

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION**NAARPR SENDS CRITERIA TO CLINTON FOR NEXT ATTORNEY GENERAL**

The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression has called on President Bill Clinton to nominate a person for Attorney General who has a proven track record on fairness, justice and upholding the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

In a letter signed by NAARPR Co-chairs Anne Braden, Angela Davis and Lennox Hinds, the

NAARPR stressed the importance of the Attorney General's post in framing the moral climate in the country.

At its meeting, the NAARPR Executive Board called on people across the country to flood the White House with wires, letters and telephone calls (202/456-1111) demanding that President Clinton nominate such an

Attorney General. The text of the letter follows.

Dear Mr. President,

The National Executive Board of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression at its January 23, 1993 meeting in Detroit, Michigan, expressed its deep concern that the next nominee for Attorney General of the United States be a person with a proven track record in their commitment to fairness, justice, and upholding the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights.

The post of Attorney General is the most important cabinet position, in a critical and sensitive area of government. Such an appointee would be expected to provide leadership in framing the moral climate in the country, determining how our constitution will be interpreted and assisting in the nomination process for the federal judiciary.

Our National Executive Board is not proposing a list of candidates for the position of Attorney General, more importantly we are advancing some criteria which should inform your selection of a nominee to this most important post.

While the past 12 years have seen a rise in hate violence, police attacks against civilians and unprecedented attacks on rights of trade unions, your administration has the opportunity to appoint an Attorney General and Justice Department committed to equal protection of the law.

The next Attorney General must act to stop racist, anti-Semitic, and other hate motivated attacks. The new Justice Department must use every tool available - beginning with enforcement of the Proxmire Anti-Genocide Law - to end hate violence.

The next Attorney General must act to stop attacks on African American, Latino and other progressive elected officials. The new Justice Department must abandon the practices of the Reagan and Bush years that civil rights activists were criminal - most commonly seen in the trials of voting rights advocates in the South.

The next Attorney General must reverse the policy of the previous administration that poured great amounts of Justice Department resources into so-called "reverse discrimination" cases.

This policy promoted the myth that discrimination against people of color has ceased and that whites are now the victims of the greatest discrimination. The new Justice Department must reject that myth publicly, for it feeds racist fear in our population and actually encourages acts of racist violence.

The next Attorney General must act to safeguard the rights of women. The new Justice Department must vigorously prosecute sexual harassment cases, violence against women cases and halt the attacks on women's health clinics.

The next Attorney General must act to defend gay men and lesbians from violations of their

rights. The new Justice Department must help guarantee that those who commit crimes against people based on a person's sexual orientation are prosecuted.

The next Attorney General must act as a counterweight to the rush by the Supreme Court to carry out executions. The new Justice Department must be a partisan of the Racial Justice Act and other measures designed to end the racist and class biased imposition of the death penalty.

The National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression is the only nation-wide, multi-racial, multi-national coalition with the purpose of organizing united, mass struggle against repression. We have helped to free hundreds of victims of racist and political repression. We have helped to pioneer legislation to and police crimes and hate violence.

Our members include trade unionists, lawyers, judges, doctor, clergy, elected officials and many other segments of the population who come from a diverse background of political and philosophical viewpoints, but all of who oppose racist and political repression.

In the 20 years of our organization's existence, our country has seen the pardon of Richard Nixon and the pardons made by George Bush. Our country has seen the dismantling of civil rights and civil liberties.

Now is the time to turn it around in the Spring of a new beginning. It is time that the people of the United States again be able to view the Attorney General and the Justice Department as a friend.

Sincerely,

Anne Braden,
Angela Davis,
Lennox Hinds

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY**WELFARE STATE**

By R.K. Brown

A recent national poll concluded that whites are tired of blacks living on welfare. It was suggested that blacks are lazy, and don't want to work. This was also tied into the statistics, showing that the government has given millions of dollars to minority programs in the last 30 years. Conservatives have made some progress in persuading the public that blacks are the reason for the nations problems.

Obviously, blacks and informed whites realize that this is just another, in a line of conservative race baiting. If we examine all of the circumstances surrounding the American welfare state we can clearly see, that polls and statistics, when dealing with minority concerns, completely lose touch with reality. First and most importantly, if blacks had been given their rightful compensation established during reconstruction, we wouldn't be discussing this topic.

The government allocated millions of acres of land, which

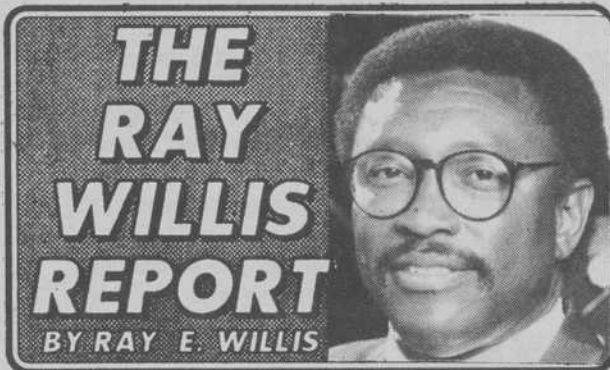
was to be given to the newly freed blacks. Each family was suppose to receive 40 acres and a mule, along with seeds and tools. This was the purpose of the homestead act. Even the conservatives realized that if blacks received land, they would gain instant physical wealth. At that point every step was taken to insure that in no way would blacks gain control of large portions of land. If blacks couldn't acquire land, they would have to go back to the plantation, and work for the master. This racist philosophy has existed ever since.

One of the most basic misconceptions taught by conservatives, is that blacks are being "given" all of the services to stay alive. The real truth is, minorities live in the most taxed community in this country. While rich

whites get tax exemptions, minorities give up millions of dollars to the federal and state governments. My question is where does the money go? It most definitely doesn't come back to our communities.

Racist propaganda has suggested in the last 30 years, the government has provided tens of millions of dollars to public assistance. So what! If the money was given to blacks in a lump sum, or through property, I would have no problem. In that way blacks could invest the money, or come up with other positive ways of controlling their destiny.

What we find however, is that the government purposely wants to provide "rations" so these communities just survive. They would much rather give back our
(See Welfare State, Page 4)

**WHEN WE'VE ARRIVED**

Have you ever gone shopping while you were dressed up? If you have, and if you're Black, odds are you were made to remember the event because of some unusual circumstance.

Here's what I'm talking about. A Black man in a suit enters a store. Because he's hooked on ties, he proceeds directly to the tie rack to try to find one that catches his fancy.

What happens next goes like this. He's turning the carousel rack trying to find the perfect tie. The man is so engrossed, he doesn't see the female shopper who tries to catch his eye as she approaches him. She walks right up to him, touches his shoulder, and when he turns around, asks, "Sir, can you tell me where women's hosiery is located. I can't seem to find it."

Baffled, the "clean" brother looks at her. As he does, several thoughts run through his mind in a split second. "Should I react negatively and tell her off? The nerve of this woman to approach me with an assumption that simply because I'm wearing a suit and tie I must be an employee of the store. So, this is what White people think of us. If we're dressed up, in a clothing store and without a name tag, we must work there because we're Black."

Then his mind snaps back to reality. He composes himself and politely responds. "Mam, I regret to inform you that first of all I'm not an employee here, and secondly, I don't know where women's hosiery is located. Sorry I can't help you."

A nonplussed look suddenly appears on the women's face when she realizes he knows her assumption about him was based on the color of his skin.

Defensively, she says, "Oh please forgive me. I thought you worked here."

No matter what our station in life, we will always, it seems, be seen only as service workers. There's certainly nothing wrong with being a sales clerk or a stock person in retail store. It's honorable work and I respect anyone who gives an honest day's work for a day's pay.

If nothing else the tendency for Whites to see you only in a limited capacity if you are Black is a barometer of the times. When the day comes that a Black man wearing a suit is not automatically identified without cause as being a sales clerk or a minister, then, and only then, will we have truly arrived!

Until next week >

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