, their political gains in support from racists paled in comparison to the massive Hispanic and Asian voter turnout, which, as a backlash, helped stem the conservative tide in Congress -- especially in key states such as Texas and California -- and kept President Clinton in the White House.

Ironically, many of these voters were new citizens driven to the Democratic Party by Republican hostilities. There are thousands more new citizens now, and thousands still waiting to naturalize and pay Republicans back for their mean-spirited measures. In future congressional elections, there is no doubt the Latino and immigrant vote will be a key factor.

This is why some of the im-

migration and welfare reforms passed in the 104th Congress were overturned in the first half of the 105th Congress. If 1996 was the year for immigrant and minority bashing in Washington, 1997 was the year when the Republican-controlled Congress, as a means for self-preservation, had to take much of it back.

Congress reversed itself by: -- Restoring Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income to 500,000 disabled or elderly legal immigrants who had been tormented by the thought of losing their welfare safety net.

-- Passing legislation that granted amnesty to Nicaraguan and Cuban immigrants and helped some 500,000 settlers from Guatemala, El Salvador and Eastern Europe avert deportation and apply for permanent residency.

-- Granting a two-month reprieve, until Jan. 14, to a program that allows eligible immigrants applying for green cards to adjust their legal status without having to return to their homelands to file their papers overseas. As many as 1 million immigrants may have been spared from a key sanction in the 1966 immigration law, which bars those found to have lived here illegally from re-entering the country for up to 10 years.

Clearly there are two factions within the Republican Party -- those interested in courting immigrant voters and those who persist on pursuing an anti-immigrant agenda.

So what happens in the second half on the 105th Congress?

Will we continue to see "kinder and gentler" Republicans because their leadership continues to follow the route of self-preservation? Or will the leaders fail to quell perceptions that the GOP is anti-immigrant?

These are the signs to look for:

-- Will Republicans renew their attacks on immigrants and efforts to stall new voters by introducing new measures to, for example, make U.S. citizenship harder to obtain?

-- Will they allow the INS to enforce the 1996 immigration law by checking everyone crossing our borders? Or will

Judging Juries

by Ira Cutler

Justice is an imprecise thing, a fleeting and vague concept struggling to exist in a harsh, tangible, real life world.

The federal trial of Terry Nichols for the Oklahoma bombing, long expected to be a dull repeat of the conviction and death sentence handed down for Timothy McVeigh, has reached a dramatic and troubling ending. First, the jury failed to produce a first degree murder conviction, opting instead for convictions on the lesser charges of conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction and involuntary manslaughter. Then, in the "penalty phase," the jury failed to reach a conclusion, leaving sentencing to the judge. While the judge's sentence is unknown as I write this, we do know that he is not permitted to pronounce a sentence of death - in federal trials only the jury has that power. Nichols will at most, and most likely, get life in prison without possibility of parole.

For some, any resolution short of executing Terry Nichols is just not justice. They see a failure to execute Nichols as suggesting that the crime was less than horrific, see the lives of those killed as being undervalued by a lesser sentence and see the verdict as failing to "send a message" to other political terrorists who might bomb and kill on a grand scale.

The response to the jury's decision has been swift, vicious and strongly condemning. Relatives of bomb victims and self-serving politicians have questioned their intelligence, courage, and humanity. They have been reduced to making public statements proclaiming that they are "good people." How could the jury reach these unsatisfactory conclusions?

After sitting for weeks listening to the evidence, how could they have failed to see what others, who listened to no evidence at all, found obvious? Remember that perceptive politicians across the spectrum were calling for the execution of whomever committed this crime even before the arrests were made, much less a trial conducted. The jury forewoman, for me an honorable and courageous person, has explained forth-rightly that the jury was irrevocably split between those who be-

lieved that Nichols was without doubt fully responsible for the bombing and those who felt that the government had failed to provide very convincing evidence about Nichols involvement and role. Remarkably, instead of blaming the prosecution for not being convincing, most are blaming the jury for not being easily convinced. I did not follow the Nichols trial very closely, but I do not find it difficult to imagine the federal government, and in particular the FBI, being inept and unconvincing. Have the critics of the Nichols jury forgotten the Richard Jewell incident, Waco, the Ruby Ridge shootings, the TWA 800 farce, the OJ trial testimony about the sloppiness of the FBI lab, and all the other indications that the FBI - public relations and J Edgar Hoover movies aside - is just not a very good police force?

My guess is that the government's case must have been awful. I wonder if, in a less celebrated case and for a less horrendous crime, the level of evidence that pointed beyond a reasonable doubt to a conspiracy would have even gained a conviction. Surely the jury would have liked to have been convinced of Nichols total guilt, surely it would have been easier for them than the scorn they are now receiving.

Fortunately, for those who are dissatisfied, the state of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma County District Attorney are prepared to ride to the rescue. Not only Nichols but McVeigh are expected to be tried for the bombing in Oklahoma courts and, some speculate, will certainly receive the death penalty. Public officials up to and including the Governor have already declared that this is the right thing to do and it is doubtful that any juror with intentions of remaining a resident of Oklahoma could do anything else but vote for conviction and execution. The Oklahoma District Attorney, who parts his hair in the middle and wears suspenders and a bolo tie in his attempt to look like Judge Roy Bean, was particularly vicious in his condemnation of the jury forewoman, suggesting that the biggest mistake the feds made in this trial was in having "people like that" on the jury. Some wonder how these men can be tried again (an OJ deja vu) for the

same crime. The trick, it seems, is that the federal prosecution only covered 7 of the 168 victims of the bombing - those that were law enforcement officers. The Oklahoma trial will focus on the remainder of the vic-tims. The one bombing engendered 168 separate instances of murder and, if Oklahoma wants to be totally sure of getting the verdicts it wants, I suppose it can keep on trying these men 168 times.

For me, certainly in the minority, the important issue here is not the sentencing of Terry Nichols. I am okay with him sitting in prison for the rest of his life - I do not think it really matters. The more important and disturbing issue to me is the social pressure that is put on the individuals who serve as jurors in well publicized and highly emotional trials. The jury system places enormous responsibility on ordinary citizens because it is believed that they are, at the core, more honest, less corrupt, less calculating about the impact of a decision on their own futures, than a politician or lawyer would be. The system is imperfect, as any system would be, but it has by and large proven to be more just than any other. I fear that un-popular jury decisions (OJ and now Nichols) may threaten the institution itself.

We ought to, it seems to me, trust our neighbors and fellow citizens to do the best they can do as jurors. We may not always agree with them but they are there, they are hearing the evidence and we are not. Instead of criticizing them from the sidelines, like baseball fans booing umpires, we ought to be supporting them in doing the hard job for which they were, after all, drafted. The Nichols jury, in particular, ought to be applauded for having the strength of their convictions. They knew they were doing an unpopular thing, they knew they would pay a price, but they did what they thought was right.

Isn't that why we have juries? Ira Cutler, HN4072@handsnet.org, 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'.

they redress that provision for the Canadian border while sending more INS agents to the Mexican border?

-- Will they insist on challenging the use of statistical sampling in the 2000 Census in a clear attempt to continue to undercount minorities?

-- Will they continue to in-

timidate Hispanic voters in California by dragging out the investigation of Democratic Rep. Loretta Sanchez's victory over Robert Dornan?

-- Will they continue to seek subsidies for those who can afford to send their children to private schools by promoting measures to institute school

voucher programs that erode support for public schools?

-- Will they promote bills to impose official English and do away with bilingual education, ballots and government literature?

In immigrant communities, few are the dreamers who believe that the xenophobic ex-

tremists in Congress have really learned their lesson. But many are the optimists who believe the GOP leadership will force them to take the high road in 1998, if only for self-preservation.

(Miguel Pérez is a columnist with the Bergen Record in Bergen, N.J.)
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migrantes y sus gestiones para evitar que haya nuevos electores, al presentar nuevas medidas para hacer, por ejemplo, que sea más difícil obtener la ciudadanía estadounidense?

-- ¿Permitirán que el Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización haga cumplir la ley de inmigración de 1996 al comprobar los documentos de toda persona que atraviese nuestras fronteras? ¿O revocarán esa disposición para la frontera canadiense, mientras se envíen más agentes a la frontera mexicana?

-- ¿Insistirán en retar al empleo del muestreo estadístico en el Censo del año 2000, como un intento claro para continuar dejando de contar a personas minoritarias?

-- ¿Continuarán intimidando a los electores hispanos de California al prolongar la investigación de la victoria de la Representante demócrata Loretta Sánchez sobre Robert Dornan?

-- ¿Continuarán procurando subvenciones para aquéllos que pueden enviar a sus hijos a escuelas privadas, al fomentar medidas para instituir programas de comprobantes escolares que desgasten el apoyo a las escuelas públicas?

-- ¿Fomentarán los proyectos de ley para imponer al inglés como idioma oficial y eliminar a la enseñanza, las boletines electorales y la literatura gubernamental bilingües?

En las comunidades de inmigrantes, son pocos los soñadores que creen que los extremistas xenófobos del Congreso hayan aprendido realmente su lección. Pero son muchos los optimistas que creen que la dirigencia del Partido Republicano les obligará a tomar el camino alto en 1998, aunque sólo sea por auto-conservación.

(Miguel Pérez es columnista del Bergen Record en Bergen, Nueva Jersey)
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Seis Señales:

¿Tomara El Partido Republicano El Camino Alto o El Camino Bajo En 1998?

Por Miguel Pérez

Después de aprobar algunas de las medidas más draconianas contra los inmigrantes en la historia de los Estados Unidos, los republicanos del Congreso pasaron el año 1997 tratando de deshacer el daño que ocasionaron en 1996 -- no sólo a los inmigrantes, sino a ellos mismos.

Pero, ¿qué hay a la vista para el nuevo año? Después de sentir el piquetazo de la resaca del electorado, ¿han aprendido su lección por último los que atacan a los inmigrantes?

La respuesta es claramente negativa. Están ahí fuera, con nuevas medidas draconianas, para retroceder a las salvaguardas de los derechos civiles para las comunidades raciales y étnicas.

La pregunta verdadera es si la dirigencia republicana continuará siguiendo el plan de juego de los atacantes, ya que se ha probado que no es políticamente conveniente.

Después de todo, no fueron las consecuencias inhumanas de sus leyes de 1996 lo que hizo que los republicanos reaccionaran en 1997. Fué una gestión para salvar sus propios pellejos.

No fué la compasión súbita por los inmigrantes legales ancianos e incapacitados, a quienes ellos habían estado dispuestos a eliminar de los servicios sociales un año antes solamente, ni por los padres de los niños nacidos en los Estados Unidos a quienes ellos querían deportar, ni por los refugiados nicaragüenses a quienes querían traicionar, después de darle la bienvenida aquí como aliados nuestros en la Guerra Fria.

Fué sencillamente que el Congreso republicano se dió

cuenta de que atacar a los inmigrantes era una política mala.

En las elecciones de 1996, sus logros políticos en apoyo por parte de los racistas palidieron en comparación con la asistencia en masa de los electores hispanos y asiáticos a las elecciones que, como una resaca, ayudó a frenar la marea conservadora en el Congreso -- especialmente en los estados claves como Texas y California -- y mantuvo al Presidente Clinton en la Casa Blanca.

Irónicamente, muchos de estos electores eran nuevos ciudadanos impulsados hacia el Partido Demócrata por la hostilidad de los republicanos. Hay millares de nuevos ciudadanos más ahora, y otros millares esperando aún para naturalizarse y perjudicar a los republicanos por sus medidas de espíritu mezquino. En las elecciones congresionales futuras, no hay duda de que los votos de los latinos e inmigrantes serán un factor clave.

Esta es la razón de que algunas de las reformas de la inmigración y de la asistencia económica pública aprobadas en el Centésimo-Cuarto Congreso fueran revocadas en la primera mitad del Centésimo-Quinto Congreso. Si 1996 fué el año de los ataques contra los inmigrantes y las minorías en Washington, 1997 fué el año en que el Congreso, controlado por los republicanos, tuvo que hacerlos retroceder como medio de auto-conservación.

El Congreso revocó sus propias medidas al:

-- Restablecer los beneficios de Medicaid y el Ingreso Complementario de Seguridad a 500,000 inmigrantes legales incapacitados o ancianos, que habían sido ator-

mentados por la idea de perder su red de seguridad de la asistencia económica pública.

-- Aprobar legislación que concedió amnistía a inmigrantes nicaragüenses y cubanos, y ayudó a cerca de 500,000 refugiados de Guatemala, El Salvador y Europa Oriental a evitar la deportación y solicitar la residencia permanente.

-- Conceder una extensión de dos meses, hasta el 14 de enero, a un programa que permite a los inmigrantes elegibles que soliciten tarjetas verdes el ajustar su situación legal sin tener que regresar a sus países de origen para presentar sus documentos en el extranjero. Tantos como un millón de inmigrantes pueden haber sido eximidos de una sanción clave en la ley de inmigración de 1996, que prohibía el que aquéllos que fueran hallados viviendo aquí ilegalmente pudieran regresar a este país hasta por 10 años.

Hay claramente dos facciones dentro del Partido Republicano -- los deseosos de cortejar los votos de los inmigrantes y los que persisten en un programa de trabajo contra los inmigrantes.

De modo que, ¿qué sucederá en la segunda mitad del Centésimo-Quinto Congreso?

¿Continuaremos viendo a los republicanos "más bondadosos y más gentiles", porque su dirigencia continúe siguiendo la ruta de la auto-conservación? ¿O bien dejarán los dirigentes de acallar las percepciones de que el Partido Republicano está en contra de los inmigrantes?

Estas son las señales que

hav que buscar:
-- ¿Renovarán los republicanos sus ataques contra los in-

King Y Chavez Despejaron Senderos Para Que Todos Nosotros Les Siguiéramos

Por John Trasviña

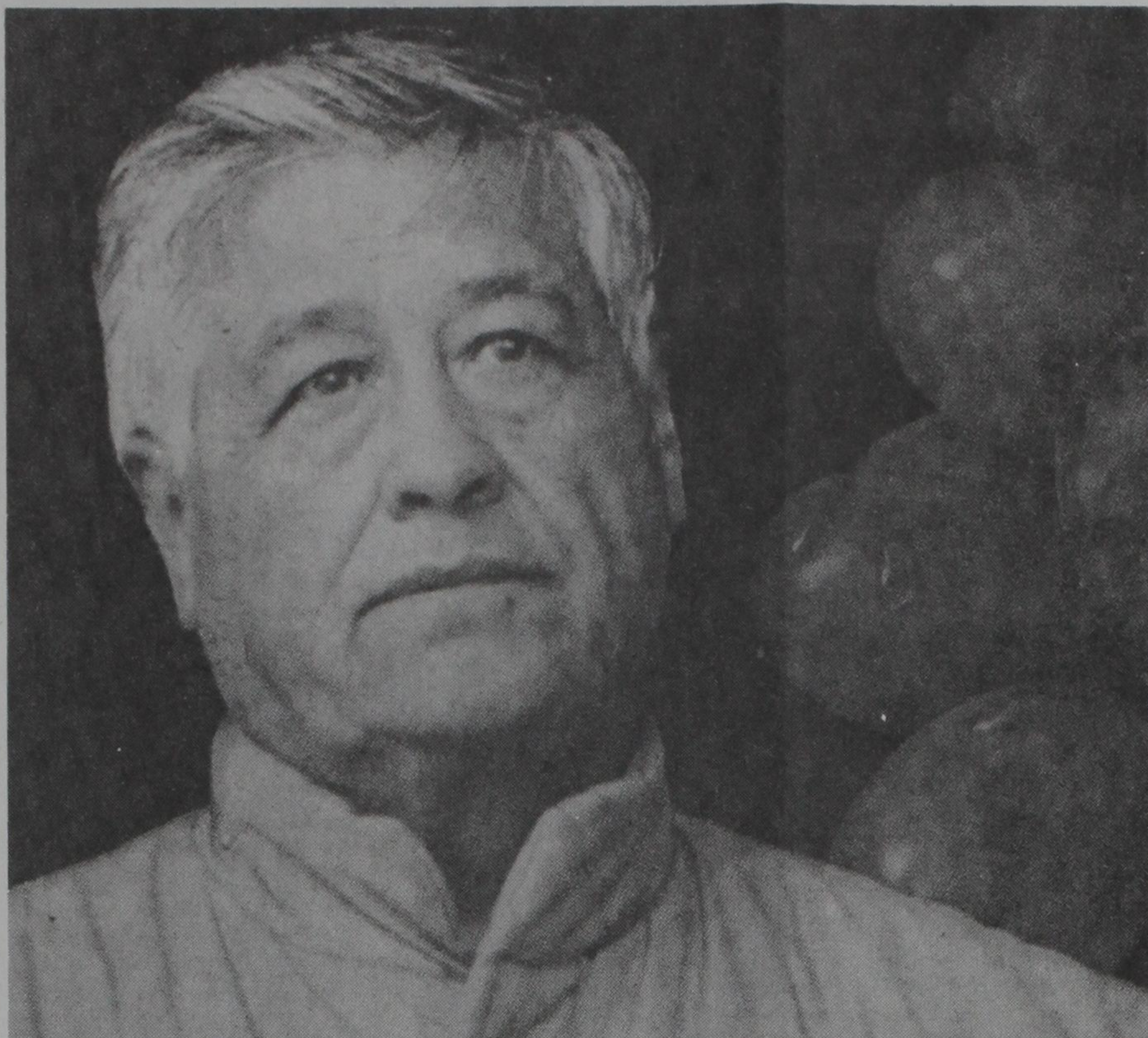
A medida que celebramos el sexagésimo-noveno aniversario del nacimiento de Martin Luther King Jr., la antorcha de dirigencia que él encendió continúa abriendo un sendero para todos los que buscan la justicia en todas partes.

Lejos de perder importancia en una sociedad cada vez más multicultural que algunos dicen que escasamente se asemeja a los Estados Unidos de hace 30 años, sus pedidos de justicia y sus pasos visionarios nos fortalecen e inspiran a todos hoy.

Al rendir homenaje al Dr. King y reconocer cómo él llevó al país adelante y volvió a introducir sus ideales más elevados, muchas personas emplean esta oportunidad para revisar sus dramáticos discursos y sus escritos poderosos, y cómo él volvió a dar forma al carácter nacional del decenio de 1960.

No fué mera coincidencia que durante los boicots contra las uvas en el decenio de 1960, dirigidos por el finado César Chávez, los manifestantes cantaran "Venceremos", la versión en español de "We Shall Overcome". Chávez explicó a su biógrafo Jacques Levy que los boicots preliminares de los autobuses dirigidos por el Dr. King en las calles de Montgomery, Alabama, encendieron en su mente la noción de aplicar una estrategia semejante, como fundador y presidente de los Trabajadores Agrícolas Unidos, en los campos del Valle Central de California.

Aunque no trabajaron juntos con frecuencia, el Dr. King y César Chávez se proporcionaron apoyo y consuelo mutuamente. Un punto clave para las gestiones de organización de los trabajadores agrícolas fué la victoria elector-



al por la que se luchó duramente, en un gran rancho de Delano, California, en 1966. En un telegrama a Chávez que señalaba la victoria, el Dr. King escribió:

"La lucha por la igualdad debe combatirse en muchos frentes - en los tugurios urbanos, en los talleres de explotación de las fábricas y en los campos. Nuestras luchas separadas son realmente una -- una lucha por la libertad, la dignidad y la humanidad ... Estamos juntos en espíritu y en la determinación de que nuestros sueños de un mañana mejor se realizarán".

A continuación de su muerte, el Dr. King continuó surtiendo efecto sobre Chávez y la causa para mejorar las

circunstancias de trabajo y de vida de los trabajadores agrícolas. En una carta a un dirigente de la industria de las uvas en 1969, Chávez describió al Dr. King como uno que "se dió totalmente a la lucha no violenta por la paz y la justicia" y citó de la "Carta desde la Cárcel de Birmingham", escrita por King.

Chávez mismo fué encarcelado en 1970 por infringir un mandamiento judicial contra el boicot. La Sra. Coretta King lo visitó allí. Ella fué una de las pocas personas de quienes Chávez creía que comprendían el efecto político de su encarcelamiento.

Lo que enlaza a los legados del Dr. King y de Chávez es

sus papeles, no sólo como un dirigente afroamericano para los afroamericanos y un dirigente latino para los latinos. Es su llamado a las personas de todos los ancestros, creencias, razas y generaciones para que se alcen por la justicia para beneficio de todos.

Sus llamados a la conciencia no conocían límites. Haciéndose eco de la observación de King, de que "si un hombre no ha descubierto algo por lo cual él moriría, no es digno de vivir", César Chávez dijo en el vigésimo-quinto día de su huelga de hambre de 1968:

"Nuestras vidas son todo lo que realmente nos pertenece. De modo que es cómo usamos de nuestras vidas lo que determina qué clase de personas

somos. El acto de valor más verdadero, el acto de humanidad más fuerte, es el de sacrificarnos por los demás en una lucha totalmente no violenta por la justicia".

Los Estados Unidos continúan buscando una afirmación de los objetivos que Martin Luther King, César Chávez y otros dirigentes fijaron para nosotros. Así, el llamado del Presidente Clinton de edificar una sólo nación, no mediante el dinero ni la tecnología, sino a través del poder del espíritu humano, puede ser contestado por nosotros -- uno por uno, vecino por vecino, estudiante por estudiante, familia por familia, comunidad por comunidad.

Esta visión compartida de una sólo nación será también llevada a la vida por la Escuela Secundaria Especial "César Chávez" sobre Cursos de Acción Públicos, que será establecida pronto, y que se

destina a proporcionar a los estudiantes del Distrito de Columbia una enseñanza rigurosa, empleando los cursos de acción públicos para empeñar a los jóvenes y enseñarles habilidades de pensamiento crítico. Mediante tales iniciativas, edificamos sobre las palabras y los hechos de los héroes que llegaron antes que nosotros y enviamos a una generación nueva por los senderos de la libertad y la igualdad.

Para compartir la visión y la pasión del Dr. King por una nación mayor, celebramos su natalicio un día cada año, pero lo vivimos cada día. Para dar significado pleno a las vidas del Dr. Martin Luther King y de sus asociados, tales como César Chávez, todos nos unimos al coro del Himno Nacional Negro: "Marchemos adelante hasta que se gane la victoria".



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Post Affirmative Action America

Why Both Sides Claim King As Their Own

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thirty years after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, American activists on all sides of the spectrum still argue over the real meaning of his words and deeds. This year the issue in dispute is affirmative action, but his message transcends partisan interpretations in a way that we may need to consider. PNS commentator Dr. Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of *The Assassination of the Black Male*. Image. (email: ehutchi344@aol.com)

by **Earl Ofari Hutchinson**,
Pacific News Service

Controversy still surrounds Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., even as we prepare to celebrate his official birthday.

The issue this time is affirmative action. Supporters and opponents both claim that King would be on their side if he were alive.

Those who oppose affirmative action cite the line in his famed 1963 "I Have A Dream" speech, calling on Americans to judge individuals on the content of their character and not the color of their skin. Supporters of affirmative action claim that this distorts the spirit of King's thinking.

They are both right. King's few stray remarks directly on this issue are ambiguous enough to give ideological ammunition to both camps. But this come as no surprise.

King was not an orthodox ideologue. He railed against and embraced black militants. He advocated conservative self-help programs and socialist wealth redistribution. He applauded violent anti-colonial movements and championed non-violent change.

King's curious blend of

morality and pragmatism was glaringly evident in that 1963 speech. At the time, affirmative action was not part of the nation's vocabulary and quotas and goals were not issues of public debate. King

was not referring to discrimination in hiring or promotions, nor did he demand special government and corporate programs or incentives for blacks in dozens of speeches and articles over the next two years.

With the passage of the Civil Rights Bill in 1964 he realized that ending legal segregation wasn't enough. Integrating a motel or lunch counter did not provide jobs, improved housing, and better schools. These required massive spending on new social programs.

The urban riots and the growing white backlash further heightened King's sense that something had to be done. But King remained uncertain over how to tackle the problems of the urban poor.

Asked if he thought it was "fair" for the government to spend billions on special programs for blacks (in an interview published in *Playboy* magazine in January 1965), King didn't hesitate -- "I do indeed." He saw it as a moral imperative that the government "payback" blacks for the centuries of uncompensated toil during slavery -- citing the Marshall Plan, Aid to Appalachia, and the GI Bill of Rights as examples of the government bankrolling programs to aid specific consti-



tuencies.

But King did not demand the creation of programs exclusively for blacks.

Rather, he insisted that special government or corporate programs apply to the "disadvantaged of all races."

When the interviewer pressed, King continued to hedge, calling for increased spending for jobs, skills training, education and public works. King felt that the bigger problem for blacks and whites was the

"disappearance" of thousands of industry jobs to automation.

He sensed that employment was a volatile issue that could inflame blacks and whites. He claimed black and white workers suffered equally

when jobs were lost and tactfully called on labor to fight for "jobs for all."

Lyndon Johnson took the cue and displayed the same cautious ambivalence when he signed his Executive Order in 1965 banning discrimination by federal contractors. Johnson called on employers to take "affirmative action" to insure that workers are hired and promoted without regard to race.

Most Americans, including King, understood in that affirmative action was designed to encourage equal treatment of blacks. But that would leave many whites out in the economic cold, and this sowed the seed of public misunderstanding and created the huge opening politicians have used to exploit affirmative action as a wedge issue to get votes on the cheap.

Given his public passion for racial justice, and the burning belief that America had a special obligation to level the economic playing field for minorities, it is easy to imagine King on the frontline in the many battles against the national campaign to obliterate affirmative action programs. Given his moral vision of a just world, it is equally easy to imagine him finding a way to transcend the either/or and finding a way to realize the rights of all the disadvantaged.

Perhaps this is his true legacy, and one that should be cherished -- not a simple formulation, but the complex problem of realizing a moral vision in practical fashion in an imperfect world.

Diaz Se Lanza Para Juez de Paz En Hale Center

Maria de Carmen Diaz, residente de Petersburg y participante en muchas actividades de la comunidad anuncio esta pasada semana que ella sera candidata para Juez de Paz del Condado de Hale. Ella buscara ser electa en la primaria Democratica que se llevara acabo el día 11 de Marzo.

La Sra. Diaz, conocida como Carmen hasido muy activa en la Iglesia de Petersburg y en las escuelas. Su experiencia incluye mas de 20 años en participar y tratar de trabajar por los derechos de personas quien necesitan ayuda. Ella trabajo con la oficina de abogados de Sam Fadduol por muchos años como gerente de la oficina.

"En trabajar con esta oficina me dio mucha experiencia en como trabaja la ley. Esto, pienso yo, me dara ayuda en ser un juez que toma todo en consideracion cuando se trata de la gente," dijo Diaz.

Ella es madre de doz hijos, Juan Antonio de edad 14 y Joe Angel de 10 años de edad.

"Le pido a la gente de Petersburg, Hale Center y las areas circumbecinas que me ayuden en votar por mi en las primarias Democraticas.



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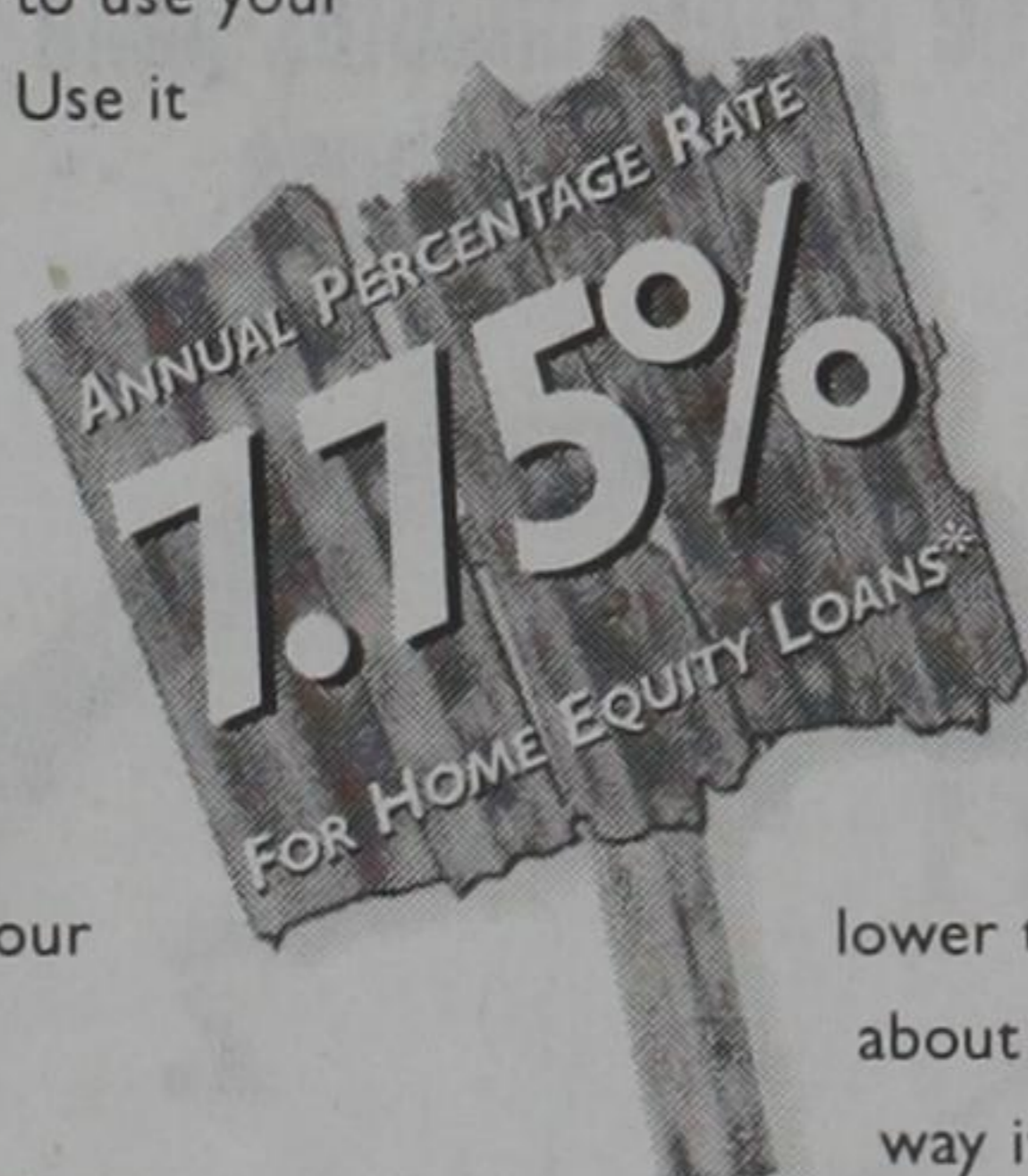
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Apreciaciones De Un Católico Estadounidense El Papa y Fidel Castro

EDITOR'S NOTE: La próxima visita del Papa a Cuba y su encuentro con Fidel Castro se ha descrito como una suerte de duelo ideológico: el creyente vs. el ateo, el católico vs. el comunista, el Viejo Mundo vs. el Nuevo. Sin embargo, la verdad de las cosas es mucho más compleja, en la opinión y desde las circunstancias particulares de Richard Rodríguez, editor de Pacific News Service. Rodríguez, autor de "Days of Obligation" (Viking), es ensayista de la PBS para "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer."

BY RICHARD RODRIGUEZ, San Francisco.- El Papa Juan Pablo II viajará a Cuba. El Papa que combatió al imperio soviético será huésped del último héroe marxista del mundo. Sí, una pareja dispar. ¿Y? ¿Por qué no?

Yo creo que los estadounidenses, en especial los que no son católicos, suelen admirar a este Papa. él destaca, sobre todo, como un líder mundial excepcional -- un hombre de implacables principios morales que dice lo que piensa. Asimismo, los estadounidenses lo ven como el Papa anticomunista, el defensor polaco de la libertad.

Pero este mismo Papa anticomunista ha sido también un implacable crítico del capitalismo -- con un especial enfoque en las crueldades y en el darwinismo social de la economía del mercado libre.

El Papa polaco pertenece, más bien, a las comunidades del Oriente.

Después de las manifestaciones en contra de su papado que hubo en Holanda y Alemania en los años ochenta, uno podía percibir un creciente desdén de Roma hacia el Occidente individualista y decadente.

Debo confesar algo: soy católico de nacimiento y por elección propia -- pero no dejo de ser un católico estadounidense, con todas las contradicciones que implica serlo. A la vez que he sido moldeado por los valores comunales del catolicismo, me he criado dentro de una cultura cívica protestante.

El verano pasado se dijo que el Papa había estado profundamente conmovido por la gran cantidad de católicos jóvenes que se dieron cita en París para festejar su religión. Fue un acontecimiento sorprendente para el catolicismo europeo, decadente ya desde hace varias décadas -- las iglesias de Europa no son mucho más que un atractivo turístico.

Mundialmente, el apoyo económico de la Iglesia proviene en gran parte de los Estados Unidos y de Alemania, con dólares y marcos alemanes. Pero el gran progreso del catolicismo está en el Team Up And Win With Girl Scouts

It's that time of year again, Girl Scout Cookie Time. More than 3,000 Girl Scouts from Lubbock and the surrounding counties will begin taking orders for those great tasting Girl Scout Cookies. There are 8 varieties, including a new sugar-free cookie this year! The cost of the cookies are \$3 per box and will be delivered from February 13th through March 8th.

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En 1959, Fidel Castro emprendió la revolución en Cuba y en unos cuantos años transformó a la nación en un Estado autoritario y rígidamente controlado.

Tercer Mundo, en Africa y en Asia y en una Europa Oriental resurgente. No así en Occidente.

Fidel Castro tuvo crianza católica en una Cuba que mezclaba la ortodoxia romana con la santería afrocaribeña; estuvo en escuelas católicas. A pesar de su crueldad mortífera queda algo casi victoriano hoy día en La Habana de Fidel, contrastando con los años burdescos anteriores a la revolución.

Si viviera Graham Greene, el gran novelista católico y simpatizante de causas izquierdistas de América Latina, indudablemente que disfrutaría el espectáculo del abrazo entre Fidel Castro y el Papa anticomunista. Si a diferencias vamos, culturalmente estos dos hombres seguramente que se comprenden. El Papa tiene más en común con Fidel que con Bill Clinton --el protestante, individualista y capitalista.

Los sacerdotes de Roma me dicen que el Vaticano aborrece la expansión del hedonismo occidental. Roma espera que sea el Oriente el que salve al Occidente. Mientras tanto, una cantidad sorprendente de monjas y sacerdotes estadounidenses que conozco declaran su impaciencia ante una Roma autoritaria y un Papa intransigente.

La Iglesia Católica Estadounidense se horroriza de

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Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martínez

Podríamos pasarnos muchas horas viendo cuanto puede ayudarnos la Palabra de Dios; ella es la mejor escuela de vida, de sabiduría, de gozo y de fuerza, vamos a leer Lucas 1,26-38. es la Anunciación. Tal vez la pagina más poética en toda la Sagrada Escritura. Allí vemos como el Señor envía su Palabra a María por medio de un Angel mensajero. Si comparamos...ese Angel puede ser, para nosotros, un sermón escuchado, o el consejo de un hermano, o una lectura. Allí nos damos cuenta también de que el

ver la creciente división entre los tradicionalistas que se apegan a Roma y los católicos más individualistas que suelen ignorar las palabras del Vaticano en asuntos como el control de la natalidad y la posición de la mujer.

Yo me ubico del lado más individualista del catolicismo estadounidense.

Soy, por ejemplo, católico homosexual e hijo de la Iglesia: busco el equilibrio entre el pronombre en primera persona -- el "yo" estadounidense -- y el "nosotros" romano.

Así las cosas, estaré observándolos. El Papa y el comunista. Dos hombres tan distintos, pero con seguridad identificables entre sí.

El Fidel de la barba cana es una figura de respeto, incluso de afecto, en gran parte de América Latina. Su fallida ideología marxista le ha merecido menos admiración que su destreza, a través de tantos años, para enfrentarse al bravucón gringo.

El Papa, frágil y tembloroso ya por la edad, no deja de ser un gigante en el mundo. él en Cuba, los estadounidenses veremos en él al contrincante que triunfa sobre el imperio soviético ateo.

Sería conveniente recordar que este Papa nos tiene en la mira crítica a nosotros también, a noventa millas de distancia.

Señor mismo confirma su propio mensaje, diciéndole a María que su prima Isabel estaba encinta. Y cuando María quedó segura del mensaje del Señor le anunciaba por medio del ángel, y contestó con sencillas y humildad: "He aquí la esclava del Señor: hágase en mí según tu palabra", enseñándonos así a responderle al Señor, cuando estemos seguros de la que el quiere, "he aquí a tu esclavo..." ¿Qué pasará después? No la sabemos, pero confiamos en El, que se poderoso para guiarnos por buen camino si le obedecemos con humildad y confianza.

Con esto es suficiente para darnos cuenta de que la Palabra de Dios es Espíritu y Vida. Es el camino por el que debemos seguir, la manera más fácil y segura de estar con Jesús. Tenemos que recordar que sin la Palabra, nada existía. (Jn. 1,3). (Luc. 1, 26-38).

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The Pope And Castro-- An American Catholic Sizes Up An Unlikely Pair

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Pope's upcoming visit to Cuba and meeting with Fidel Castro is being depicted as a sort of ideological shootout: believer vs. atheist, Catholic vs. Communist, Old World vs. New. But the reality is much more complex, as Pacific News Service editor Richard Rodriguez comments from his own particular place in several worlds. Rodriguez, author of "Days of Obligation" (Viking), is an essayist for PBS' "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer."

BY RICHARD RODRIGUEZ Pope John Paul II is coming to Cuba. The Pope who fought the Soviet empire is the guest of the world's last Marxist hero. An unlikely pair, yes. And why not?

Americans, I think, especially non-Catholic Americans, tend to admire this pope. He seems, above all, exceptional among world leaders -- a man of fierce moral principle who speaks his mind. Americans, too, see him as the anti-communist Pope, the Polish freedom fighter.

But this same anti-communist Pope has also been a fierce critic of capitalism -- particularly the cruelties and social Darwinism of the free market economy.

The Polish pope belongs more to the communal East. After demonstrations against his papacy in Holland and Germany in the 1980s, one sensed a growing disdain in Rome toward the individualist and decadent West.

I should confess: I am a Catholic, from birth and by choice -- though I am an American Catholic, with all the contradictions that implies. As much as I have been shaped by the communal values of Catholicism, I have grown up in a Protestant civic culture.

Last summer, the Pope was reported to be deeply moved by the large numbers of young Catholics who gathered in Paris to celebrate their religion. It was a surprising moment for European Catho-

cism, which has been in decline for decades -- the churches of Europe become little more than tourist attractions.

Financially, the church worldwide is largely supported by the United States and by Germany, by dollars and Deutschmarks. But the great strides for Catholicism are coming in the Third World, in Africa and Asia, and in a resurgent Eastern Europe. Not in the West.

Fidel Castro was raised a Catholic in a Cuba that blended Roman orthodoxy and Afro-Caribbean Santería; he attended Catholic schools. Despite his murderous cruelty, there remains something almost Victorian about Castro's Havana today, by comparison to the bawdy pre-revolutionary years.

If he were alive, Graham Greene, the great Catholic novelist, who flirted with left-wing causes in Latin America, would doubtless enjoy the spectacle of Fidel Castro and the anti-communist Pope embracing. For all of their differences, these two men must understand each other

culturally. Castro is recognizable to the Pope in ways that, say, Bill Clinton -- a Protestant, individualist and a capitalist -- is not.

Priests in Rome tell me that the Vatican loathes the spread

of western hedonism. Rome expects the West to be saved by the East. Meanwhile, a surprising number of American priests and nuns I know voice an impatience with authoritarian Rome, the Pope's lack of collegiality.

The American Catholic Church shudders from a growing split between traditionalists, attentive to Rome, and more individualist Catholics, who tend to shrug off the Vatican's teachings on matters like birth control and the status of women.

I belong to the more individualist side of American Catholicism. I am, for example, a homosexual Catholic and a son of the Church; I try to balance the first-person pronoun -- the American "I" -- with the Roman "We."

So I will watch them. The Pope and the Communist. Two men so different, but each surely recognizable to the other.

Gray-bearded Fidel is a figure of respect, even affection, through much of Latin America. He is admired less for his deflated Marxist ideology than for his ability, all these years, to have stood up to the gringo bully.

The Pope, frail now with age and trembling, remains a giant in the world.

In Cuba, we Americans will see him as the winning opponent of the godless Soviet empire.

We would do well to remember that this Pope is a critic also of us, ninety miles away.

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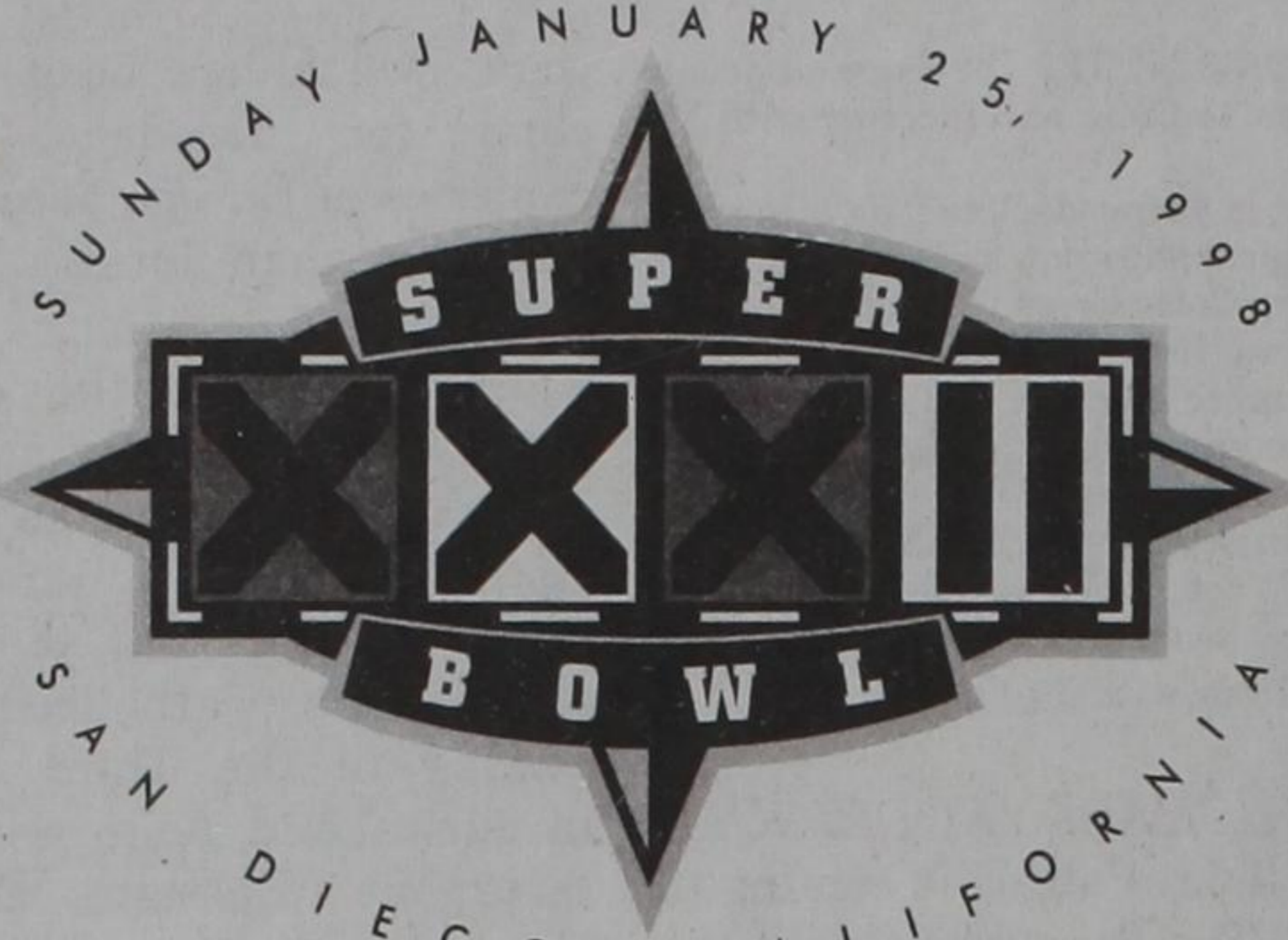


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Will Packers Repeat Their History?

1st Team To Win Back-to-Back Super Bowls, Seek 2nd Title In A Row Against The Broncos In XXXII



Will history repeat itself? The Green Bay Packers, who established pro football's pattern for Super Bowl success with back-to-back triumphs in the first two classics 30 years ago, have put themselves in position to do it again. Victors in pro football's ultimate game for a third time last January, they have earned a second consecutive trip to the "Big Dance" the hard way - on the road - defeating the home-standing San Francisco 49ers 23-10 to repeat as National Football Conference champions. Sunday's triumph qualified the Green and Gold for a climactic excursion to San Diego, where they will meet the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XXXII on Sunday, January 25. The Broncos advanced by capturing the American Football Conference title - also on the road - with a 24-21 win over the Steelers in Pittsburgh. A year ago, the Packers bested the Carolina Panthers in Green Bay's Lambeau Field, 30-13, thereby advancing to Super Bowl XXXI at New Orleans, where they dispatched the New England Patriots, 35-21, to acquire their third Super Bowl title.

The Broncos, propelled into the "Big One" by veteran quarterback John Elway for the first time since the 1989 season, will be a first time opponent for the Packers in the Super Bowl. The Green and Gold defeated the Kansas City Chiefs, 35-10, in Super Bowl I at the Los Angeles Coliseum (January 15, 1967) and the Oakland Raiders, 33-14, in Super Bowl II at Miami's Orange Bowl (January 14, 1968) in their first two appearances.

In San Diego, the Packers will strive to become the first team to win back-to-back titles since Dallas prevailed in SB XXVII and XXVIII following the 1992 and 1993 seasons

and only the fourth team in NFL history to win as many as four Super Bowls, joining the 49ers, the Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Packers already own the distinction of being one of only two teams, with as many as three appearances in pro football's ultimate game, to be undefeated in Super Bowl competition. San Francisco, 5-and-0 in Super Bowls, is the other.

SUPER BOWL XXXII, which will find San Diego hosting the NFL's showcase contest for the second time, will be televised nationally by NBC, with Dick Enberg calling the play-by-play, Paul Maguire and Phil Simms providing the analysis and Jim Gray and John Dockery serving as the field reporters. Tom Roy is the producer and John Gonzales directs. Kick-off is set for approximately 5:15, CST (Wisconsin time). The Super Bowl also will be aired over the Packer Radio network, with Jim Irwin handling the play-by-play and Max McGee and Larry McCarron offering the commentary and analysis, and nationally by CBS Radio (Howard David and Matt Millen).

THE 'SUPER' OPPOSITION: The Packers' Super Bowl matchup with Denver will pair two of the NFL's

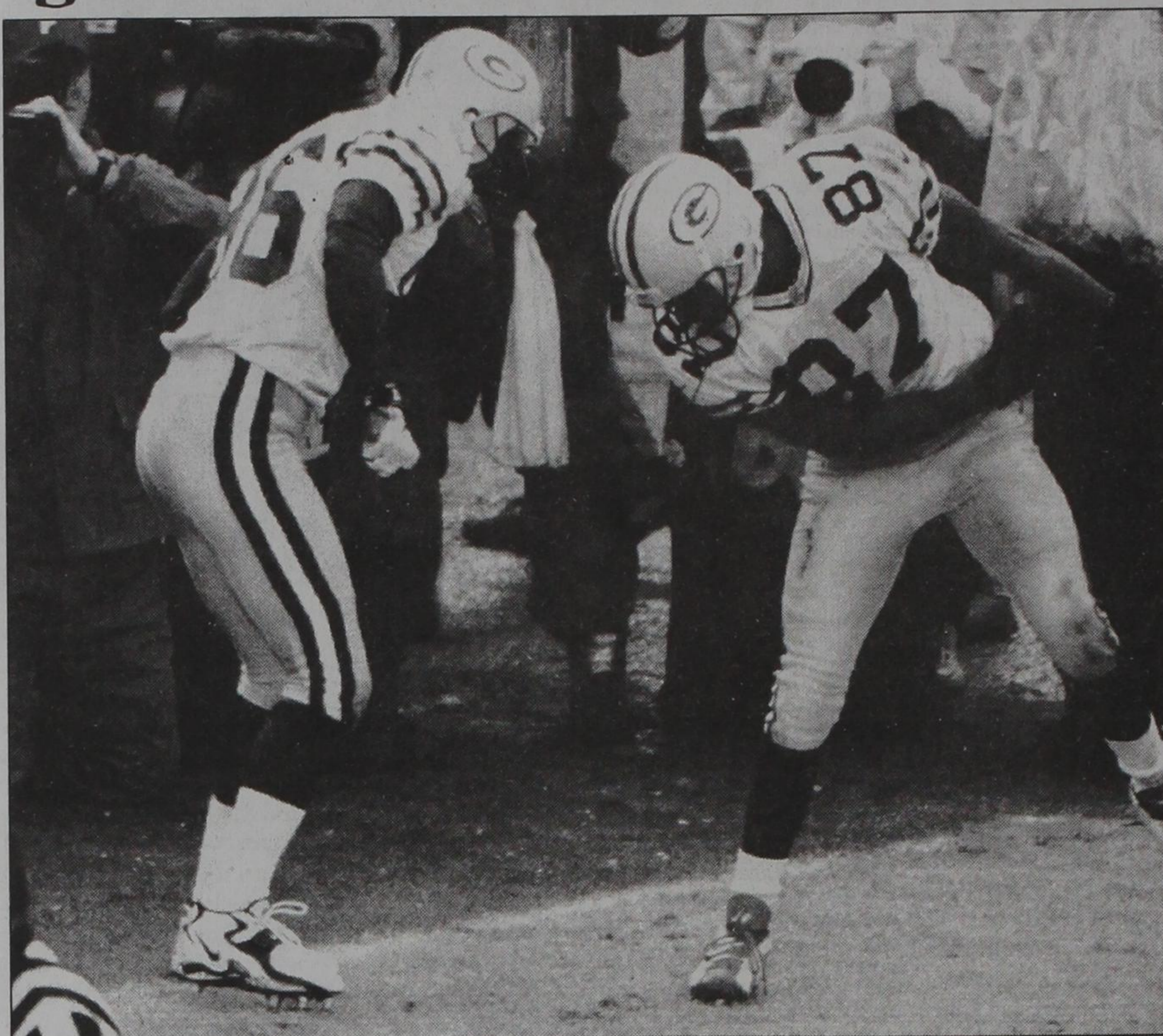
premier quarterbacks - the Packers' Brett Favre, who threw for 3,867 yards and a league-leading 35 touchdowns, and Denver's 37-year-old John Elway, who also put up some impressive numbers, passing for 3,635 yards and 27 TDs.

Tight end Shannon Sharpe, younger brother of former Packers wideout Sterling Sharpe, has been Elway's most frequent target. He caught 72 passes for 1,107 yards and 3 touchdowns during the regular season.

The Broncos offensive arsenal also includes the AFC's leading rusher, Terrell Davis, who amassed 1,750 yards in 369 attempts, a 4.7 average, while scoring 15 touchdowns. His 1,750 yards ranked second in the league as a whole only to the incomparable Barry Sanders, who closed out the season with 2,053 yards.

Defensively, the Broncos had three linemen - ends Neil Smith and Alfred Williams and tackle Maa Tanuvasa - amass 25.5 sacks among them during the regular season, each posting 8.5 over the 16-game route.

THE (REGULAR-SEASON) SERIES: Although they have been "acquainted" for over a quarter-century, the Packers and Broncos have met only eight times in regu-



Cause for celebration: Antonio Freeman, left, dances with his fellow receiver Robert Brooks after scoring a touchdown Sunday in a 17-17 overtime tie at Milwaukee in 1987. The Broncos registered their most recent victory in the series, 22-13, at home in 1990.

lar-season competition, with Denver winning four of those encounters, the Packers three, and the other ending in an sudden death, overtime tie. The Packers have won the last two meetings, emerging from a shootout with a 30-27 victory in 1993 and winning, 41-6 in their most recent matchup, also in Lambeau Field, last December 8. Mike Holmgren thus is 2-and-0 against the Broncos as a head coach. The latter contest was a game which saw the Packers roll up 379 yards of offense against a Denver team which, coming into the game with an imposing 12-and-1 record,

was missing quarterback John Elway and settled for a mere 176 net yards. Elway was being held out - in preparation for the playoffs - because of an injury. The Green and Gold won their very first meeting with their imminent Super Bowl opponents, 34-13, at Milwaukee County Stadium in 1971. The Broncos subsequently posted three consecutive wins over the Packers at Denver's Mile High Stadium over a 10-year span - 23-13 in a "Monday Night Football" contest in 1975, 16-3 in 1978 and 17-14 in a swirling, 8-

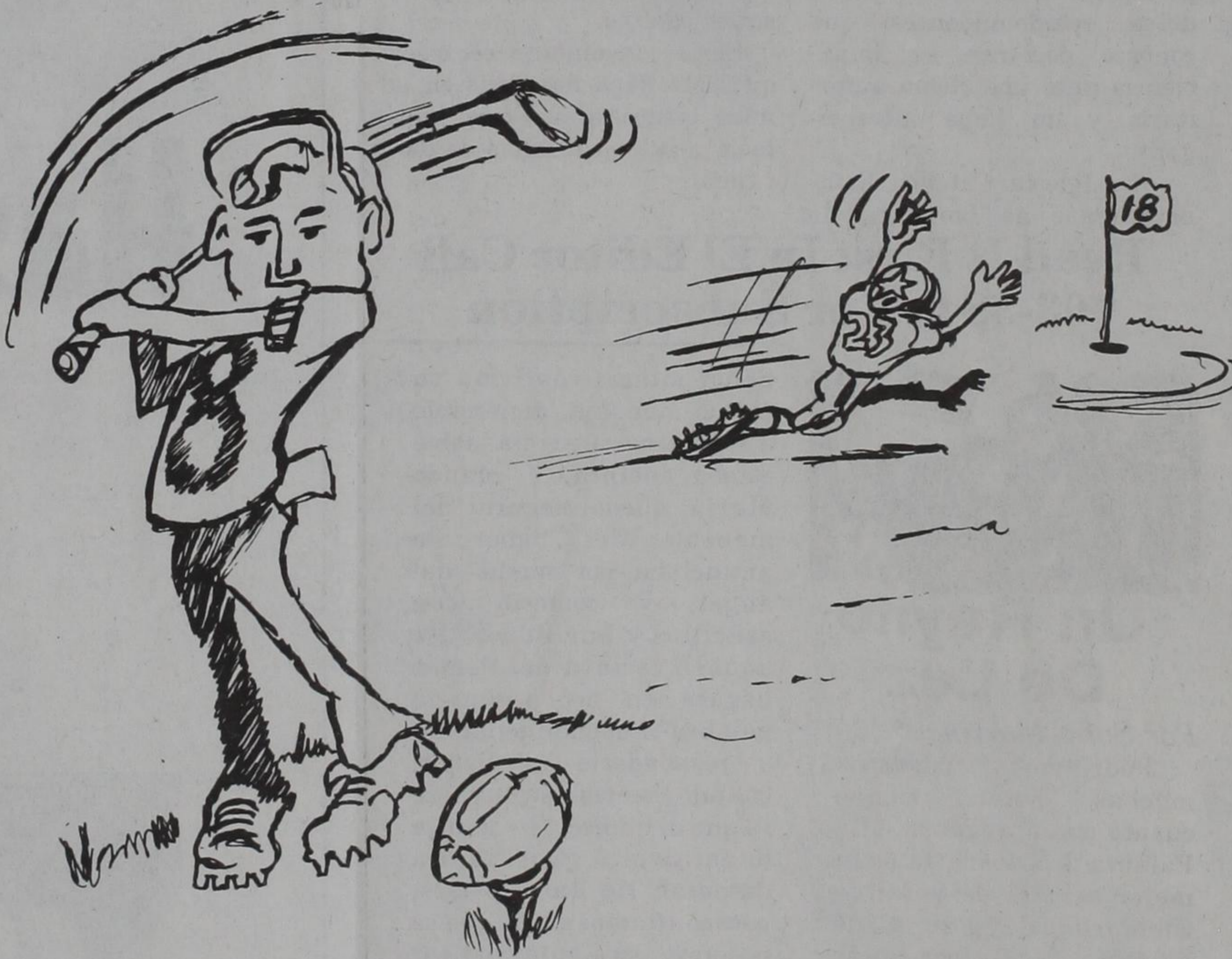
inch snowstorm in 1984 before the Packers interrupted the streak by battling Denver to a 17-17 overtime tie at Milwaukee in 1987. The Broncos registered their most recent victory in the series, 22-13, at home in 1990.

THE PLAYER PERSPECTIVE:

Are the Packers the best team in the league? "Well, we're the best team in the NFC... We'll see what happens in two weeks."

Antonio Freeman: "I never imagined in my life that I would be going to back-to-back Super Bowls. But that just goes to show that, with hard work and dedication - which this team and this organization represents - that, you know, anything's possible. And we've just believed in each other all year. And you look around the room and there is a tremendous amount of confidence. And that much talent, and that much togetherness - I mean that's what a lot of people don't understand. There's a lot of love and togetherness on this football team and, if you have those components, you can go as far as you want."

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News Briefs From Page 1

American spending on health care averaged \$3,759 per person in 1996, and held a steady 13.6 percent share of the nation's booming economy, the department said in an annual report released Monday.

Low inflation, more people in managed care, and new government spending curbs all have contributed to slower expansion of the nation's health care bills after average yearly growth of 11 percent throughout the '80s, the report said.

Double-digit increases aren't expected back any time soon, said Katharine R. Levit, director of HHS's National Health Statistics Group.

But "the private side of things should be reaccelerating and at the same time the public side ... should be decelerating," said Levit.

Private-sector spending accounts for 53.3 percent of all American health care dollars, and in 1996, about two-thirds of it, or \$337.3 billion went to pay health insurance premiums.

Insurance companies paid \$292.3 billion in medical bills, up 3.4 percent. Health insurance premiums grew by 3.2 percent, to \$337.3 billion. And other out-of-pocket costs paid by consumers -- including insurance deductibles and co-payments -- grew by only 2.7 percent to \$171.2 billion.

"That is largely due to employers who sought out plans that promised to slow the rate of health care cost increases" through managed care, said Levit.

Many insurers who made the promises are now in an awkward position. "Their profits have been squeezed," said Levit -- a trend many analysts agree must lead to higher premiums if it continues.

Meanwhile, low inflation and spending restraints enacted by Congress -- most recently in the balanced budget act -- are expected to moderate the growth of government health care bills over the next few years.

Medicare's budget for senior citizens' health care increased 8.1 percent to \$203.1 billion in 1996, compared to a 10.6 percent increase in 1995.

Senate Proposes GOP Child Care Plan

A GOP lawmaker outlined Saturday a group of child-care proposals, backed by congressional Republicans, which he called a more effective and much cheaper alternative to President Clinton's \$21.7 billion package, reports Associated Press.

"Congressional Republicans believe the best way to help American families care for their children is to provide as many options as possible and leave more money in their pockets, not launder it through countless federal programs that shrink every dollar they earn," Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, said in the weekly GOP radio address.

Clinton unveiled his child-care package earlier this week, including a plan to provide subsidies to low-income parents through state block grants. Other proposals would offer certain families expanded tax credits for child-care expenses and businesses tax breaks for providing child-care services to their employee.

Republican lawmakers have been working on child-care plans of their own for the upcoming congressional session, Craig said. Among them, he said, are a measure to increase tax exemptions for couples with children and legislation that would give families greater flexibility in their work schedules.

He offered no estimated cost for his proposal. Craig also said Republicans are working on ways to encourage retiring baby boomers to become child care workers and are pushing an "income splitting" plan.

"Income splitting would allow a spouse to claim half of his or her spouse's income as their own. Each income would then be taxed separately," he said. "This would give value to the spouse's work at home, and lower the tax burden of the family, of that couple."

U.S. Census Director Quits

Battered by a long-running dispute with Republicans in Congress over how to count Americans, Census Director Martha Farnsworth Riche has decided to leave office at the end of the month, reports Associated Press.

Rep. Dan Miller, R-Fla., who heads the House Census subcommittee, said he was shocked by the announcement. "I have expressed my concern that we are rapidly heading toward a failed Census in 2000," he said. "Dr. Riche's sudden departure adds to my anxiety."

Riche has been involved in a lengthy dispute with members of Congress over how to count the many people that cannot be reached by regular methods. The battle focused on a practice called sampling, in which the bureau would determine the number and characteristics of people it cannot reach based on the people it can.

Though the practice was endorsed by the National Science Foundation and statistical groups, Republicans in Congress are strongly opposed. They fear the result will be more people counted in largely Democratic big cities.

Census results are used to distribute seats in the House of Representatives, and counting more people in Democratic areas could cost Republicans control of the House.

The two sides reached a compromise last fall, allowing sampling to be used in test censuses, but leaving a final decision on the national head count until later.

Her deputy, Brad Hither, is expected to take charge pending selection of a new director.

Riche, well-known in population studies, came to the bureau after working at American Demographics magazine and the private research group the Population Reference Bureau.

A planned book, she said, will "look at the fundamental conflict between who we have been and who we are becoming."

Many countries, she commented, don't conduct censuses or skip them because they don't want to acknowledge the changes that have taken place in society.

"We have had many fascinating changes in who we are and we are continuing to have them," she said.

Mexican Police Blamed For Role In Massacre

By JULIA PRESTON

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico -- Federal prosecutors have accused a state police commander of helping to arm a gang of paramilitary gunmen who murdered 45 Indian villagers in December. They are the first criminal charges filed against police and state government officials who have been under investigation for the massacre.

Federal prosecutors indicated that their investigation is closing in on higher state officials who may have provided direct support to the killers. They said that the police commander testified that "superior officers" ordered him to turn a blind eye to paramilitary groups flaunting illegal weapons in his precinct as long as they were sympathizers of the political party in power in Mexico, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

At the same time the National Human Rights Commission, a federal government agency, has described in a report how senior state officials and police commanders protected the killers after the slayings, mangled the crime scene without conducting an investigation, loaded the bodies "like merchandise" into a cargo truck and rushed them away from the village in pre-dawn darkness. They then altered official documents to protect themselves, the commission said.

The report and the arrest brought embarrassment for federal government leaders, who have condemned the murders and said they were not condoned at any level of the PRI, which controls both the federal government and southern Chiapas State, where the violence occurred. After the killings, President Er-

nesto Zedillo dismissed the Chiapas governor as well as his Interior Minister, the highest official in his Cabinet, for mishandling the surging violence in Indian communities in the state.

The new information suggests that the local police were officially encouraged to back paramilitary groups that have sprung up in Indian villages to confront followers of Zapatista guerrilla rebels. It also shows that top state officials were flatly indifferent to the mass killing, whose victims were members of an opposition organization, in the hours after it occurred.

The indicted commander, Felipe Vazquez Espinosa, was in charge of a police post a few miles from the riverside hamlet where Tzotzil Indian villagers, including many women and small children, were attacked during a prayer service and cut down with combat rifles and machetes. According to the warrant, he lent the killers, who were also Tzotzil Indians, police patrol cars to help them stockpile guns and ammunition near the murder site.

In its 220-page report the Human Rights Commission accused the highest officials and security commanders under the former governor, Julio Cesar Ruiz Ferro, of "a grave accumulation of inefficiency and neglect" before and after the killings, in the township of Chenalho, as well as "passivity and indolence" in reacting to the massacre.

The commission found that police agents posted within earshot of the hamlet where the assault took place lied when they said they could not hear the shooting there, which dragged on sporadically over nine hours.

One police contingent reported that it did explore the hamlet for two hours at precisely the time when survivors said the killings were under way. The officers reported that they heard shots and saw that all the houses had been hastily

abandoned. But in their official report the police informed the state police commander they had "nothing new to report" from the hamlet.

Another police commander, who was summoned to the hamlet after dark by desperate villagers with gunshot wounds who staggered out to a police post, said he spent several hours helping evacuate the wounded to a distant hospital. He asserted that he did not notice until 11 p.m., more than 12 hours after the shooting began, that there were also dozens of dead bodies piled up on the bank of a nearby stream.

Later, the commission found, higher police officials altered the day's reports with crude smudges to make it appear that their agents had been ordered to the hamlet much later than they were.

The commission cited one witness, whose name was not given for his protection, who said that he saw the dark-uniformed gunmen returning to a neighboring hamlet after the killings, "where they were received with a hot meal."

The witness said that police agents tipped off the assailants that other police officers were coming to arrest them. A high-level police commander who the witness could not identify by name arrived and helped the killers to burn their uniforms and hide their weapons. The commander tried to assist the gunmen to flee, but some of them were captured soon after by state police from another unit.

During the day, when the attack was dragging on, senior Catholic Church leaders in Chiapas repeatedly called the secretary of state, the highest civilian official under the governor, to report shooting in Chenalho.

But the official, Homero Tovilla Cristiani, and the top state security official, Gen. Jorge Gamboa Solis, repeatedly told the Church officials that there was nothing to be

alarmed about. The commission said it collected "incontrovertible evidence" that that these officials knew early in the day of violence in Chenalho, but were unconcerned.

A low-level state justice official arrived at the site before dawn together with a top personal aide to Gov. Ruiz Ferro. Together they decided to pile the bodies in the only truck available and remove them. No effort was made to gather evidence at the site or carefully assess the state of the victims.

"We didn't have any means to preserve the crime scene," the justice official, David Gomez Hernandez, explained casually to Commission investigators.

But in a chilling allegation, forensic specialists working for the commission found that three of the victims, including a 12-year-old boy, did not die immediately from their gunshot wounds. The commission concluded that these villagers might have been saved had the police acted more quickly, and raised the possibility that they might have been alive when they were carted away in the truck.

From Page One

One. Their calls to conscience knew no boundaries. Echoing Dr. King's observation that "If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live," César Chávez said on the 25th day of his fast in 1968: "Our lives are all that really belong to us. So it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of (person) we are. The truest act of courage, the strongest act of humanity, is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally non-violent struggle for justice."

The United States continues to search for an affirmation of the goals that Martin Luther King, César Chávez and other leaders set out for us. Thus, President Clinton's call to build One America, not through money or technology but through the power of the human spirit, can be answered by us -- one by one, neighbor by neighbor, student by student, family by family, community by community.

This shared vision of One America will also be brought to life by the soon-to-be established César Chávez Public Policy Charter High School, which is designed to provide District of Columbia students with a rigorous education using public policy as a vehicle to engage young people and teach them critical-thinking skills. By such initiatives, we build upon the words and deeds of the heroes who came before us and send a new generation onto the trails of freedom and equality.

To share Dr. King's vision and passion for a greater nation, we celebrate his birthday one day each year but live it every day. To give full meaning to the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King and his partners such as César Chávez, we all join the chorus of the Negro National Anthem, "Let us march on till victory is won."

(Appointed by President Clinton in 1997 as Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, John Trasviña is the highest-ranking Hispanic attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice.)

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