

# Informed Sources

## Lawsuit

boxed air

A Los Angeles-based consumer activist group, the Coalition For Economic Survival (CES), has joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture in a lawsuit that seeks to overturn a recent court decision, that if allowed to stand, could cost consumers millions or even billions of dollars in overcharges for short-weighted food products.

The decision delivered by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in a case brought by Rath Bacon and General Mills said: Packages may weigh less than what they say on the label provided the difference is within "reasonable variations"; only overpackaging is illegal, not short-weighting.

Government inspectors can no longer remove items from sale even if sampling shows short-weighting. In order to remove short-weighted items each package will now have to be examined and removed one at a time.

CES spokespersons denounced the court's actions as a violation of the "basic concept of a product label as a reliable, truthful representation of the amount inside the package."

In announcing the action to join in the suit, which is being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, CES noted that according to a 1973 California Department of Agriculture estimate Californians were overcharged \$23 million per year for short weighted meat products alone. A 1974 survey of flour and flour products by the department "found an average of 35% short, and by as much as 6%." CES concludes that unless this latest court decision is overturned such "rip-offs may now be called 'reasonable'."

## Nowell

sign of the times

As the crow flies, the distance between the Council Chamber of Los Angeles City Hall and the Supervisors Hearing Room in the County Hall of Administration is about three blocks. For a council member wanting to make the journey, it takes about a year and costs up to a third of a million dollars. For Louis Nowell, the trek did not even begin.

Nowell had availed himself of the generosity of the Pacific Outdoor Advertising Company and Foster and Kleiser for a short sojourn by the shores of the blue Pacific at Puerto Vallarta. It was suggested that Nowell's vote on December 16, 1975, on bill-boards and advertising signs may have been affected by his partaking of the good life. Nowell was incensed, at that suggestion.

For those other members of the Council who voted against the proposed plan of the City Planning Commission to control bill-boards and advertising signs, a few have found favor with both Pacific Outdoor Advertising and Foster and Kleiser.

For example, to help him in his incumbency, Art Snyder has been given \$1400 by the two companies; John Ferraro is in for \$400 dollars; Gilbert Lindsay for \$500; Peggy Stevenson received \$1250; Zev Yaroslavsky got \$500; and David Cunningham received \$350 from Foster and Kleiser.

By John Knorp

## OPIC

Encouraging firms to exploit

The Overseas Private Investment Corporation is an agency chartered by the Congress and financed by the US Treasury. While not known to the general public, it has a tremendous impact on jobs in the US and on the actions of giant multinational corporations who are now fleeing from the organized sectors of the US in search of low wages and low taxes overseas.

What OPIC does is insure these corporations against loss from "expropriation, war, inconvertibility of currency, revolution or insurrection." The cost of the insurance is nominal. In other words, the OPIC makes it easy for firms to move to areas like Singapore, Chile, Brazil, etc. because if they get into trouble with the local workers and this results in ultimate takeovers of their properties because they have cheated on taxes, suppressed local unions and workers or supported a shaky dictatorship whose currency becomes worthless they can go to OPIC for a refund for the value of their losses. This is often a most important prop for runaway plants.

This is what happened to ITT and Kennecott in Chile. ITT was paid \$125 million by OPIC because

ITT's properties were nationalized because ITT had conspired against the elected government of Chile and had violated law.

OPIC is backed by tax dollars. Over 90 countries are on the OPIC list of approved areas for insurance. Billions of dollars of protection are in force.

To increase pressure on the Board of Directors of OPIC, and to encourage congressional action, Chile support committees and all other interested organizations, and individuals are urged to do the following:

1. Have local unions pass resolutions protesting OPIC insurance in Chile.

One idea is to urge unions to pass resolutions calling for an amendment to present OPIC legislation, requiring that OPIC not insure investors in countries which deny the right of free association to trade unions. Have unions send copies of the resolution, or separate letters to the Board of Directors of OPIC, and copies to their congresspeople.

2. Chile Committees should also send letters to the Board of Directors, and copies to their congresspeople. (See page for related stories)

Signed, Union Committee for an All-Labor AFLD

## Coming to terms with sexism

By Sharon Milan

Sticks and Stones may break my bones but words will EVER hurt me.

At a tender age, I was taught that certain words were taboo; among them slang expressions for races and ethnic groups. The reason was clear and unmistakably just: people are individuals, not predetermined members of Class Inferior or Class Superior. Nevertheless, I heard them while growing up, and I learned that some words have the power to hurt.

Unlike broken bones which mend and are then forgotten, words didn't go away. They attached themselves to people, situations, and things. Sometimes they nearly managed to create an independent existence — a status quietly cheered by Lewis Carroll and some religionists. I was not then aware of another insidious use of language, one that covertly yet convincingly had us believe that women are fundamentally inferior to men.

I call it insidious because it is not simply a handful of expressions; rather, it is built into the very fibre of the language. To talk about all of us, we said "mankind" or "men" ... to talk in general about one of us, we said "he" ... to talk about our ancestors, we said "forefathers." References to women showed us as helpless ("damsel in distress"), dependent ("the weaker sex"), undesirable ("pushy broad"), irresponsible ("dumb blonde"), eternally im-

mature ("girl"), or clearly a class apart ("authoress", "lady doctor"). There are many, many examples of each category. It has taken a good deal of probing and linguistic analysis to demonstrate just how women's historically secondary position has been a most difficult acknowledgement: one realizes the very means by which one thinks and communicates assumes female inferiority. The oppression is not only outside, it has been nurtured within, meaning I, as a woman, have unknowingly played enemy to my own dignity. That hurts.

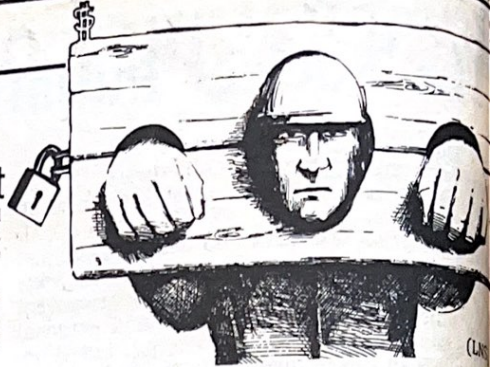
And so begins the difficult examination of one's vocabulary and the often frustrating search for alternatives. For example, "fisherman" still has me slumped. Using "fisher" discourages communication while "one who fishes" encourages linguistic contortion. "Fisherwoman" is perilously close to "fishwife" — besides, it refers only to females. I am not comfortable with "fisherperson" although I, unlike TIME magazine, opt for equality over verbal elegance. In their "Women of the Year" issue, you may recall, they found the suffix person "ridiculous" sounding. As an admitted stopgap to my problem, I have chosen to avoid the subject of fishing altogether.

Alongside an enormously heightened awareness and the purging of sexist language from one's own vocabulary, there are — especially in the beginning — other painful attendants to change; a constantly bruised and raw sensitivity, the dividing of the world into friend and foe, a kind of ON

GUARD! posture in new and many old situations, an immunity to humor, and frequent negative responses from others. I was stunned and disbelieving; it was not simply a matter of ignorance as I had thought. The hardest part of injustice is to face the fact that you are seen as irremediably inferior by someone else for then there is nothing you can do. And when that some else is most of the people you know ... well, I spent a lot of time drawing doodles on brick walls to hide the pain even from myself.

Gradually, the forces of survival began stirring and my dominant feeling of pain gave way to rage. It was a magnificent rage, if I may say so, a feeling to match even the finest George C. Scott performance. In the beginning it felt good because it was power and conviction and strength. It was pure. I had mounted the tiger and while I could not always control its direction and pace, at least I was not compromising. There were times when I wanted to destroy every single book in my library that referred to human beings as "men" and "he" (leaving me with a very portable library indeed). I felt as strong and invincible as Helen Reddy's song. All this time I played scorekeeper with abandon, madly tallying the linguistic sexism of family and friends, coworkers and acquaintances, and the media. As month followed month with pretty much the same winners and losers, my rage grew unabated.

Sharon Milan is a local free-lance writer.



## Aid to exiled Chilean labor leaders hit by AFL-CIO

A leading spokesman for the AFL-CIO has severely criticized European and other labor organizations for giving aid and employing the exiled leaders of the Central Unica de Trabajadores (CUT) from Chile.

Andrew McLellan, the InterAmerican Representative of the Department of International Affairs for the AFL-CIO has complained that union officers in Chile who are operating with the permission and consent of the military dictatorship of the Pinochet junta, after the CUT and other unions were outlawed, are being "attacked systematically from abroad by exiled totalitarian leaders of the dissolved CUT, who

falsely accuse them of collaborating with the junta."

Studies by the North American Congress on Latin America, Pacific Studies Center and a number of independent journals in the last three years have concluded that the AFL-CIO American Institute for Free Development, an auxiliary of AFL-CIO actually accepted military coup in Chile.

A 1974 study in San Jose, Costa Rica, "Our AFL-CIO role in Latin America," pointed out that leaders of the junta's labor movement were appointed immediately after outlawing of all other labor unions were composed of AFL-CIO graduates.

But one cannot live in perpetual rage without damage. There is no place to go, no place to escape wholly. I found a women's growth group (a "consciousness raising" group). It was a warm haven, but limited to four hours a week. I could find no real cure. I continued to live in anger but I didn't know what else to do. I read Thomas Wolfe.

I had also read Samuel Beckett and so I knew about waiting. Waiting for equality is possible. The trick is to feel it. And finally, you discover the meaning you give to yourself. The comes when a woman knows despite the ignorance and prejudice and the oppression is not an inferior person. She doesn't need the mirror-mirror wall. She knows.

I have no illusions; my language will not be eliminated. My lifetime. But it will be eliminated. So we continue to out the major and minor changes that will help us to look at other anew, beyond the personal myth. For language changed or be damned, many women and men have examined the evidence and judged each other to be beings equal in dignity and worth. It is a journey.

Editor's Note: We disagree with the Helen Reddy reference. The editor felt it was too obscure. A writer felt that most people would recognize "I Am Woman" However, the writer noted the editor left in the Thomas Wolfe Samuel Beckett lines. Two different worlds?



# SUBSCRIBE





# Evacuating Los Angeles

## Pentagon plans for nuclear war

ave Lindorff

ear war, the unthinkable nightmare, is being  
ered seriously by the Pentagon. But the target  
lanning efforts in this "war-game" is not the  
Union, it is the American people.  
rogram is called Crisis Relocation Planning  
is designed to make possible the evacuation of  
s of people from "potential targets" of  
r bombs.

the program is probably  
Pentagon brainstorm for  
money. At worst, it may  
system designed to  
late Americans, through  
accepting first use of the  
y America in a crisis.  
efense Civil Preparedness  
(DCPA), an office of the  
ment of Defense, is han-  
e program, and has been  
second-guessing the  
ns' target priorities for  
area of the nation. Five  
y one" targets are located  
ornia. The closest one to  
geles is March Air Force  
San Bernardino-Riverside,  
both the Soviet Union and  
ted States in possession of  
nt quantities of bombs to  
each other hundreds of  
ver, it might be asked what  
riorities" could play in all

The DCPA answer is that  
nuclear war might not be "all out."  
As Al Villere of the Los Angeles  
office of the State Office of  
Emergency Services said,  
"Former Defense Secretary  
James Schlesinger raised the  
mini-war concept, saying the  
Soviets might target only a few of  
our military sites, and we would hit  
theirs, in a sort of diplomatic  
statement to say things had gotten  
serious."

Villere was working on the  
program under a federal grant  
until California was forced out of  
the program, at least temporarily,  
by legislative analyst A. Allen  
Post. Post convinced the  
legislature last year to refuse to  
accept the Defense Department's  
planning funds for Crisis  
Relocation, saying the idea was  
unworkable. "It purported to be  
something it wasn't," he said. "It

was like trying to sell an insurance  
policy that doesn't provide any real  
coverage."

The DCPA hasn't given up on  
California however. It is hoping to  
convince the legislature to approve  
the funds for the next fiscal year  
budget.

Even if this attempt fails, which  
is likely, DCPA planning efforts  
are continuing even for California.  
At the Agency's "Region Seven"  
headquarters in Santa Rosa,  
agency planners continue working.  
Their latest product, a document  
called "Working Draft CPG-2-8-A  
through E" is dated January 1976.

While California did not accept  
the federal dollars for "Phase I" of  
Crisis Relocation Planning, which  
is "the preparation of the overall  
state plan," other states have, and  
pilot study projects are underway  
in Colorado Springs, Duluth,  
Minnesota, Great Falls, Mont.,  
Macon, Georgia, Oklahoma City,  
Tucson, and several other cities.

A limited-edition "public"  
document stamped "For civil  
preparedness nuclear defense  
planning purposes" (publication  
number TR-82, April 1975), lists  
priority one and two target areas in  
every state. Los Angeles and Long  
Beach comprise a priority-two  
area.

During the Cold War days, when  
Americans were being urged to dig  
\$5,000 holes in their backyards to  
weather the holocaust, the Pen-  
tagon was anticipating, or  
claiming to be anticipating, a  
sudden attack "out of the blue"  
from the Soviet Union. In those  
days bombs were delivered by  
plane, and a warning time of only a  
few hours was expected.

Obviously, the mass relocation  
of the 3 million residents of the  
L.A.-Long Beach area would not be  
possible in that time, much less the  
15 minutes a missile would take to  
get here. And indeed, Crisis  
Relocation Planning is based on a  
three-day lead time. In recom-  
mending the concept,  
Schlesinger, who also announced  
for the first time publicly that the  
U.S. might use nuclear weapons  
first, and in fact against a non-  
nuclear nation, said, "Since it is  
quite possible that a period of in-  
tense crisis would occur before an  
attack, it may be feasible to  
relocate non-essential personnel  
from cities and high-risk areas  
during such a period."

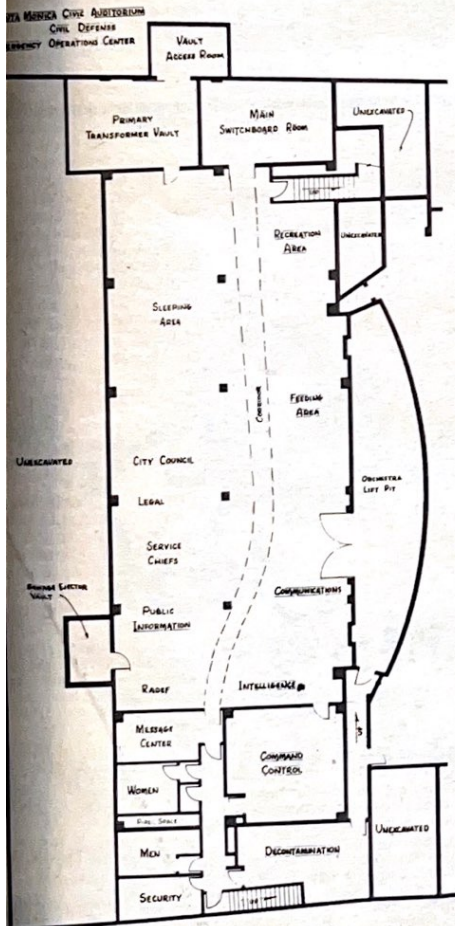
Where would they go?

In some target areas such as  
Montana, Duluth and parts of the  
East Coast, the DCPA is going so  
far as to inventory mines, to  
determine how many people might  
hide out in them. But in the  
Southland, where mines are scarce  
and environmental conditions  
harsu, relocation would have to be  
a "host areas" —out-of-the-way  
towns in surrounding areas.

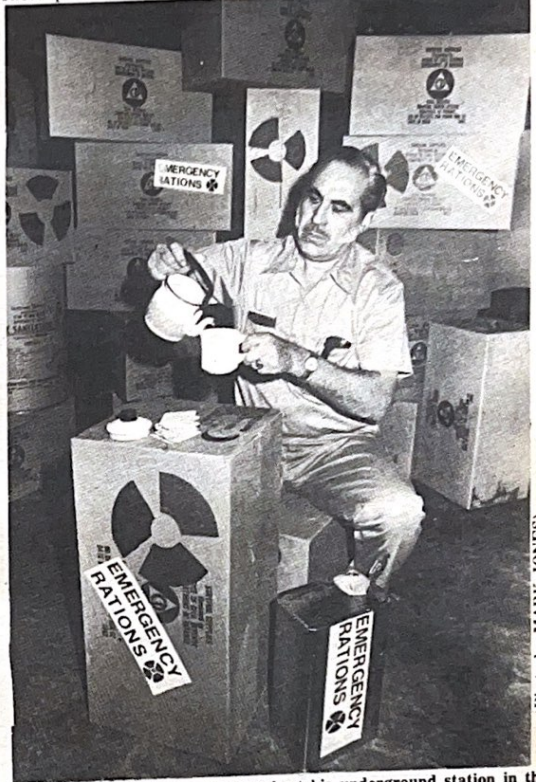
The logistics of such a massive  
population shift within the an-  
ticipated 72 hours are staggering,  
if not inconceivable. This is all to  
be dealt with in future phases of the  
Relocation Planning process.  
These portions of the program,

which await completion of the state  
plans, would deal with "allocation  
of the population of a risk area to  
appropriate locations in the host  
area," development of "operations  
plans in host jurisdictions and risk-  
area jurisdictions," and finally,  
"explaining how a relocation plan  
can be made for an organization,  
whether governmental, industrial,  
business or institutional." Indeed!  
Some people have been bothered  
by the concept of Crisis Relocation.  
Even James Haigwood, who heads  
the Los Angeles office of the state  
Office of Emergency Services, has  
his doubts. Why the sudden con-  
cern at Defense?

Continued on Page 18



LEAR HIDEOUT. Blue print for Santa Monica city officials fallout  
ter at the Civic Auditorium. Where do we go?



(Photo by MARK JONES)

CITY EMPLOYEE takes tea break at his underground station in the  
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, site of nuclear evacuation for the city  
"fathers" during time of stress. Emergency doomsday crackerbox  
serves as his dining table.

## City government goes underground

Dave Lindorff

At the same time that the  
Defense Department is pushing the  
idea of mass evacuations of cities  
during international periods of  
nuclear crisis, it is also pulling out  
its funding for emergency  
preparedness for natural  
disasters.

Earlier this year, the federal  
Defense Civil Preparedness  
Agency (DCPA), which has  
provided states with 50 percent of  
their emergency services budgets,  
decided all federal funds had to be  
used for nuclear preparedness  
activities.

Why such a decision was  
necessary in an era of supposed  
detente has not been explained, but  
it has thrown a wrench into  
California's Office of Emergency  
Services budget, which has gone  
largely into planning for floods and  
earthquakes in the past.

The gainers in this federal policy  
change are the municipal officers  
in charge of emergency  
operations. Both the City and  
County of Los Angeles, as well as  
most of the county's smaller  
municipalities like Santa Monica  
and Culver City, have what are  
called "Emergency Operations  
Centers" or EOCs.

Most of these are relics of the  
Cold War days, and were designed  
to house rump city administrations  
at taxpayers expense in the event  
of nuclear war. While these EOCs  
could of course also serve as city  
administrations after an earth-  
quake, there is no reason to put  
them underground, surrounded by  
five feet of reinforced concrete, for  
that.

On the contrary, Los Angeles  
City EOC director Mike Regan,  
sitting in his office several stories  
below City Hall, said, "This office

could withstand a direct hit by a  
nuclear weapon. It was made so  
strong that if the entire City Hall  
fell on top of it, along with all the  
adjacent buildings, it would still be  
all right." He didn't say why  
anyone would want to have city  
offices under two hundred feet of  
rubble in the event of an  
earthquake or a nuclear war for  
that matter.

Since earthquake headquarters  
are needed, these overbuilt un-  
derground EOCs will probably  
get lavish funding by the state if  
that's the only place federal funds  
can go.

But if the new direction in  
nuclear preparedness planning is  
relocation of populations outside of  
urban areas, why would the federal  
government want to spend millions  
of dollars to create giant bunkers  
in the cities to govern a wasteland?