

Point of View

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:
I am terribly disturbed over the incident that occurred last Thursday morning at the Westside Story.

A senseless act of injustice was displayed by the Metropolitan Police Department when the SWAT squad, canine officers with dogs and detectives barged into the Westside Story during the wee hours of the morning last Thursday, without warning, and yelled to all customers and tavern employees to "freeze".

Several witnesses to the incident have told me that prior to that raid, about four officers came into the Westside Story during a wet T-shirt contest and circulated among the patrons but were friendly and cordial. Witnesses said nothing irregular was taking place on stage or elsewhere in the club.

When the raid took place the officers were very rude and used "scare tactics". Some of the people were handled roughly and the dogs were menacing the crowd. Some of the people were taken out of the club and arrested on

what witnesses told me to be "trumped up charges".

I have later learned that the police proceeded on to the Peoples Choice, corner of H Street and W. Owens, entered with the dogs, yelled "freeze" and harrassed some of the patrons with yelling and threatening them with the dogs. Police disarmed the Club security guard and took one patron outside with the dogs biting at the rear of the body. They claimed that the man had thrown something at the dogs as they were leaving the Westside Story. I have received a report that the man was taken to the hospital and that 18 stitches were required to close the dog bite wounds.

There is certainly evidence of "double standards" by the police when handling situations such as took place on the Westside last Thursday.

I recall a similar incident that took place at Joe Julian's Restaurant several months ago. A raid was made there and they cited the club for

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PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Today is Thanksgiving Day. But somehow it does not seem to be reminiscent of Thanksgiving Days of the immediate past. This day in nineteen hundred and eighty-one finds the country engaging new policies which seem to have as their ultimate objective the subjecting of the poor to unnecessary hardships.

Approximately twenty million Americans are hungry today. And no matter how many Thanksgiving baskets are delivered, there are many who will not eat. The numbers are expected to grow as the Reagan programs continue to be pushed through in our Congress.

Gone are the commitments to the poor which were started by John F. Kennedy when he first observed the "little girl" in the Appalachian Region eating from a garbage can and decided something should be done to correct this. Gone are the days when Lyndon Johnson added to those commitments by instituting his Great Society programs. What is now in their place is insensitivity to the needs of the poor and an unwillingness to direct the necessary resources to meet these needs.

On this day as the wealthy feast on that ugly looking creature called a turkey and proclaim how great it is to live in this country, the hollowness of these words will ring the loudest to those who now are only able to eke out a bare existence. We have

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Hard To Sell "Trickle Down"

THE SAME OLD STUFF

By Norman Hill

When the Republicans took the White House and the Senate one year ago, the political pundits and analysts were quick to assert the basis for the G.O.P.'s success. Republicans were victorious, the argument went, because they had become the party of new ideas. Supply-side economics—with its argument that if you decrease taxes substantially you will increase industrial productivity — was being trumpeted as the theoretical innovation that would resuscitate the economy.

Now come Budget-Director David Stockman's comments to newspaperman William Greider: supply-side economics was merely a new language and argument used to conceal standard Republican practice: tax cuts for the rich. "It's kind of hard to sell 'trickle down' noted Stockman, referring to the traditional

Republican practice of cutting taxes for corporate interests and the wealthy. "So the supply-side formula was the only way to get a tax policy that was really 'trickle down.' The Kemp-Roth tax-cuts were "always a Trojan Horse to bring down the top/tax/rate."

While one must be surprised at the candor with which Stockman spoke, there can be no possible deflection of the indictment of the cornerstone of the Reagan Administration's economic program contained in Stockman's remarks. The Reagan program is nothing new, it is merely a rehash of the old Republican "trickle down" approach.

While most of the controversy over the Stockman affair focuses on his manipulation of budgetary figures and his personal deception in "foisting" the Reagan-Kemp-Roth tax and budget cuts on an "unwitting" Congress,

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To Be Equal

PUNISHING THE POOR

By Vernon Jordan

The Administration's proposals for welfare reform amount to punishing the poor.

A "reform" that would cut benefits, force poor people off the rolls, make people choose between holding on to low-paying jobs or becoming totally dependent on welfare, and force others to do make-work jobs for their welfare benefits is no reform at all.

Federal welfare aid is concentrated in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program. It is therefore the most

important children's program of the federal government. That's often overlooked.

Under the Administration's plan, the lives of those children would be bleaker than they are at present, and that is bleak enough. It has swallowed whole all the myths about welfare that have become so popular over the years.

One of those myths is that welfare recipients don't want to work. In fact, most who are able to work do work. They earn low wages and need welfare to supplement their incomes.

By targeting cuts in

social programs at the working poor, the Administration would



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create disincentives to work.

A study of the proposal by the Univer-

sity of Chicago's Center for the Study of Welfare Policy found that those cuts would mean that families who work and get welfare aid would be little better off than those who don't work at all.

At the same time, the Administration wants to introduce something called Workfare, in which recipients would be required to work enough hours in non-paid public service jobs to "earn" their grants.

This return to a modern version of the old workhouses has been tried in several states, and it is a complete flop. The workfare program tried in California when President Reagan was governor

discourage people from applying for welfare, and impeded the efforts of participants to find real jobs.

Workfare is just a thinly disguised method

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