SOMALIA

she knew was poisonous water. Her desperate act was intended to provide temporary comfort for a child which she knew would ultimately die whether of dehydration or the muddied water's poisons.

In another instance, our small group was able to save the life of one child by transporting it by jeep to a make-shift hospital where an understaffed medical team was able to help salvage an innocent life even as others were foredoomed to death.

The unrelenting flood of refugees is taxing the resources of a drought-stricken, underdeveloped country with one of the world's lowest standards of living. Yet Somalia's indigent population has had to absorb close to 1.5 million refugees into a country whose native population numbers 3.5 million. When proportionally adjusted to America's population, this is as if our country had to absorb seventy, yes seventy, million helpless and starving poor.

The Somali refugees now live in makeshift encampments on barren territories carved out of the desert. Most of them live in ramshackle huts or worse. Many of the children are deformed by the bloated stomachs which indicate starvation.

Death is all pervasive in Somalia. The monstrous brutality of the pro-Soviet Ethiopian regime, coupled with a drought which is affecting all of East Africa, has resulted in widespread death and misery.

While famine and drought are crucial contributing factors to the steady stream of refugees, it does not help explain the reason why these refugees are streaming only in one direction: toward Somalia and away from Marxist-Leninist Ethiopia.

The roots of the Somalian tragedy derive in part from the historical decision to retain Africa's colonial borders. As a consequence, many African ethnic groups have been divided between several countries and are not allowed to live together in states which correspond territorially to historical and cultural traditions.

This pan-African problem will result in continued upheaval in the decades ahead. And yet those who argue that ethnic peoples such as the Somalis should remain a divided nation, ignore the fact that national identity remains a principal source of upheaval and discontent in Africa and throughout the world.

Clearly, what is needed is a far-reaching negotiated solution to the struggle for control of the Ogaden. Yet such a solution appears to be very far off. What is needed immediately however, is massive international humanitarian aid; aid in the neighborhood of $500 million. Our International Rescue Committee mission has recommended that the U.S. commit itself to $150 million of such aid.

The world community responded with amazing generosity to the plight of Indochinese refugees. The world must respond with similar compassion to the horrors which plague Somalia. If we do not have the compassion to help the dying mothers and children from the Ogaden, then most certainly we will not have the compassion to solve the severe problems which affect minority and other poor Americans at home.
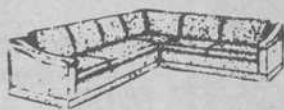

FOR THE POOR—Clark County Commissioner Woodrow Wilson has presented a $5,000 check to Poor People Pulling Together representative Erma O'Neal while Willie Andrews looks on. The money came from an anonymous donor to help buy office equipment and supplies for the non-profit organization which provides counseling and technical assistance to nearly 300 area residents on a monthly basis.

CLARK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BUSINESS WORKSHOP

Clark County Community College and the United States Government Small Business Administration will co-sponsor another Pre-Business Workshop. The one day workshop will be held Friday, June 19 from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at CCCC, room 1057.

The workshop will focus on the information needed to start a business. The topics that will be covered are:

Organization and Planning; Legas Aspects; Financial Need; Insurance; Advertising; and Accounting Records.

Space for the workshop is limited to 40 people. A fee of $10 will be charged which includes refreshments. The workshop awards .06 credits CEU (Community Education Unit).

For further information call 643-6060, extension 268.

AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM

Senior Citizens are invited to take advantage of Clark County Community College's automotive program which offers seniors free labor on tune-ups and minor auto repairs.

The free labor program for seniors started nearly two years ago and since then CETA trained students have serviced over 600 automobiles belonging to local senior citizens.

While all labor is free, Ray Karnes, instructor for the CETA class reminds seniors that parts must be supplied by the owner of the car.

Once a car is brought into the shop students perform a diagnostic check before proceeding with repairs. This procedure will also determine if any major automotive problems exist.

For an appointment call 643-6060 ext 424 weekdays between 9-11 a.m. and 2-4 pm.

RECORDS SEMINAR

Clark County Community College in cooperation with Silver State Chapter of Association of Records Managers and Administrators will sponsor its second annual "Records Management in the 80s" Saturday, June 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Las Vegas Convention Center, South Hall.

ARMA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of records and information management. The objectives of ARMA are to provide interest in Records Management; to provide sources of information, standards of professionalism, and both national and local expertise for those engaged in the administration and/or operation in Records Management fields.

For further information call Diana Crites, program chairperson, 385-5747.