

OPERATION PUSH

Today, Operation PUSH, in alliance with these organizations and individuals, is officially launching a campaign called "HUMAN RIGHTS, U.S.A." Its focus will be on the violation of human rights of Americans in our jails and prisons. PUSH's goal is to secure 100,000 letters from prisoners all across the nation to be presented to President Jimmy Carter in April challenging him to investigate the American Penal System. President Carter has expressed human rights as a critical element in his foreign policy, for which he should be congratulated, yet he has shown far less concern at home. We intend to help him focus his attention on violations of human rights at home as well.

HUMAN RIGHTS, U.S.A. will call attention to five primary concerns: (1) the overcrowding in many of our penal institutions; (2) the inhumane conditions present in many jails, e.g. lack of proper medical care; (3) the lack of effort and effectiveness in rehabilitation; (4) many in jail have not been found guilty of anything, they are simply too poor to afford the bail-bond and are languishing in jail awaiting trial; and (5) the racism and discrimination apparent in who is in prison (namely, black, brown, young and poor) and who has the power over prisoners' lives.

Our sources indicate that there are around 400,000 men and women in American jails and of these approximately 300,000 are black and brown and the overwhelming majority are young and poor. According to the American Correctional Association Directory there are a total of 401 federal and state prisons nationwide with a capacity of 238,358 (251,557 actual inmates) costing the American public \$346,615,000 (\$17,305 per person per year in new facilities and \$9,600 per person per year in old facilities). These are the direct economic costs and do not reflect other indirect costs (e.g., loss of production or families having to go on welfare) by these individual and/or their families.

We are asking that these 100,000 prisoners write directly to Rev. Jesse L. Jackson and/or Operation PUSH, 930 East 50th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60615 and give us their name, age, the prison in which they are incarcerated and whether they are serving time or awaiting trial. We are asking them to describe any conditions which they feel to be a violation of their human rights, i.e. lack of quality or quantity of food, lack of health care, lack of effective rehabilitation programs, etc. Lastly, we are also asking them to appeal to us to take their letter to President Carter calling upon him to investigate the conditions as it relates to violations of human rights in jails.

HUMAN RIGHTS, U.S.A. is simply an extension of the organization's "PUSH For Excellence" (EXCEL) youth movement. Our young people have several basic options before them—to be in school learning; languishing on corners unemployed; incarcerated in our jails; or going to an early grave trying to prove to themselves and society (too often in anti-social ways) that they are somebody. PUSH contends that it costs less (economically and socially) to educate and employ our youth than it does to incarcerate and alienate them. It is toward the end of saving and redeeming this generation of young people that the Human Rights, U.S.A. campaign is directed.

Although he held a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university, he, as was the case with other college-trained Blacks, found difficulty in pursuing his career interests, and, therefore, entered the postal service in 1943 as a Letter Carrier.

White officially began work for the National Alliance in 1947.

NEW SCHOOL

A new elementary school will be built in the vicinity of Bonanza and Sandhill Roads and Eldorado High and Dell Robison Junior High School will receive classroom additions pending approval of the March 14, 1978, bond election for \$39,770,000, according to Dr. Herman Van Betten, District G member of the Clark County Board of School Trustees.

Most of the new construction in District G is planned for the Sunrise Manor area, where vacant spaces are filling in rapidly, according to Van Betten. Funds would also be available for furniture and equipment.

He said Eldorado High and Robison Junior High are "crowded now and will have serious problems housing students if construction isn't started shortly on additions to these schools."

An expanded little theater and bleachers at the football field are planned for Valley High. Dr. Van Betten further stated, "older schools in District G—as they are throughout the county—are scheduled for carpeting and repairs to asphalt play surfaces and roofs, where needed."

UNLV Job Outlook

The job outlook appears bright for this year's graduates of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Dr. William Dakin, director of placement at UNLV, says the nation's employers are expected to hire 16 percent more new college graduates this spring than they did a year ago.

Citing a year-end hiring and salary report from the College Placement Council, Dakin said the 600 employers who were surveyed expect job opportunities for qualified women and minorities to be excellent, especially for those with technical or business backgrounds.

"Hiring is expected to be selective, though, and top students will definitely have the advantage," Dakin remarked.

He said 70 percent of the employers queried expect business conditions to improve in the first half of this year. Five percent expect a decline, while the remaining 25 percent anticipate no change.

Competition remains keen for engineering and computer science majors, while demand for business and accounting majors is softening somewhat, the placement director said. The federal government will offer more Civil Service jobs, up 23 percent, providing more hope for liberal arts graduates who often find employment with the government.

Dakin said the UNLV Career Placement Office is experiencing a substantial increase in recruiting activities over last year, particularly in business and education fields. Recruiters from hotel and restaurant firms continue to lead the list.

There will be at least 31 organizations recruiting at UNLV during the month of March, Dakin said.



NAPFE

The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees (NAPFE) has won the right to a new election to determine who shall be the "exclusive bargaining agent" for employees of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

NAPFE lost a close election to the American Federation of Government Employees, last August, for exclusive representation for all EEOC employees. However, in a decision issued January 19, 1978, Hilary M. Sheply, Regional Administrator for Labor-Management Services of the Department of Labor, Region III, set aside the mail ballot election because of "unfair labor practices" by EEOC management.

Robert White, president of the National Alliance, hailed Mr. Sheply's decision as a "moral victory" for NAPFE.

"We welcome a new election to determine union representation for EEOC employees. What the decision says, in essence is that EEOC employees should have a freedom of choice, without any undue influences from EEOC management," White said. "With an open and fair election, we are certain we will do well. The National Alliance, from its very beginning, has been an aggressive fighter for the rights of its members."

Coming to the aid and support of NAPFE in its petition for a fair election was Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, who also is chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

When first organized in 1913, the Alliance was formed for the immediate purpose of preventing the elimination of Blacks from the railway mail service.

Today, the more than 100,000 members of the Alliance represent persons of all races, creeds, religions and sex, according to White.

"This factor distinguishes us from the practice and policies of the old lone craft unions in the postal and federal service," White said. "Our steady growth, despite predictions of failure, can be attributed to the reputation we have earned in the effective representation of our members in grievance, adverse action and equal employment cases."

White, who was elected president of the National Alliance in 1970, is a former outstanding sports star at Howard University, where he earned varsity letters in football, basketball and track. He was captain of the Howard football team and selected to the MEAC All Conference Football Team in 1937-38. In addition, he was named the Most Outstanding Male Student at Howard in 1937.



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