

## WOMEN

## Some advances expected in Congress

A recent survey of women's rights activists revealed that they expect few major legislative gains during the 95th Congress, but they do expect a variety of small victories on a number of items affecting women.

• **Pregnant workers.** Congress is expected to overrule the Supreme Court this year on the issue of pregnancy coverage for employer-sponsored disability plans. The Court ruled such coverage unnecessary in December. Legislation that amends the 1964 Civil Rights Act to require employers to treat pregnant women "as other persons similar in their ability or inability to work" has been introduced and is gaining support.

• **Abortion.** A federal court overruled Congress on this controversial issue last December. The Hyde amendment, which prohibits use of federal funds for abortion except in cases where the mother's life is in danger, was blocked at that time, but Congressional and presidential support for it has given hope to abortion foes. They are pressing for a Constitutional amendment outlawing abortion and more than 90 members of Congress have sponsored various bills to that effect so far this season.

"Unless civil rights groups and women organized with great speed, it is only a matter of time before an anti-abortion constitutional amendment is passed," says Susan Tenenbaum of Women's Washington Representative.

• **Childcare.** Last year a law passed allow-

### No major gains are anticipated, but there should be some small victories.

ing parents to deduct up to \$800 from their income tax for childcare, but then Senator Walter Mondale's comprehensive Child and Family Services Act did not pass. That bill, which drew praise from feminist groups, required community and parent control of local centers that provided medical, nutritional and educational services for children. A well-financed campaign charging that its passage would mean government takeover of parental responsibility stalled the bill, but it will probably be reintroduced this session.

Women's rights groups will be joined on this issue by Joan Mondale and Rosalyn Carter, both of whom are on record in support of childcare. Still, the bill is not expected to pass easily. "Childcare seems to be the last thing on everyone's agenda," says Mary Grace Plaskett of NOW.

• **Women workers.** A proposal to make ten percent of federal civil service jobs part-time has been introduced. Essentially the result would be to bring more women with young children at home into the federal work force. Labor is generally opposing the measure.

Congress is also considering a higher minimum wage that would benefit low-paid women workers. Women's groups will also try to have the amount of tips an employer can credit against the mini-

mum wage lowered. That measure would benefit waitresses more than waiters who often have higher hourly wages, though all restaurant personnel who receive tips would benefit.

• **Rape.** Most reform of laws concerning rape has been on the state level, but a measure banning use of a victim's past sexual history in rape cases will probably pass the 95th Congress.

• **Social Security and taxes.** Legislation to end the Social Security system's sex discrimination has been introduced. The measure would allow nonworking wives or husbands direct rights to benefits of their working spouses. Among other things the measure would help women who did not work outside the home most of their lives who were divorced late in life. Although the Supreme Court recently ruled in this direction when it granted widowers benefits based on wives' earnings, the bill has little chance of passing.

On the other hand, action is likely on tax deductions for unmarried taxpayers with dependents, who are mostly women. A bill making their deductions equal to those of married people with dependents is likely to pass soon.

• **Displaced homemakers.** A bill providing federal funds to set up centers to train women who suddenly must enter the work force due to divorce or death of a husband

has been introduced. Passage is probable.

• **Welfare.** Over 80 percent of welfare recipients are women and children. The Carter administration will propose a welfare reform package this spring; activists are hoping for a federal minimum on payments. They also want to eliminate the need for a family to purchase a certain amount of food stamps before receiving benefits.

• **Gay civil rights.** A bill ending discrimination based on sexual preference has 25 House supporters but it probably won't pass this session. Senate supporters may introduce a more limited bill barring employment discrimination, which stands a better chance of serious consideration.

Women's rights activists point out that several proposed reform measures fail to adequately meet women's needs. For example, no national health insurance proposal includes women's special needs for contraception, abortion, drug safety and protection from unnecessary surgery. Carter's anti-recession package features public works jobs that benefit the mostly male construction industry, although women face higher unemployment.

Forty women's groups recently joined together to protest Carter's lack of action on campaign promises concerning women in high posts. They are also determined to make the 95th Congress one of legislative progress for women. "We intend to keep the pressure on," says Ann Kolker of National Women's Political Caucus.

—Judy MacLean

## ELECTIONS

## Hard times on electoral front

## Berkeley

In a stunning blow to Berkeley's left, the three candidates of Berkeley Citizen's Action, a progressive electoral coalition that already has two members on the city council, were soundly defeated in last week's city election.

The election centered on a rent control ordinance, which the victorious slate of four moderate candidates, led by incumbent city council member Sue Hone, claimed would bring "class warfare" to Berkeley. The anti-rent control forces spent \$114,000 in a campaign to defeat the ordinance, focusing their attacks on the fact that it applied to small homeowners who need to rent out a room as well as to owners of large multi-unit apartment buildings.

The ordinance was defeated 21,970 to 13,111 votes. Communist party member Mark Allen, running as a left independent, was also defeated.

In Oakland, black judge Lionel Wilson, whose widespread support included Congressman Ron Dellums and the Black Panther party, won 46 percent of the vote, putting him into a May runoff that he is expected to win.

## Chicago

Chicago's political machine may be getting old, but the April 19 mayoral primaries showed no signs of it breaking down. Michael Bilandic, the regular Democrats' choice to succeed the late Mayor Richard Daley, won 51 percent of the votes in a field of six candidates.

He will face the ritual sacrificial offering of the Republicans, this time Ald. Dennis Block, in the June 7 special election.

A low turnout for the election helped

Bilandic. His strongest challenge came from Ald. Roman Pucinski, whose 32 percent showing was slightly better than predicted. Pucinski, a machine stalwart who bucked his old buddies when they slated Bilandic, won seven of the city's 50 wards largely on a Polish and other East European ethnic vote. That bloc is slightly angry with the machine but far from lost to it.

Harold Washington, a black state senator who had the endorsement of Independent Voters of Illinois, the main white liberal reform organization, tallied a disappointing 11 percent. Hampered by a late start, no money, indifferent or hostile press coverage, a badly organized campaign and a past conviction for failing to file income tax returns, Washington made the best showing yet for a black mayoral candidate in the Democratic primary, but that isn't saying much.

Washington won 35 percent of the black vote, but Bilandic polled 48.5 percent (the remainder going primarily to Pucinski). Bilandic's total was virtually identical to what Daley ran up in the 1975 primary, when black independent votes were split between William Singer, a liberal white alderman, and state Sen. Richard Newhouse. Preliminary returns showed that Washington won four wards, including interracial Hyde Park in the University of Chicago neighborhood.

Washington's support came mainly from the black middle class, according to political analyst Don Rose. If poor blacks bother to vote, they are usually beholden to or frightened by the machine, he says. Washington got almost no votes in the northside wards along the lake shore, traditionally the base of liberal anti-machine candidates. Most white independents seemed to have stayed home.

Washington's failure to dig deeply into the black community and to win the backing of white reform leaders and voters, despite an often imaginative approach to the issues, leaves the electoral prospects against Bilandic in the regular 1979 election looking very gloomy at the moment. Singer has announced that he will run again, but his refusal to run or

to endorse anyone in this election hurts his independent credentials. IVI has been weakened by its failure to deliver for Washington and by dissension within its ranks over the endorsement. Black independents are determined to run a black candidate and will refuse to support a white liberal. Unless something dramatic happens, at least one black and one white independent, probably Singer, will cut into each other's potential base while Bilandic steers the old machine straight ahead.

Although the overall vote division was "not that much different from the last election," according to Rose, the inability of progressive forces in the city to move ahead decisively now that Daley is gone is "disheartening."

—David Moberg

## San Francisco

By Joel Parker

San Francisco. The political shockwaves set off by the passage of proposals for district election of city-county supervisors here last November have not yet subsided. A group calling itself Citizens for Total Representation filed 32,000 signatures March 31 demanding repeal of the district plan before it can take effect. If 23,000 of the signatures are upheld, a special election will take place sometime this summer to decide the fate of the measure.

Local political observers are stunned at the grass-roots victory of the community-labor coalition backing district elections against the formidable opposition of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, both daily newspapers, and ten of the 11 supervisors. But within days, repeal forces announced the creation of Citizens for Total Representation, a "grass-roots organization" who claimed that "voters didn't understand the issue" and that "district elections would throw the city into political chaos." Money behind the

repeal drive was quickly traced to the Chamber of Commerce.

The petition campaign concentrated in the offices of downtown corporations and the wealthy enclaves of the city.

At stake is access to city government. Under the present system, supervisors are elected at-large. Huge amounts of money are necessary to conduct city-wide campaigns, and most of that money flows down from the coffers of the Chamber of Commerce and the giant corporations it represents.

A surprisingly candid editorial in the January issue of *San Francisco Business*, published by the Chamber, admitted that "most business leaders, unfortunately, don't reside in San Francisco and must, therefore, rely upon their persuasive power and money to influence the course of local politics."

Backers of district elections contend that it is exactly this "financial influence" that the reform could end. Supervisors would be forced to live in the district they are elected from, with only voters in that district voting.

Change in the composition of the board of supervisors could be dramatically quick—all current supervisors would be thrown out of office in November when district elections take place, barring repeal.

The district elections coalition is now remobilizing for the special election. The original victory was garnered by building overwhelming majorities in minority areas and carrying almost every working class section of the city. Special elections are notorious for low turn-outs by precisely these voters.

The neighborhood forces behind district elections have organized a series of Community Congresses in the newly-formed 11 districts. These congresses are developing issues platforms for change against which future candidates can be measured. While different districts have met with varying degrees of success, several have involved scores of people new to the political process, and their first priority will be to defend district elections.

Joel Parker lives in San Francisco.



## THE MILITARY

# Blacks still face charges for assault on Pendleton Klan

By Bill Ritter

San Diego. It has been nearly six months since a group of black Marines broke up what they believed to be a meeting of the Ku Klux Klan at the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton, and the incident is still as controversial and unresolved as it was when it made national headlines last year.

Of the 14 blacks charged with the Nov. 13 raid on a beer-drinking party (the Klan meeting was taking place in the barracks next door), ten still face court martial on charges ranging from aggravated assault and conspiracy to commit assault to attempted murder.

In the aftermath of the attack, Marine officials found a list of Klan members, a .357 pistol, ammunition, gun powder, smoke grenades, night sticks and buck knives (routinely carried by many white Marines and called "nigger sticks") in the attached barracks.

Although the Marine Corps doesn't like to discuss it, racial problems at the camp have been widespread. In the last three years there have been some 200 acts of violence at Camp Pendleton, resulting in hundreds of serious injuries. More than a dozen of these clashes have been labeled as major brawls by the Corps itself.

## ►Klan activity well documented.

Klan activity is well documented. In addition to cross burnings and breaking windows of black officers in nearby Oceanside, Klan meetings have been advertised around the base and "white power" signs and slogans have been in abundance.

Home base for more than 32,000 Marines—18 percent of whom are black—the giant Pendleton installation came under public scrutiny from the press and a host of other interested parties in the wake of the attack, including David Duke, national grand dragon of the Klan; black Congresswoman Yvonne B. Burke; Rev. Jesse Jackson; and officials from the San Diego Urban League, which had

been the first to publicly reveal Klan activity at the base. It also sparked the interest of a wide variety of progressive white, black and Chicano groups.

The Corps responded to the unwelcome attention by jailing the 14 blacks allegedly involved in the attack, transferring and discharging some of the Klan members and steadfastly maintaining that the lid was on any racial tension that might have existed.

One of the charged blacks has had his charges dropped, one has been granted immunity and two have pleaded guilty to lesser charges. All of the remaining defendants are now out of the brig, awaiting hearings, which have been put off several times. They are being defended by a civilian defense team, headed by lawyers from San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

## ►Controversy in ACLU.

The American Civil Liberties Union has become involved in the case and has found itself embroiled in intense internal controversy as a result. Some of the defense attorneys are members of the ACLU. At the same time, the civil liberties group, through its San Diego office, has filed suit on behalf of some Klan members, charging the Corps with violating their due process and First Amendment rights by transferring them to different bases solely because of their political beliefs. The suit, filed by San Diego ACLU attorney Mike Pancer, seeks monetary damages for Klan members.

The decision to file the suit for the KKK sent shockwaves throughout the ACLU network. While the majority of members saw both the suit and the defense of the blacks as consistent with the group's purpose of defending civil liberties, other members have become outspoken critics of the group's dual position.

"The KKK lawsuit is an uninformed, opportunistic, racist piece of litigation," says Mark Rosenbaum, an ACLU attorney who is a member of the team de-



A Marine MP attempts to protect the civil rights of the Klan: the white protester had attacked David Duke of the Klan with the placard, and the MP attacked the protester during a demonstration at Camp Pendleton.

fending the black Marines. "It's totally without basis. What the Klan was involved with on that base was extraordinarily violent and provocative activity. And in the zeal to demonstrate our civil libertarianism, what has totally been abandoned is the facts of the situation."

While Rosenbaum's position is a minority one, it has stirred debate within the ACLU about goals, priorities and politics. At least one staff member in the L.A. office has quit because of the lawsuit.

## ►Not a defense of violence or positions.

In response to the controversy, the ACLU Southern California chapter recently passed two resolutions—one supporting the lawsuit, the other condemning harassment and violence against minorities in the Marine Corps.

"The lawsuit is not a defense of Klan violence, only a defense of their due process and their subsequent denial of the First Amendment," says Marvin Schach-

ter, associate executive director of the ACLU. "It is absolutely no defense of their alleged organization violence on the base or of the racist propaganda."

Meanwhile, reports continue to filter out of the giant base that Klan activity, despite the transfers, continues. One source says there have been at least four "war councils" of the Klan and other white supremacy groups since the attack to plan further violent actions against blacks on the base. Another Klan member was recently busted for copying KKK material on military equipment. Still another reportedly tried to enlist military police into the Klan's ranks.

Various groups have tried to keep the issue alive in southern California, but splits and competition among them have reduced the impact a solid support group might have.

The trials of the black defendants are expected to last into the summer.

Bill Ritter lives and writes in San Diego.

# Naval report documents Klan activity in Marines

By Todd Darling  
Pacific News Service

Camp Pendleton, Calif. A confidential Naval Investigative Services report on racial unrest at the nation's largest Marine base here has documented widespread illegal activity by a small but highly organized white supremacist group bent on fomenting racial conflict.

The report, ordered by the Camp Pendleton Marine Commandant and carried out by Naval investigative personnel, goes beyond previous accounts of the deteriorating racial situation here. It documents deliberate strategies by Marine Ku Klux Klan members and their links with outside racist organizations.

Klan tactics, listed in the 600-page report, include harassment and beatings of black Marines, arson of homes and autos of black personnel, the fire-bombing of a black social service agency and dissemination of hate literature aimed at Jews and Chicanos as well as blacks.

The report was submitted as pre-court martial evidence in the case of ten black Marines currently facing charges of criminal assault on six white Marines here last November. The report reveals a series of illegal and provocative acts carried out on and off the base by Klan members and threats of reprisals by both blacks and

whites prior to the assault.

Police reports included in the Naval document suggested the Klan fire-bombed a van owned by a black ex-Marine and his white wife living in Oceanside. Police reports also confirmed cross burnings in the area.

A military policeman quoted in the report charged that Marine Klansmen had slashed the tires of five autos belonging to black Marines and may have wired others to catch fire.

An anonymous Marine Klansman told investigators that the Klan had beaten up a black pimp who operated in the Camp Pendleton area and had carried out a "raid" on a black Marine "to warn him." The informant declined to elaborate on why the raid was made or what was done.

## ►Reports, threats and violence.

The Naval document, based on a score of interviews with military personnel here and reports from local police and FBI files, also points to Klan activity on Marine bases at Twentynine Palms, Calif., and Okinawa.

Sgt. Randal Clouse, identified in the report as leader of the Camp Pendleton Klan, told investigators that the Klan followed three basic strategies within the Corps.

The first strategy was to use any pre-

text to "put on report" to the Marine command blacks who showed signs of independence or militancy. The second was to personally threaten "the opposition," and, third, if such intimidation failed, to carry out "violent vigilante action outside the base."

The Marine Klansman admitted he was a member of the California State Klan organization and added that members of civilian racist organizations had urged him "to take more violent action against blacks on the base." Other racist organizations in contact with Marine Klansmen, according to the document, included the San Diego Nazi party, the National States Rights party and an obscure local group called the White Brotherhood.

The report also linked Marine Klansmen with illegal racist attacks outside the base. An anonymous Marine informant from inside the Klan told investigators that the Klan was "probably responsible" for last October's fire-bombing of the Oceanside Urban League office near Camp Pendleton. Police reports of the molotov cocktail raid on the office of the national racial justice organization agreed with the informant.

## ►Crucial part of defense.

The Naval report, entitled "Racist Extremist/Dissident Group Activities," is expected to be a crucial part of the de-

fense at the court martial hearings. The defense is arguing that black Marines—faced with an increasingly desperate situation in which the Marine command had failed to counteract, or even acknowledge, the physical threat to blacks—had mounted a show of strength in self-defense.

"The [Naval Investigative] report clearly indicates mounting racial tension. The Marines [command] were well aware of it. The blacks were acting in self-defense," one of the civilian defense lawyers, David Weitzman of Berkeley, says.

The Naval investigation concentrates on activities surrounding the Nov. 13 assault. The attack culminated a tension-filled week of racial incidents—a fight in the mess hall, a brawl on a Pendleton bus, and reported threats of reprisal actions by whites in which, according to the report, "all hell was going to break loose."

The report quotes varying estimates of actual Marine Klan membership but concludes that the number 50 given by some of those interviewed is exaggerated. The average troop strength at Camp Pendleton is 44,000. The base information said no figures are available on a racial basis.

Although each person interviewed by the Naval Investigative Service was asked if he knew of any black organization on the base, no one reported any.

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