

Rangel

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committees.

"Rangel as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee would be a critical slant for Nevada and give support to our Minority Whip Sen. Reid," said County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates who invited Rangel to her home to discuss African-American issues. "We have to encourage African-Americans to get out and vote and fill out those (census) forms."

"A major problem of African-Americans is they are not keeping up with the success of other Americans," said Rangel, blaming poor education, lack of training, and drugs as obstacles to success. "(With) All the progress we made during the 60's...we still haven't got over the pain of Clarence Thomas."

Rangel said there will be vacancies to fill on the Supreme Court in the next eight year. Democrats need

six seats to take over Congress. Republicans are vacating 22 seats.

"The polls are good. We have outstanding (democratic) candidates. We have more people registered as Democrats and its a presidential year," Rangel said.

"The difference between the parties is great," Berkley said. "Democrats are for minimum wage, medical coverage for all Americans and Social Security.

Republicans will not approve any measures that will help the working people."

"We really have a chance. Rangel's job is to get Blacks elected and involved," Atkinson-Gates said.

"If I'm chairman (of the Ways and Means Committee), I deal directly with the whole economy," Rangel said.

He wants to introduce a congressional African Trade Bill to increase U.S business with Africa.

Zimbabwe

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represents most of Zimbabwe's white farmers.

"It looks like there's a rush on," Grant said. Elsewhere Thursday, squatters armed with knives, clubs, spears and guns continued to seal off the homestead of farmer J.J. Hammond for a third day in the Mvurwi district 60 miles north of Harare. The squatters demanded Hammond sign over ownership of his property and leave within seven days.

A white neighbor was beaten and slapped while negotiating Thursday for the release of Hammond and his wife, said Malcolm Vowles, a Commercial Farmers' Union official in the district.

On Monday, farmer Ian Kay was hospitalized after being

tied up, beaten and whipped by about 25 assailants, and a black police officer was shot dead by squatters on his property east of Harare on Tuesday.

The crisis has prompted six Western donors, including the United States, to suspend about \$10 million in land reform aid, said Carlos Lopes, head of the U.N. Development Program in Harare. The other donors were France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the World Bank.

Zimbabwe is suffering from its worst economic crisis since independence from Britain. In elections expected to be called in May, the opposition Movement for Democratic Change poses the biggest challenge to Mugabe's rule since independence.

Slavery

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southern Sudan.

CSI claims to have secured the freedom of some 30,000 slaves since 1995 and returned them to their families through its initiative of buying slaves.

An estimated 100,000 southerners are still currently held in bondage in northern Sudan as "chattel slaves or

subjected to slave like conditions in Sudanese government concentration camps often euphemistically called "peace camps for the displaced."

The United Nations Humanitarian Office in Nairobi says, however, that it is opposed to the redemption of slaves.

"We agree that the

abduction of women and children is an unacceptable practice. But we say there should be an increase in negotiations which should lead to freeing of abductees, and not paying for their freedom," Sharad Sapra, a spokesperson in the U.N. humanitarian office in Nairobi, told IPS.

Sapra says although the

government claims not to have links to the militia, it should use its influence to secure the release of the militia's abductees.

"I would not like to link the army with the abductions, but the government can influence the return of abducted children and take a strong position against the raids," he said.

Reparations

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The Tulsa Race Riot Commission created by the State Legislature ruled 7-4 to give reparations to survivors of this tragedy. The commission didn't rule any dollar amount, leaving that up to the legislature.

Almost all reparations claims have relied on government or legislative rulings. In San Francisco, however, voters in the Bay View Hunters Point area, an underdeveloped and neglected black neighborhood, tried to take the matter to the voters in a ballot initiative.

The ballot Measure F would have waived city and property taxes for five years to homeowners of houses in the area under \$500,000. While the measure lost at the polls, it did get 37 percent of the vote in a city that is only 11 to 12 percent black.

While the sponsors of the ballot measure, tried to co-opt the reparations issue, it helped to spotlight an area that needed some economic attention. While making the case for black reparations will be difficult, the debate raises questions that need to be addressed.

Since the slaves who helped to build America are dead, are blacks owed anything? Some will say they're owed nothing. Others will say yes and call for affirmative action-style programs, money, education trusts and loan funds. Others will just want the issue to go away. But it won't, as long as Conyers question remains unanswered.

Lee Hubbard is a syndicated columnist who writes on urban and national affairs. He can be reached by e-mail at superle@hotmail.com, for any questions or comments.

Vouchers

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been run as a state-sponsored monopoly.

But in addition, charter schools and the use of vouchers will help to break up the top-down bureaucratic institutionalized control of education.

Too much by way of established political power is tied up in how our educational system is organized.

That politicized control must be challenged if we are to create an environment for educational vision — not educational bureaucracy.

Dr. Fulani is currently a leading activist in the Reform Party and chairs the Committee for a United Independent Party.

She can be reached at 800-288-3201 or at <http://www.Fulani.org>.

Miscellaneous

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Engineer Pipeline Safety

The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Gas Pipeline Safety Engineer in its Las Vegas, NV office. This is an unclassified position within Nevada State Government and is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Commissioners for the PUCN. Responsibilities include technical investigations of gas utility facility design, construction, operation and maintenance to assist in safety regulation or jurisdictional natural and LP gas facilities.
Qualifications: Bachelors degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in engineering or a closely related field, with 3 or more years of progressively responsible experience in regulation, design, construction, operation and/or maintenance of gas pipeline or similar facilities; OR an equivalent combination of education and experience. Applicant should have a good working knowledge of engineering and utilities. Knowledge and application of Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations of 49 CFR 192 is preferred. Completion of standard Federal Pipeline safety courses a definite plus. Licensure by the State of Nevada as a Registered Professional Engineer (an additional five years of experience may be substituted for the registration requirement).
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Send resume to: Bruce Palmer, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada, 1150 E. Williams St., Carson City, NV 89701-3109. Fax: (775) 687-6110.
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