

IN SHORT

Don't mourn—advertise!

American ad agencies have been moving enthusiastically into Zimbabwe ever since Robert Mugabe's landslide victory, according to *Advertising Age*. While the white business community has been dismayed by certain recent changes—such as news broadcasters' practice of adding "comrade" before the names of all African and socialist leaders—the admen are keeping their chins up and their wallets open.

"We all know that industry could be nationalized tomorrow and business could grind to a halt," said Stuart Ingram of Barker McCormic, "but at the moment I'm feeling more optimistic."

Added Michael Hogg of Michael Hogg Advertising: "Mr. Mugabe today looks like a very clever man. When he was in Mozambique he was saying some pretty hefty things, but today he seems a very organized individual." Class struggle will do that to you.

Charity case

Perhaps opening the workplace to a new breed of charity drives, a U.S. district court ruled July 1 that the federal government illegally discriminated against the National Black United Fund (NBUF) in favor of the United Way—a violation of NBUF's free-speech rights. Judge Barrington Parker told the government to make its on-the-job Combined Federal Campaign "accessible to all on an equal basis."

This ruling on a four-year-old suit was the biggest legal blow yet to the United Way, which reaps three-quarters of the Campaign's \$90 million annual proceeds (see *In These Times*, Oct. 24, 1979). Whereas the NBUF focuses on programs "designed to combat prejudice and discrimination," the judge ruled, the United Way's emphasis is on "old-line organizations and programs which, although of unquestionable merit and worth, fail to address the basic and central economic and social problems ever present in a minority community."

Overreactors

The Dresden nuclear power plant near Chicago—last in the news when its "disaster hot line" broke down during a June 19 accident drill—may have other defects.

The NRC has ordered tests and shutdowns for Dresden and 22 other plants in 14 states, because they may be incapable of shutting down. All 22 plants depend on the same type of control-rod system that recently caused a "mysterious malfunction" at the Browns Ferry plant in Alabama, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*. While preparing for a routine maintenance shutdown, operators at Browns Ferry had trouble dousing the fission reaction because some of the control rods refused to seat properly—a potentially disastrous delay during an accident.

With God on their side

Episcopalian minister Dr. G. William Pollard is out with a new book entitled *Let's Talk about Theology and Nuclear Energy*, according to a New York state paper called *New Times Weekly*. Dr. Pollard writes that a believer in the Bible cannot reject nuclear energy, which fueled the Creation itself. Noting that our sun and all the other stars run on nuclear power, he concludes that a universe "from which nuclear power has been outlawed would be a dead universe."

A fellow of the American Nuclear Society, Pollard was commissioned to write his good words by the Breeder Reactor Co. of Oakridge, Tenn.

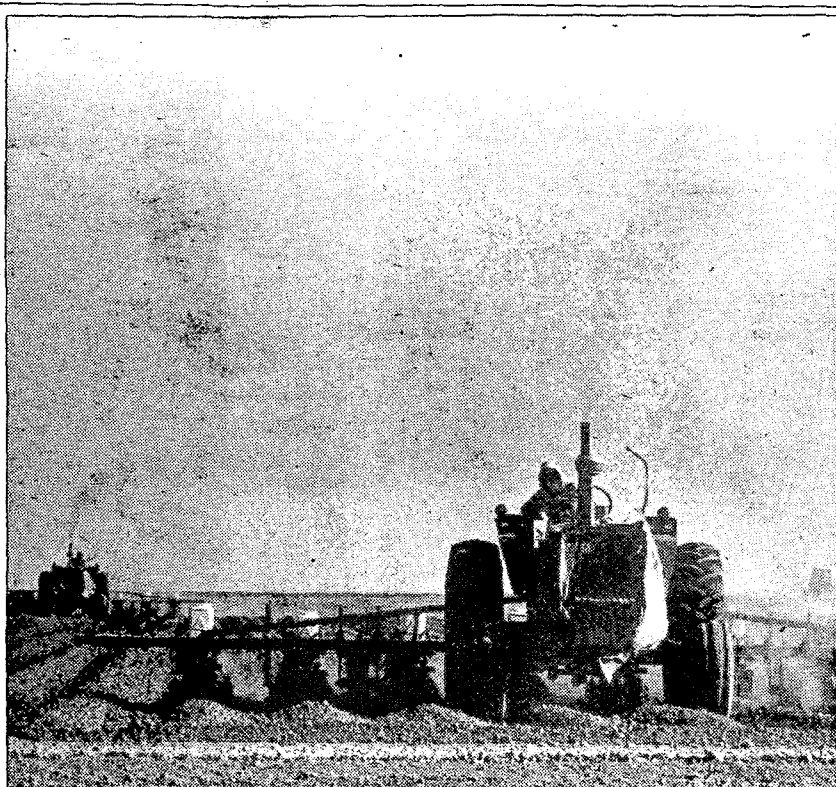
National Tenants Union

Tenants' activists from 50 cities in 25 states recently held a conference at Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University. After three days of "how-to" workshops (such as "how to win in housing court"), the conferees formed a new national lobbying organization, the National Tenants Union. Coming on the heels of several local rent-control victories—particularly the June 10 defeat in California of the landlords' Proposition 10—the success of the conference rings a hopeful note for a growing movement.

Rumor

There's been mention of a new group being formed by mothers with draft-age children. (Why not fathers too?) Members would insist on being registered along with their offspring, asking the government, "Why are you just picking on 19- and 20-year-olds? We want to go too."

—Josh Kornbluth



And now, free water for the richest families

In the last days of its 1979-80 season, the Supreme Court made some farmland owners very happy. It upheld, in a unanimous opinion, the right of farmers in California's Imperial Valley to ignore a 1902 federal reclamation act that limits to 160 acres the size of farms eligible to receive water from federal irrigation projects.

The ruling—which reversed an appellate court decision—was the most recent of a long line of setbacks for champions of the 160-acre limit, which has been bullied to death in this era of up-to-150,000-acre farms. Even though the majority of farms in Imperial Valley are much smaller than that, the clout, and the momentum, are with the giants.

Imperial Valley is a hot, dry desert bordering Mexico. Although the soil is rich, farming would be impossible without irrigation. In 1928 the Boulder Canyon Act authorized a project to bring water to the area. The Imperial Irrigation District (IID), representing the valley's landowners, successfully lobbied for the construction of the All-American Canal, which carried water from the Colorado River—rerouted by the Hoover Dam—to the Imperial and neighboring Coachella valleys.

With irrigation, Imperial landowners were able to greatly increase the value of their farms. The only problem was this 160-acre limit, which made the owners of the larger farms ineligible for free access to the water. In 1933, during the waning weeks of President Hoover's administration, the IID got an assistant secretary in the Department of the Interior named Northcutt Ely to write a letter of "exemption" to the acreage-limitation rule. Ely, who two weeks later began a new career representing the IID, neglected to consult with any lawyers at Interior on the matter.

It was only in 1963 that Department of the Interior solicitor Frank Barry—responding to pressure from a barnstorming Imperial Valley doctor named Ben Yellen—ruled that Ely's 1933 letter was "clearly wrong," and that the lands of the Imperial Valley are subject to the 160-acre rule. This began the long legal wrangle that just culminated in the Supreme Court's ruling against Yellen.

The justices said that all Imperial

Valley lands irrigated before the 1928 act were exempt from the acreage limitation—so they still can make use of the federally-funded canal. As a group called National Land for People (NLP) points out, this amounts to a taxpayers' subsidy for the owners of giant farms.

But the Court's opinion was vague enough to open up the possibility that all lands *not* cultivated before 1928—which adds up to 350,000 acres in Imperial and Coachella, according to Yellen—are still subject to the 160-acre restriction. Yellen and NLP are now checking on irrigation histories.

The fight to hold down the size of farms in southern California may well be a quixotic one. Never in the 78-year history of the reclamation act has it been strictly enforced. Many farms have grown in size and complexity to the point where they resemble other big business organizations, according to a recent study. A congressional bill, HR6520, that would exempt 1.5 million acres of rich federally irrigated land from the acreage limitation was passed June 19 by the full House Interior Committee. "The people who were skeptical in 1902," says NLP's Maia Sortor, "were right."

—Josh Kornbluth

Steelworkers rally for jobs

"We don't want to wait until our plant is closed permanently like many other steel mills," Alice Peurala, president of the 8,000-member United Steelworkers Local 65 at U.S. Steel's South Works mill in Chicago, told 500 laid-off steelworkers and their supporters gathered at the Dirksen Federal Building on July 8.

Although South Works was officially closed for only two weeks at the end of June, Peurala says, "we discovered that U.S. Steel did not expect to have enough orders to reopen the entire plant until next spring. This could mean a nine-month layoff for thousands of our members. Some have been laid off for more than six months."

Massive layoffs have now begun to hit the steel industry in the wake of the drastic decline in auto pro-

duction, and many observers expect a further permanent shrinking of the industry.

"If U.S. Steel doesn't want to make steel, then the U.S. government should look into taking over the mills," Local 65 trustee Roberta Wood said at the rally. Ken Massengill, legislative director of District 31 in Illinois and Indiana, added, "If we're going to subsidize the corporation with tax money, then either we should take them over as community projects or tie subsidies to jobs."

Workers from other rank-and-file committees to save jobs at the abruptly shut down Wisconsin Steel mill (*In These Times*, May 7) and at the threatened Hammond, Ind., and Chicago plants of the Pullman corporation joined in the demonstration, along with other labor union representatives.

Gus Savage, a black independent Democrat who won an upset primary nomination for Congress from Illinois' second district (*In These Times*, April 9), told the rally, "There's an old labor song: 'Which side are you on?' It's about time that organized labor finds out which side publicly elected officials are on—especially black officials. Black officials should be the first to join organized labor in the fight to save the country."

—Dan La Botz

PBS' private enterprise

In our June 4 issue we reported on the trend toward ads, commercials and for-profit enterprises off public TV. Now two recent developments suggest the selling of public TV is a growth industry.

At the June annual conference of PBS station representatives in Washington, D.C., PBS execs pushed hard for stations to adopt what president Larry Grossman called "enterprising new marketing initiatives." He stressed the chancy nature of government funding in recession years.

PBS station reps heard a variety of suggestions for making money off a public station, in order to boost the station's budget. One of the favorites was to retail PBS programs on cable and on videocassettes and discs. Other suggestions included the sale of satellite transmission time to private buyers, since the equipment allows for more use than PBS stations need at this time.

Meanwhile, the Carnegie Commission's second report, issued in May, also pushed the private-profit hustle hard. It suggested the formation of a separate, nonprofit payable TV network called Pace. Programming would stress "high culture" performing arts, an alternative to the mostly movie fare of cable now. Pace's successes could then subsidize public programs.

These proposals have the advantage of generating funds to support an alternative to network TV and cable. But whose alternative, and how much of one? The private-profit hustle makes public accountability even more difficult than it is now.

One PBS board member, an ad executive, was quoted in *Advertising Age* on cable and cassette retailing: "Why shouldn't public TV fare be just as available as commercial programming?" We may also have to ask, "What's the difference between the two?"

—Pat Aufderheide

IN THE NATION

THE DRAFT



A Vietnam-era lawsuit challenging the all-male draft has been revived to block Carter's revival or registration.

Lionel Deavingne

Equal rights may scuttle registration

By Josh Kornbluth

DRAFT REGISTRATION IS COMING back, but a nine-year-old class action lawsuit may stop it dead in its tracks. On July 1—the day before President Carter signed his registration proclamation—a three-judge court was convened in Philadelphia to consider *Goldberg v. Tarr*, which challenges the Military Selective Service Act as sexually discriminatory. The Act allows the president—at his discretion—to order the registration of all men 18 to 26 years old.

Goldberg v. Tarr was first filed on June 16, 1971, on behalf of four young men who argued that an all-male draft was unconstitutional. The suit was dismissed at one point, but Donald Weinberg, the lawyer for the plaintiffs, won a reversal in the Court of Appeals. Then in 1972 the Vietnam war ended, and in 1975 President Gerald Ford removed the registration requirement. *Goldberg v. Tarr* went nowhere until Carter revived the registration issue this year.

After the Philadelphia court refused to let the American Civil Liberties Union intervene in *Goldberg v. Tarr*, the ACLU helped Weinberg secure new draft-age plaintiffs while it jumped into federal district court with its own—almost identical—suit.

Weinberg hopes for a favorable ruling from the three-judge panel in time to prevent the reopening of registration on July 21. The suit would then, in the fall, move on to the Supreme Court—which is likely to agree with the plaintiffs, according to Jay A. Miller of the ACLU's Illinois division. "We think the court is going to find it very difficult" to rule against a suit like *Goldberg v. Tarr*, he said, "after about 10 years of ruling in favor of equality between the sexes."

If he's right, and the all-male registration is ruled unconstitutional, the Court is likely to send the matter back to Congress.

And that's where the fun begins. Congress—which rebuffed Carter in his initial attempt to transfer the funds necessary to register women along with men—would have to decide either to include women after all or to hold off on registration altogether.

In that situation, opponents of registration are hoping, the legislators' sexual biases will override their hawkish instincts. Those in Congress who most strongly favor peace-time registration "are basically southerners who will never let women go to war," according to Representative Pat Schroeder (D-Colo.).

The success of *Goldberg v. Tarr* as a tactic to end draft registration depends on several ifs. If the courts do tell Congress to either cancel registration or change the wording of the Act from "males" to "persons," and if the lawmakers cannot bear the notion of sending their daughters to the front, the suit will have done its job. But what if Congress goes the other way and institutes an equal-opportunity registration?

"Then we'd be in a stronger position," Gloria Steinem told *In These Times*.

"There will be twice as many people to resist."

Others, however, fear that the lawsuit might have a detrimental effect on the peace movement. "I don't think there's been a very enthusiastic reception from anti-registration activists," Jack Colhoun of the National Anti-Draft Teaching Project said of the suit. "I think it's potentially very divisive. It diverts attention away from registration. It makes it really difficult to build an anti-draft movement when parts of the movement are pushing for the inclusion of women in the draft."

"It's very important for the left to take a clear stand against the registration of women," concurred Jane Midgley of the Washington Peace Center. The problem hinges more on the timing of the suit than on the validity of its claim that men and women should get the same treatment.

"I feel they are moving toward including women in the draft anyway," Midgley said. "The case just makes it a little harder for unity among us."

Steinem disagrees with that view. "I don't see why it's divisive," she said. "I'm certainly against a peace-time draft and registration. But women ought to have the right to decide for themselves whether to register or not. One can and should oppose both the draft and a discriminatory draft."

According to Steinem, conservative leaders are opposed to admitting too many "troublemakers" into the armed forces. "Their bias against women," she said, "is like their bias against minorities. If you look at the history of the NAACP on the draft, it was the same."

Right now, she added, "we have the worst of both worlds—the Cold War and discrimination."

Marchers for Gay Pride

On a June night in 1969, New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village. The patrons surprised the cops by fighting back and the neighborhood erupted for several nights.

Each June since 1969 the Stonewall Riot has been celebrated with demonstrations and marches nationwide, the biggest ones in San Francisco and New York. Political splits among this year's march organizers in New York City resulted in two distinct planning committees. Nevertheless, at its peak the march was roughly 70,000 strong.

As usual, diversity was evident—a diversity that has been a source of both strength and struggle within the lesbian and gay liberation movement. Dentists and lawyers marched alongside hustlers and drag queens. A parade band played disco tunes while others chanted, "Koch and Carter, go to hell! We all say it's right to rebel!" There was a lesbian-feminist contingent, and there was a group promoting The Advocate Experience (a gay version of est). Gay Catholics stood on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral, while the Gay Atheists League held signs saying, "Religion is the problem, not the solution."

Lesbian and gay socialists from the Lavender Left Network marched under banners that linked gay issues to other struggles for civil and economic rights. At its first regional convention in May, the Network passed a resolution in support of the Miami uprising, drawing a connection between the outraged response to an all-white jury's condoning police violence against a black man and the demonstrations provoked by an all-straight jury in San Francisco going very easy on the murderer of gay activist Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone.

—Scott Tucker

Kate Ellis reports on her personal reactions to the march. Page 20.



Jane Melnick