

no separate peace

Seattle's monthly alternative magazine.

February, 1976



Everything you
always wanted to know
about free medical care ★



★ but were never told
pages four and five

HOWARD

howard meeks illustration

no separate peace

... Until all people are free



Amilcar Cabral (left) and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Seattle, along with the rest of the nation, last month celebrated the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King was one of the many great leaders of the human rights cause which has influenced almost all nations of the world.

Another such leader is Amilcar Cabral. Under his leadership, after almost 10 years of armed struggle, three-fourths of the African nation of Guinea was freed from Portuguese domination.

Gabral was the founder and secretary-general of the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of the Cape Verde Islands).

During his last visit to the United States, Cabral met with many Black Americans. Part of his message to them was, "... never forget that you are Africans." The struggle in Africa, just like the struggle of Blacks and other Third World people here in the United States, is one for identity, human dignity and brotherhood.

Gabral put it this way: "We are fighting

for the freedom of our people . . . to allow them to love any kind of human being. You cannot love if you are a slave."

On January 20, 1973, Cabral was assassinated by agents of the Portuguese government. If he and King were alive today, they undoubtedly would agree that it is crucial for Third World people to understand and support liberation struggles in Africa and the rest of the world.

King believed in non-violence. Cabral, on the other hand, fought in battle for the liberation of his country; he and his people realized that armed struggle was unavoidable, "a requirement of history."

Together, Cabral and King had a single message for those who believe in the removal of racism and the economic oppression it accompanies: Carry on the fight

for human rights until all people are free.

Essay Contest

Malcolm X, another American who led the fight for human rights, was assassinated on February 21, eleven years ago. No Separate Peace, in commemoration of Malcolm X, will accept and publish in this magazine, articles submitted by our readers. Essays should answer the question, "What does Malcolm X mean to us today?" and should be written in approximately 300 words or less.

No Separate Peace will publish the best entry. Essays should be submitted no later than March 15. Mail or otherwise deliver to:

No Separate Peace
105 14th Ave., Suite 1A
Seattle, Wash., 98122

S. Africa allied with U.S. in Angola

When Daniel P. Moynihan, U.S. delegate to the United Nations, angrily denounced foreign intervention in Angola last December, he was asked why he did not criticize South Africa's involvement in the war. Moynihan's response was that he knew of "no evidence" that South Africa had entered the war in Angola.

Yet South Africa's deep involvement in the Angola was already public knowledge when Moynihan made his speech.

U.S. corporations have invested more than \$2.7 billion in South Africa. The U.S. government has allied with the South African regime in its war against the People's Republic of Angola in order to protect that corporate interest.

Sources in Zambia estimate that South Africa has sent 2,500 to 6,000 regular soldiers into combat in Angola, has stationed 3,000 to 4,000 more troops on the border between Namibia and Angola, and has mobilized 40,000 additional army reserves.

White minority ruled South Africa is intensely interested in the outcome of the war in Angola. A Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) victory would threaten South Africa's illegal rule of Namibia (referred to as South West Africa), which was supposed to have become a U.N. protectorate long ago.

South Africa wants to maintain access to Namibia's rich supplies of diamonds and minerals. South Africa fears a victory of the MPLA would endanger not only its control over Namibia, but would threaten its very survival as a White supremacist nation in Africa.

The South African government continues to enforce the system of apartheid, which is a policy of enforced, strict racial segregation and discrimination.

An official South African publication states that Blacks in South Africa "... are present here for the sake of their labour. That labour is regulated by statute; Blacks cannot simply work at random and at will . . . they are not here . . . to acquire what you and I (South African Whites) can acquire in the sphere of labour, and the other spheres."

These regulations assure that Blacks will hold only the most back-breaking and menial jobs and will receive wages barely sufficient for survival.

In fact, most Blacks earn less than the government's official "Poverty Datum Line" (PDL), "the rock-bottom income an ordinary African family needs to keep body and soul together."

Living conditions for the Black African majority are inhumane. Half the children born in the Black "reserves" of South Africa die before the age of five, and the over-all death rate for Black children is 25 times that of White South African children.

Die Burger, the official paper of South Africa's ruling National Party, reported on November 29 that South Africa was providing "brain power, advice and supplies" to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), the two anti-MPLA groups also receiving support from the U.S.

In addition, South Africa regularly flies war materials into Angola on C-130 transport planes supplied by the U.S., and has provided armored cars with drivers to the anti-MPLA forces.

Nigeria and Tanzania, both major African states, abandoned their neutrality and recognized the MPLA after learning of South Africa's involvement. Twenty-two African countries have officially recognized MPLA as the legal governing body of the People's Republic of Angola.

The Washington Post reports that South Africa is prepared to greatly escalate its role in Angola. But South Africa is unwilling to carry the entire burden of the war without support. South Africa is capable of introducing virtually unlimited numbers of troops from its string of permanent military bases along the Namibian/Angolan border.

President Gerald Ford supports South Africa's designs on Angola, and he apparently wants another Vietnam. Following the Senate's December vote against U.S. intervention in Angola, Ford said the vote was "a deep tragedy for all countries whose security depends on the United States."

merlin rainwater

CIA exempt from War Powers Act

The War Powers Act, passed by Congress in 1974 to limit the power of the President to wage war without Congressional approval, does not apply to the CIA, according to the Ford administration.

In other words, the Act requires the President to tell Congress about wars the U.S. is openly involved in, but not about secret wars.

The Act was supposed to prevent future "Vietnams." But Vietnam started out as a secret war. Are we back where we started?

No Separate Peace is a Seattle publication covering local, national and international issues as these affect all of us as members of a working community. No single issue or effort is separate or isolated. This publication embodies and advocates the concept of combined effort for the accomplishment of common goals.

No Separate Peace is a monthly magazine funded through a grant from the American Friends Service Committee of Seattle. The magazine, with offices donated by the United Construction Workers Association, is located in the Urban League Building, 105 14th Ave., Suite A, Seattle, Wash.

The magazine is a non-profit publication. We ask a \$5 fee for yearly subscriptions. Address all correspondence — criticisms, compliments and checks alike — to No Separate Peace, at above address, or call (206) 324-3181.

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the magazine's supportive agencies. These opinions are those of the individual writers. The decision to print these views is the sole responsibility of the editorial staff of the magazine.

staff:
roger ainsley (layout)
rhonda oden gossett
brian haughton (format/layout)
merlin rainwater
beverly sims
michael steinlauf
bobbie woo (graphics)
michael woo

According to the media, the United States is hosting a Bicentennial celebration this year, and all are invited. Everyone is supposed to look back on America's past and then feel good about how "far we've come since then."

No Separate Peace spoke with some people in the Seattle area. We asked them how they felt about celebrating the Bicentennial. Here's what they had to say:

Janice Hampton, 19, youth counselor, Rainier Valley:

Black people are still struggling, and there is nothing to celebrate. Many things need to be changed. I would like to see better living conditions for people, more jobs and better housing.



Jeanette Trujillo, 25, secretary, Seattle resident:

I'm not going to celebrate the Bicentennial because I don't believe we live in a country of so called "freedom and equality." Too many minority people get exploited and discriminated against in their jobs.

Tom Thum, 31, electrician, West Seattle Area resident:

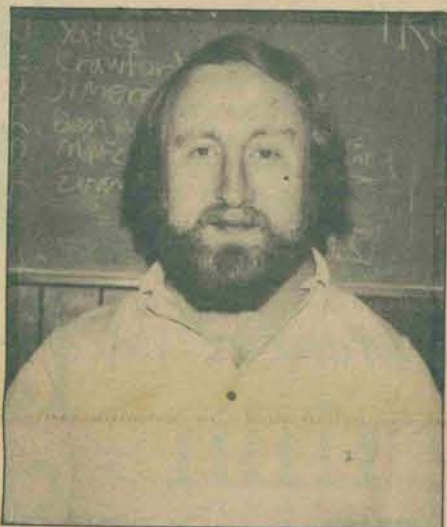
The fact that this country has been in existence for 200 years is definitely something to celebrate. However, the rash commercialism induced on the American public in the form of "patriotism" irritates me.

What some say about the American Bicentennial



Loren Brown, sales clerk, Central Area resident:

We weren't free in 1776 and we aren't free now in 1976; so we as Black people really have nothing to celebrate.



Terry Edge, 35, carpenter, Montlake Area resident:

It's over commercialized already. It ought to be a year for us to quit being apathetic and get involved at all levels - with your neighbor, with your U.S. Senator, with the world, in fact.

Randy Del Fierro, maintenance and cannery worker:

The Bicentennial means nothing to me. The world seems like it's getting worse.

Barry Snow, 23, Metro bus driver, South Seattle resident:

What do we as Black people have to celebrate? Half the brothers and sisters I run into are unemployed. I'm not satisfied with this country. I'd like to see the government do something about the high cost of food and rent and health care.



Cliff Mitchell, banker:

We as Black people haven't been recognized for our contributions in the United States of America, therefore we should not celebrate the Bicentennial.



Willie Williams, 27, community service worker, South Seattle resident:

We have had 200 years of hard work and no benefits; so we really have nothing to celebrate in the Bicentennial. Beside, I'm not satisfied with the present social and economic conditions in this country. The unemployment rate for Black people is too high.



Michael Fox, 31, attorney, Mount Baker Area resident:

The best way we can celebrate the Bicentennial is to get rid of Gerald Ford and elect a new president in November, 1976.

Richard Tallant, 29, electrician apprentice, Burien Area resident:

It's too commercialized. They got carried away. They're taking our national heritage and making money off of it. It's a gimmick.

UCWA: union that didn't just sit by the door

One June night in 1970, 20 Black construction workers met in the basement of a house in Seattle. They discussed the problem of employment in the building trades in which they were skilled.

At that time, their only concern was admission into the trade unions which had conspired to maintain an all-White membership.

The four major mechanical trades in the Seattle area, the plumbers, electricians, sheetmetal and iron workers, had a total of less than ten Black members out of a total membership of ten thousand. The goal of the 20 Black workers was to gain entry into these trade unions and to change the discriminatory policies forever.

One week later, that group of workers met again. This time they gave themselves a name and established committees to carry out certain tasks. They decided to call themselves the "United Construction Workers Association" (UCWA).

From the organization's birth, UCWA's members approached the problem of employment discrimination in a militant way. By mid-July 1970,

the Association organized demonstrations, demanding job closures where employers had all-White work crews. The group was able to generate community support and within three years those same four mechanical trades had over 400 Black members.

Young Blacks were no longer denied entry into these trades, all of which now pay in excess of \$10 per hour plus fringe benefits.

UCWA, a membership organization, is located in the Seattle Urban League Building on 14th Ave. and Yesler Way. It is governed by a Board of Directors entirely made up of construction workers. There are four full-time and two part-time staff people, five of whom are construction workers, two women, and not all are Black. The staff composition reflects UCWA's early understanding that the problem of employment discrimination in the skilled trades has never been confined to the Black community. Other minority workers as well as women have played an important role at UCWA. They too, have not had a fair chance at equal employment in the construction industry.

In 1970 UCWA's goal was to get into the trades and stop racial discrimination. They, to a great extent, have achieved this goal. Twenty Black apprentices are admitted into the Electricians' and Plumbers' unions yearly.

UCWA now sees its major role as twofold — in the community and in the unions. In 1976 it aims to re-align itself with the Black community by tackling community problems such as redlining and health care. It will continue in its work to reduce the number of unemployed persons in the Central Area.

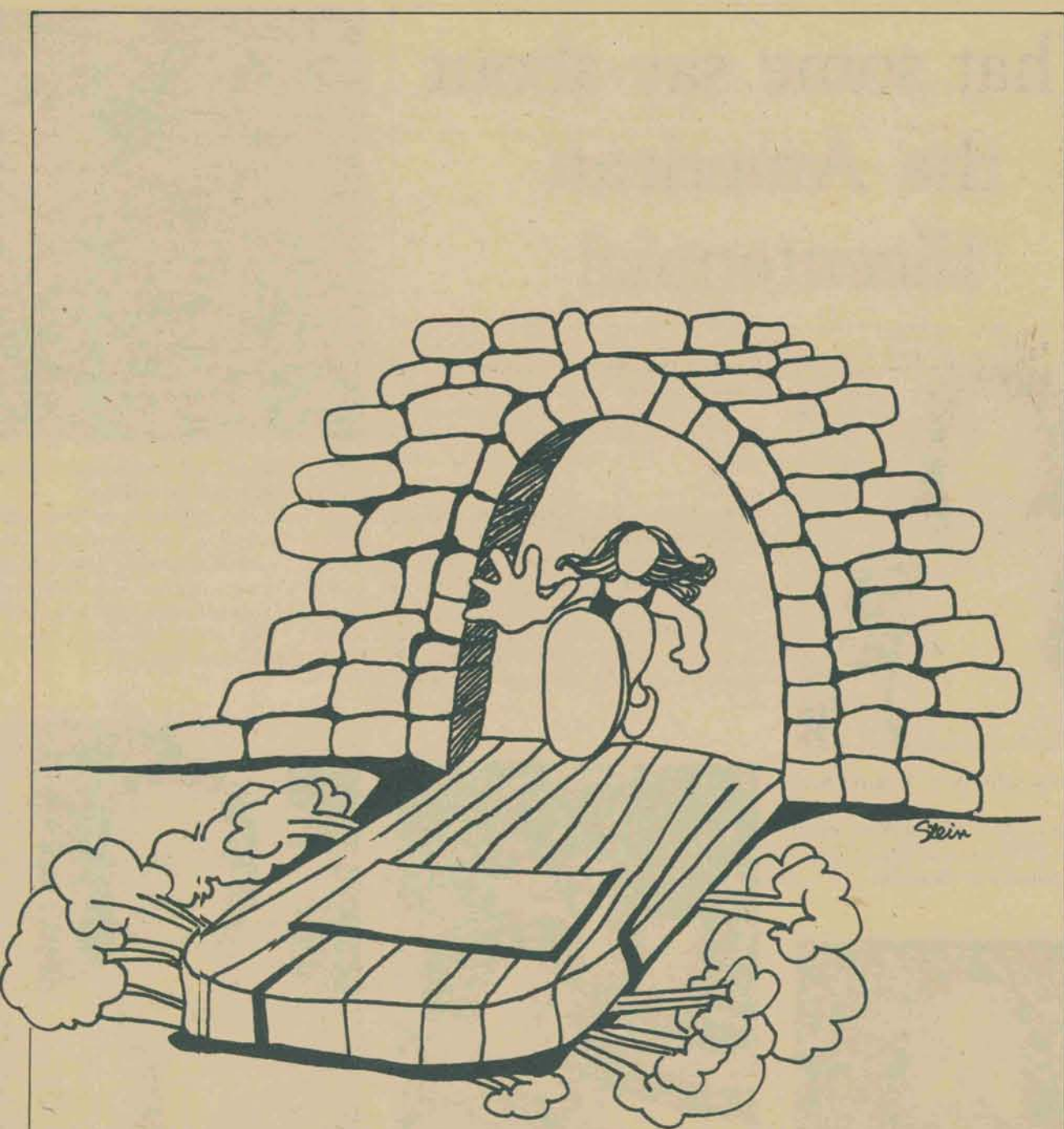
The current work of UCWA is also directed toward getting new union members to take part in union meetings in order to strive for democratic unions that truly represent the workers. Another UCWA Board member said, "We fought and got into the trade unions as Black workers. Once we got in we recognized that White workers had the same problems we has as working people. We learned from our struggle and now we think it is important to take those experiences and come together with White workers to win the bigger struggle."

UCWA recognizes that racism exists within trade unions. It also realizes this is a situation that can be overcome, "If people stick together and realize that change doesn't come overnight," says a long time Board member.

Asked about problems, UCWA's members admit they have made a lot of mistakes. Some support was lost among a few folks in Seattle's Black community which they feel is essential if they are to remain a strong community-based organization.

There have been a lot of other groups and programs that have come and gone since UCWA's beginning. UCWA's members say the key to their longevity is that the decisions of the organization have always been made by workers who had something to gain or lose in the outcome. Also, people in the community have always understood that UCWA was right in demanding decent jobs, and they have given their support even if they didn't always agree with the tactics.

UCWA will be six years old in June. When asked about the future of the organization, one board member responded, "We will change with the times but we're here to stay."



Who benefits from malpractice insurance? Patience growing thin

by David Springer, M.D.

The doctors' work slow-down in southern California reflects an attitude among doctors throughout the United States, including Washington State.

Physicians feel they need limitations set on the cost of their malpractice insurance, but are not willing to set aside even 20 days each year to provide free community health service for the poor.

Malpractice insurance protects doctors, hospitals or other medical personnel in court actions resulting from medical treatments which do not provide the promised results or create even more severe illness or injury.

The California doctors have chosen a work slow-down to protest the increased rates in this type of insurance rather than accept a state supported insurance plan which would require them to have 100 per cent of their patients be welfare recipients or spend 20 days each year in volunteer work with medical agencies devoted to the medical needs of poor and minority people.

Who are the real beneficiaries of the increasing claims granted in malpractice suits? Certainly not poor people. Poor and minority people often do not know of their health care rights and feel they have no choice but to accept the health care they are given.

Even poor people who are aware of health abuse often

cannot afford or have contact with lawyers. And most lawyers are reluctant to handle a poor person's case because the chance of convincing an all-White middle-income jury of the validity of the claim is slim.

Lawyers and clients winning suits clearly gain financial benefits from a successful suit, but the greatest benefit of malpractice insurance goes to doctors and insurance companies.

A doctor losing malpractice suits can legally continue the same practice which prompted the initial suit.

A doctor in California was sued eight times for complications from back surgeries. His insurance company paid the claims but he continues to practice the same surgical technique which led to the suits.

Malpractice insurance does not insure the patient of better quality health care. The doctor is guaranteed by malpractice insurance legal protection and, in the case where the court battle is lost, financial security that the claim will be paid.

Doctors are not being forced to do better medicine — just pay higher insurance rates.

Who will suffer the most from these higher malpractice rates? According to the Washington State Medical Association which is currently lobbying for its own malpractice bill, people who can afford to pay the cost of a doctor's visit will experience higher medical rates. But for

people on federally sponsored health programs like Medicare "... the doctor would find it almost impossible to recover the costs of providing care. Because of the burden of overhead cost, doctors will have to cut back on the amount of free and part-pay care they provide."

The rising costs of malpractice insurance means the rich will have to pay more for their health care but, for the poor, there will be no or more limited available

We must all unite in changing our basic outlook. Health care should not be under the monopoly of physicians. Patients need control of the system under which they are treated. Since poor people are forced to suffer most to insure profits for the health care system, they have the most to gain by demanding their rights.

Demand equal treatment in all health care institutions; demand to be treated in Hill-Burton hospitals; ask for explanations from your doctor in language you can understand; find out the effects of any medicine or surgery your doctor wants you to have; share your health problems with neighbors who may have had similar experiences; form community or work groups to evaluate the health care you are being given; demand a voice in all health institutions.

Remember, we want to end malpractice, not pay for it.

Some hospitals have side-stepped the law and failed to provide free medical care

by Adam Kufeld

There are some hospitals in Washington which are legally obliged to provide free medical service to people with incomes below a certain level. These hospitals, however, have been neglecting their obligation.

Some King County private hospitals have been receiving public money in the form of federal grants for facility construction. In return, under the Hill-Burton Act of 1946, these hospitals are required to spend a portion of their yearly budget on free medical care to the poor who do not qualify for public assistance or Medicare, and who cannot afford private health insurance.

However, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) and the state agencies set up to administer the program have not, until recently, attempted to publicize or enforce the law. Recent stories in the Seattle Sun, the weekly Seattle newspaper, brought the issue to the forefront.

Many hospitals have never, until recent years, filed a report, which was a prerequisite for obtaining the federal funds in the first place. Some of them have used the free-care program to write off "bad debts" in direct violation of the law. According to statistics gathered by Legal Services lawyers in May, 1974, only two hospitals funded by Hill-Burton in King County gave "reasonable" amounts of free care in 1974.

According to Legal Services, six of the seven remaining hospitals had operating surpluses of from between \$177,000 to \$5,458,000. Swedish Hospital, with the close to a \$6 million surplus, led all the others. Providence Medical Center, with almost \$2 million, was next and Group Health and Northwest Hospitals both ending up with surpluses of over \$1 million dollars.

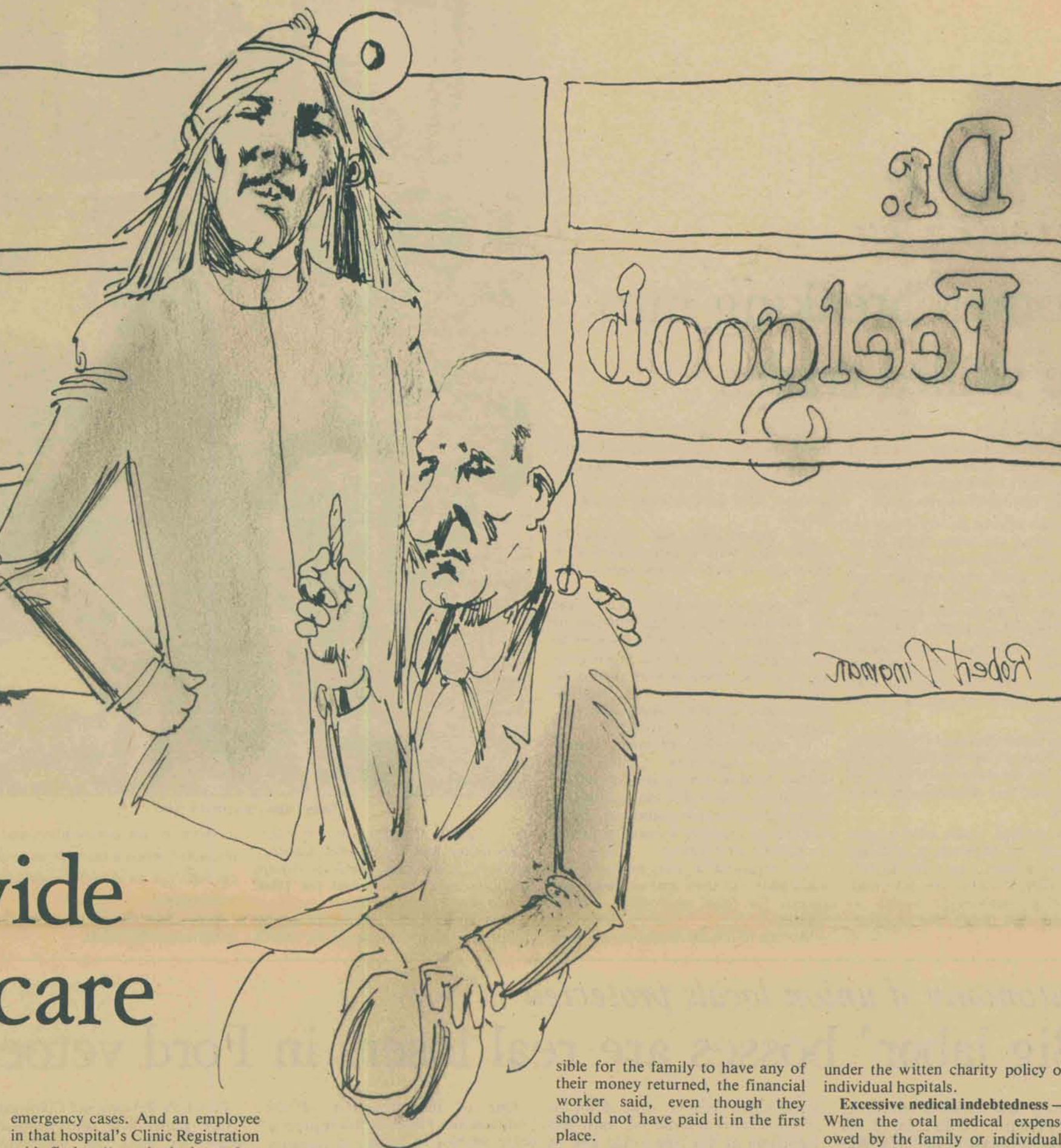
Legal Services was unable to determine the amount of free care University Hospital provided since the hospital did not differentiate between free care and "bad debts". The Hill-Burton Act required that the differentiation be made.

Though these hospitals have received literally millions of dollars and are supposed to be providing the free care, many hospital employees do not know of the program.

An employee of Virginia Mason's Patient Services responded to questions about the program. "Hill-Burton? Oh, yeah, I think I'm supposed to know about that."

In November, when a Seattle Sun reporter asked a Group Health Admissions employee about the hospital's free care policy, an employee suggested the reporter go to a county hospital or Harborview Medical Center, though Group Health received over \$800,000 in Hill-Burton funds.

University Hospital's Admissions said it offers free care only in



emergency cases. And an employee in that hospital's Clinic Registration said flatly, "we don't have free medical care."

However, according to John Pullen, administrator of the state Hill-Burton agency, University Hospital has received public money totaling approximately \$3,000,000, the most recent grant in 1973. This means University Hospital will have free care obligations until 1993.

Ballard Community Hospital, whose 20-year Hill-Burton obligations expired in August of last year, received \$617,295 in public money in 1954. In its last year it spent only \$18,000 dollars on free care, or 2.9 per cent of its federal grant.

After a grant is received, a hospital has 20 years of free-care obligations. However, only recently, because of public pressure and law suits, these hospitals were forced to post public notices and work out guidelines for regulating and enforcing the Hill-Burton Code.

The Seattle Sun took the advocate's position in its article of November 19, 1975: "Private Hospitals Illegally Denying Free Care to the Poor." In later communication to the editors of the Sun, objecting to the Sun's accusations, Northwest and University Hospitals both denied they were turning away or making it difficult for people to obtain free care.

However, the Sun was contacted

recently by people who had tried and failed to obtain free care at those very same hospitals.

One man was given the run-around by Northwest Hospital while his condition continually worsened. Eventually he was forced to see a private ear specialist he could not afford. He has now been forced by the severity of the case to see another ear specialist, this time at Virginia Mason Hospital which also received Hill-Burton funds.

By the time he gets there (he couldn't get an appointment for several weeks) he will have been running around with his ear bothering him for 40 days. And by this time, it is feared he may need surgery.

A family sought help at El Centro de la Raza, a community center on Beacon Hill, to see if there was any way they could get help in paying an outstanding bill from University Hospital's Clinic. They had already sent the hospital \$90 in two payments, they said, although they only had \$55 left in their bank account.

When the hospital's financial worker was contacted, she said she did not know why the family was not told of the Hill-Burton program; "Probably because they didn't ask," she said. It was impos-

sible for the family to have any of their money returned, the financial worker said, even though they should not have paid it in the first place.

Are you entitled to free medical care?

If you believe you may qualify for medical care through the Hill-Burton Act, visit a nearby hospital and request information. Hospitals affected by the act should be able to provide you with a brochure outlining qualifications for free medical care.

Some of these qualifications are listed below.

Medical indigency — Persons or families are considered medically indigent when they are unable to pay the full cost of the medical service they need, or if their gross annual income (before taxes) is less than:

Family Size	Gross Family Income
1	\$4,140
2	4,752
3	5,472
4	6,060
5	6,504
6	6,972
7	7,329
8	7,800
9	8,148
10	8,580

For families larger than 10 persons, add \$500 for each additional family member. In addition, families with incomes which barely exceed those figures listed here may be eligible for free medical care

under the witten charity policy of individual hospitals.

Excessive medical indebtedness — When the total medical expense owed by the family or individual, including expenses for prescription drugs, is more than 20 per cent of the preceding 12 months' family or individual income, medical care may be obtained free of charge or at a reduced rate.

Unemployment — When a single person is responsible for over one-third of the family income and has been unemployed for more than six weeks, the family is eligible for free medical care.

Non-coverage by insurance — Persons who are not covered by Medicare, Medicaid, industrial or private insurance, or who have expended the maximum allowable for care during the insuring period, are eligible for free care.

Hill-Burton free care hospitals in the Seattle area are Childrens Orthopedic, Virginia Mason, Northwest, University, Overlake, Providence and Swedish Hospitals.

Persons who suspect they have not been treated fairly by any of these hospitals may contact:

John Pullen
State Hill-Burton Agency
Office of Health Facility
Planning and Licensing, M53-1
Olympia, Wash., 98504
(206) 753-818

Assistance may be gained, also, by contacting; John Rosendahl of Legal Services, (206) 464-5911, or Country Doctor Clinic, (206) 322-6698.

*A decent wage
and new benefits*

Women breaking into the skilled trades

Women have been led to believe that they cannot successfully pursue a career in construction. They have been told that they don't make good pipefitters, carpenters, mechanics and plumbers.

And when women do work, they are usually among the lowest paid. Sixty-four per cent of all women workers are either single, divorced or married to men earning less than \$7,000 yearly. Forty-five per cent of the families living below the poverty level are headed by women, 63 per cent of all poverty stricken adults are women, 85 per cent of women workers are non-unionized and their skills are poorly recognized in the marketplace.

Women are discouraged from seeking training. They are denied membership in unions. They are denied jobs because of their sex and face discrimination while on the job.

Yet the skilled trades offer women opportunity for employment at decent wages, the median wage being \$9,862. All the skilled trades are unionized, guaranteeing such fringe benefits as dental care and health and life insurance.

Formed to help women enter the trades, Women in Trades has launched a campaign to break down the obstacles women face in a society which discourages the gainful employment of women.

The organization was initiated by women who were already employed in the trades or were seeking jobs in that area.

The goal of Women in Trades is the self development and determination of women in the community who want to pursue gainful employment in whatever sector of the economy they choose, so that they can be free from discrimination and economic deprivation and, therefore, lead complete lives.

To obtain its goals, Women in Trades organizes community support and applies legal action against employers and unions which discriminate against skilled and other non-traditional trades, and it helps organize women on the job to oppose discrimination.

The organization also assists in the unification of men and women bargaining for equal employment opportunities.

Women in Trades works closely with



Edna Fisher, electrical worker

the United Construction Workers Association and the Alaska Cannery Workers Association, both of whom advocate equal employment for Third World people in the trades.

Women in Trades conducts monthly discussion group meetings in which

members of the organization and other interested women can talk of problems encountered on the job or while seeking employment.

For information, contact Pat Anderson at 682-0690.

Autonomy of union locals protected

'Big labor' bosses are real losers in Ford vetoes

Recently labor leaders were upset about President Ford's veto of the Common Site Picketing Bill" (HR5900) on Jan. 7, 1975. The Collective Bargaining Bill of 1975 (HR9500) was also abandoned by Ford's veto. But is Ford's veto really labor's loss?

On the surface, these Bills bring to mind the classic battle between organized labor and management. However, closer examination of the Common Site Picketing Bill and the Collective Bargaining Bill shows they endanger the power and autonomy of local unions.

In the construction industry, the Common Site Picketing Bill would have made secondary boycotts legal thus allowing construction trade unions to picket a construction job site even if this means keeping other workers off the job — including those workers employed by another contractor. A 1951 Supreme Court ruling stated that such picketing would constitute an illegal secondary boycott.

The Common Site Picketing Bill would make it legal for other workers to honor fellow workers' strikes or picket lines closing down whole job sites, because this would mean money lost for contractors and more support for striking workers.

Opponents of this Bill, primarily contractors and their legislative connections, argue that the Common Site Picketing Bill would allow one

small union local to close down an entire construction site and warn that legislation of this type would lead to higher construction cost and greater unemployment. They claim that the Common Site Picketing Bill is merely a special interest bill to give the building trades unions extra muscle in their efforts to organize construction workers.



One of the provisions of the Common Site Picketing Bill requires a union wishing to engage in common site picketing to give 10 days notice in writing, to all unions on the site, to the general contractor, to the parent labor organization (the International), and to a Federal Collective Bargaining Committee. It also stipulates that Common Site Picketing is legal only if the International Union authorizes the action.

But a local union cannot count on that authorization, as demonstrated during the Metro Transit strike in November of 1974 when transit employees attempted to gain better wages and benefits in their contracts. The strike lasted only two weeks, but had it gone longer, striking employees would have had an extreme financial burden. Because the International Union did not endorse the strike, striking workers were not eligible for their own strike benefits.

The Collective Bargaining Bill threatened the gains made by construction trade unions. It was supported by both contractors associations and national Labor bureaucrats.

The Collective Bargaining Bill was an attempt to give national unions and national contractor and builder associations more control over their local chapters during negotiations determining wage and fringe benefits.

"We are practical men", said Robert A. Georgine, president of the

AFL-CIO's Building and Construction Trades Department, who endorsed the Bill. "We think that whatever the negative effect of this (Collective Bargaining) Bill, it is far out-weighted by the establishment of an orderly procedure for bargaining."

The "orderly procedure" that Georgine is talking about means a surrender of local union autonomy and rank and file control to a sellout national leadership.

The proposed legislation would have established a Construction Industry Collective Bargaining Committee made up of 10 Labor, 10 Contractor and 3 "public" representatives — all appointed by the President of the United States. This committee would attempt to resolve settlement disputes during the collective bargaining process for each expired contract. During this period there could be no strikes or lockouts.

Supporters of the bill were also demanding permanent safeguards, including a no-strike clause in future contracts.

Both the Collective Bargaining Bill and the Common Site Picketing Bill are not going to become law at this time — and this is probably for the best. The right of workers to effectively picket construction sites should not be gained at the expense of their right to democratically control their unions' affairs. Likewise, laws which threaten the autonomy of local unions should be opposed.

Books: 'the best things, well used. . .'

Douglass-Truth changing with community

A majority of residents in the Central District community responding to a poll last spring felt the name of Yesler Library should be changed. Ten names of prominent persons in Black history were put on a ballot, and Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass received an equal number of votes.

So on December 13, 1975, the name-change ceremony was performed and the Yesler Branch Library officially became the Douglass-Truth Library.

The new name is symbolic of the library's outstanding feature — its extensive and excellent Black history collection. It is also symbolic of the direction the library has taken for over ten years — the desire to meet the needs of the surrounding Black community.

The Yesler Branch Library, located at 23rd and Yesler Way in the heart of Seattle, was first established in 1914. At that time the surrounding community was made up predominantly of White, Jewish middle-class citizens who frequently took advantage of the library's facilities. Up through the 1940's Yesler Library had the highest circulation in Seattle.

But the community changed as a direct result of a war-related industry boom during World War II which brought a relatively large population of Blacks to Seattle who settled in the Central Area. The Jewish people in the Central District moved elsewhere.

Yesler Library, however, did not keep up with the changing community. The library still maintained a large collection of books in Yiddish, even though few residents remained who were familiar with the Jewish language. The effect was a slowdown in services offered to Central Area residents. The library's circulation dwindled to less than half of what it once was because the library didn't offer what the community had become interested in.

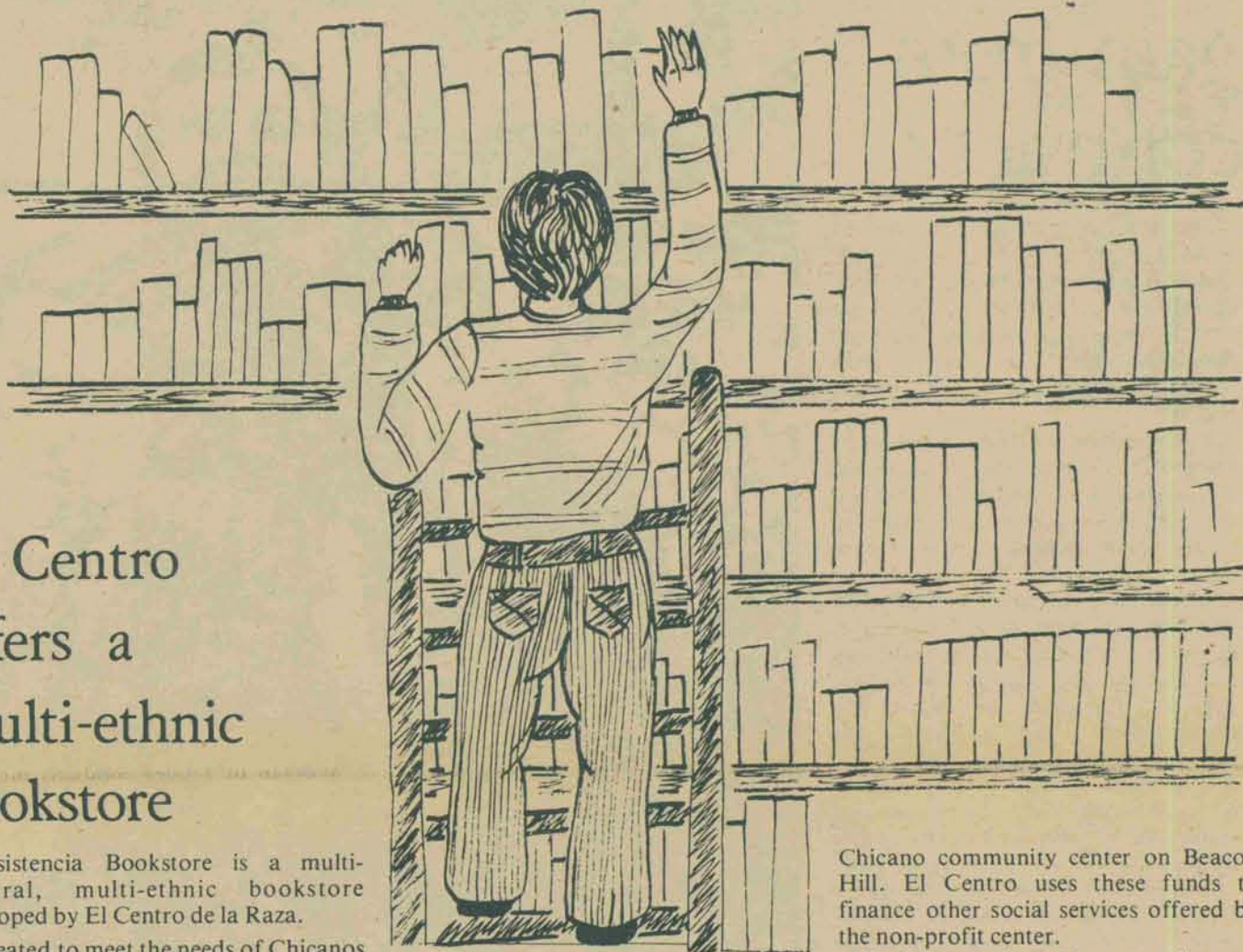
In the late 1960's several groups in the Black community realized the need to make Yesler Branch a library the community would use and enjoy. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority along with the Black Friends of Yesler Branch Library (who have now renamed themselves the Friends of Douglass-Truth Library) sponsored the growth of a collection of Black history books.

Douglass-Truth Library provides a fine selection of materials on a variety of other topics as well, and there are even 8mm films that can be borrowed for four weeks at a time. The collection includes silent films of old cartoons and comedies like, "Laurel and Hardy." Projectors are also available but must be reserved in advance.

Another feature of the library is its meeting room, which comfortably seats 40 people. Community groups are encouraged to reserve this room for their meetings.

The Douglass-Truth Library offers free children's programs to individuals and groups such as daycare centers and nursery schools.

All facilities and programs at Douglass-Truth Library are free. For further information, call the librarian at 322-9300 or stop in. The library's regular hours are 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays, closed Fridays, and open again on Saturday, 10 p.m. - 6 p.m.



El Centro offers a multi-ethnic bookstore

Resistencia Bookstore is a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic bookstore developed by El Centro de la Raza.

Created to meet the needs of Chicanos and Latinos, the bookstore stocks not only books but posters and buttons bearing slogans of the Chicano and Latino experience.

The store, created two years ago, also houses material on Native Americans, Asians and Blacks in America, as well as information on Third World countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

Besides its collection of over 2,000

books, Resistencia (Risistance) Bookstore carries newspapers such as "Six Fronteras," a Chicano newspaper from Los Angeles. The store has a music department with records ranging from Latin Music to Holy Near and music from Cuba, Angola and Guinea Bissau.

The bookstore is operated by volunteers. Proceeds from sales are turned over to El Centro de la Raza, the

Chicano community center on Beacon Hill. El Centro uses these funds to finance other social services offered by the non-profit center.

Students receive a 10 per cent discount on items purchased at the bookstore. And Resistencia will order books, posters and buttons not available in the store. Resistencia Bookstore does silk-screened or photographed reproductions of originals.

The store is located at 2524 16th Ave. S. It is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mondays and Fridays. For further information, call 324-5775, or drop by the store.

U.S. government backs down on Vietnam aid

When the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker service organization, asked the U.S. government last summer for permission to ship fishnets, agricultural machinery and small manufacturing machines to Vietnam, the answer was a terse and threatening "no."

The U.S. government would permit shipments of "strictly humanitarian" aid such as food and medicines, but insisted that the Quakers' request was for "economic" rather than "humanitarian" aid and was, therefore, not allowable under the "Trading with the Enemy Act."

The AFSC announced their decision to proceed with the shipments without government permission, stating, "The arbitrary license denial by the Administration symbolizes the whole of U.S. postwar attitudes to Indochina. Instead of following the long American tradition of aiding in the reconstruc-

tion of war-damaged countries and of reconciliation with past foes, this Administration has taken another course."

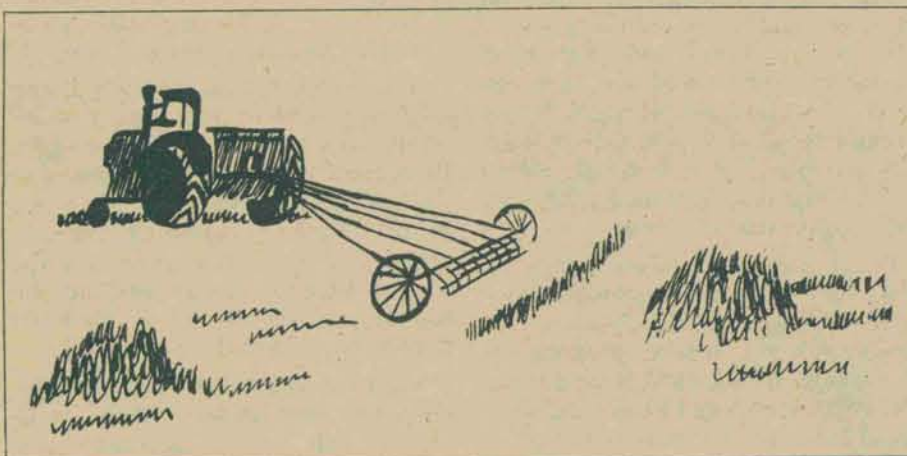
More than 4,000 U.S. citizens donated over \$40,000 for the "illegal" shipments and signed statements in-

dicating their willingness to accept the "legal" consequences should the Friends be prosecuted for defiance of the government. Demonstrations were held November 10 in more than 40 cities to demand that the United States support AFSC's decision to ship materials to Vietnam and change U.S.

policy to one of reconciliation toward Vietnam.

Four days later the Administration announced that permission had been granted for AFSC to ship all the supplies requested. Since then, "Friendshipment," a national campaign by 40 American religious, political and community groups for reconstruction of Vietnam and reconciliation between the Vietnamese and American people, has been sending only items specifically requested by the Vietnamese. This, for the most part, has included antibiotics, powdered milk, canned meat, tents, blankets, children's sweaters, rototillers and fertilizers.

Contributions to Friendshipment are tax deductible and can be sent through any of the groups cooperating in the campaign. For more information, contact the American Friends Service Committee, 814 N.E. 40th, Seattle, Wash. 98104. The telephone number is 632-0500.



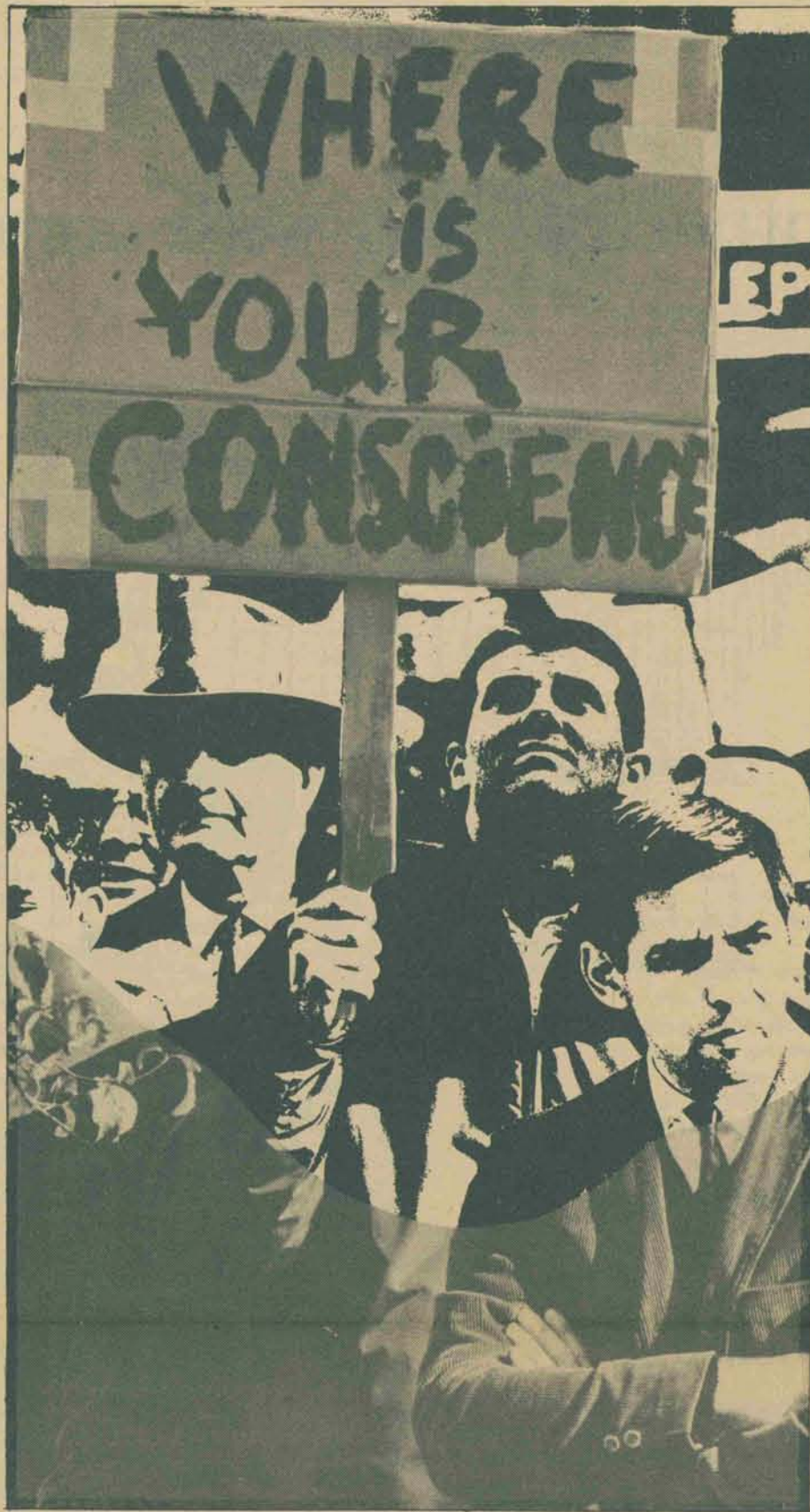
City Light employees back to work What did workers gain from contract?

Seattle City Light electrical workers voted January 23 to return to work, ending a bitter three month old strike against the city. However, sentiment among returning workers indicates disappointment in their union representation as well as the contract results.

The electrical workers, members of Local #77, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), walked off the job October 17 after working nearly seven months without a contract.

The union, representing more than 700 electrical workers at City Light, demanded not only a 15 percent pay increase but also changes to improve job security and to adjust job classifications. In addition, the workers sought to insure that future city projects which could be done exclusively by City Light workers would not be contracted out to private businesses.

The final agreement worked out by federal mediators raised firm opposition among union members although it finally passed 389-238. The agreement included a \$1.80 hourly raise for workers, up to \$9.33 an hour. But electrical workers will not be compensated for wages lost during the strike. They will only get a retroactive pay raise up to \$8.66 from the time their contract ran out on April 1, 1975, until the day they went on strike, October 17, 1975.



The changes in job classifications will benefit the city, not the workers. They are designed to get more productivity out of the workers. Simply stated, this means less people doing more work.

"Our demands were aimed at reaching parity (balance) with other workers in our trade in other areas of

the country," said a Local #77 member. "We're disappointed in the way our leadership failed to represent us adequately during the strike negotiations."

Local #77 members were also unhappy that the International (IBEW) denied formal sanction or support to their struggle. The International's

representative sitting in on negotiations urged the local workers to accept previous offers which were in turn flatly rejected by the Local #77 membership.

"The whole thing (strike) became a political battle between the mayor and our leadership. They forgot all about our original demands. Because of our recall efforts the mayor has delayed and fought us as if he had some personal vendetta," commented another City Light worker.

The strike climaxed the growing tension between city officials and the City Light workers. It is just one in a series of conflicts between electrical workers and the city.

In April of 1974, some 400 to 500 non-union City Light workers held an eleven-day "work-stoppage" to protest the management of City Light by Mayor Uhlman appointee, Gordon Vickery.

City Light workers also led an unsuccessful campaign to recall Uhlman, again springing from their criticism of Vickery's tenure. But this failed to get on the ballot. City Light workers were also active in the city firefighters' campaign to recall the mayor, which did get on the ballot but failed to pass.

The present contract is up for renegotiation in January of 1977, and it is likely that some of the bitterness of this strike will be carried to those negotiations. "I would suspect there will be a certain amount of a conflict next year," said Charles Silvernale, business manager for Local #77.

As for the future, union members have organized a strike fund, built on 50c a month contributions from each union member. This time around striking members depended on contributions from private parties and other unions, which created a strike fund of \$50,000 distributed to electrical workers "on a hardship basis."

Despite the apparent shortcomings of this current contract, valuable lessons have been learned by the members of Local #77 as a result of the long strike. They recognized the failure to lay the proper groundwork among other workers and the community. Because important issues such as job security versus increased productivity were kept hidden by the press, the public saw the economic demands as the primary concern of the workers.

The increased activism by City Light workers has shown the potential strength of public employees. The members, supported by their families, showed city officials that they had the ability and the will to carry on a prolonged strike.

Providence Hospital workers accept contract

Providence Hospital service workers after ten months of negotiations voted to accept their employer's final offer of a two-year contract on Thursday, February 12. Having struggled three years for a union the workers won an election ten months ago to be represented by Local 6, Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

In their first union contract the SEIU workers won the right to arbitration in resolving contract violations. Acceptance by hospital management of the role of union shop stewards in resolving day-to-day worker grievances was another gain for the workers. The contract also contained provisions for seniority, layoffs and recalls.

However, management succeeded in omitting guarantees for a pension plan. They also rejected a closed shop, meaning the union will not represent all the service workers at Providence. Management dealt another blow to union security by granting union members only a 5% wage increase for each of the next two years. This wage

increase is much lower than that granted to non-union employees. Worse, if union employees have worked at Providence for more than five years they are not guaranteed a raise by the new contract.

Ironically, Thursday, February 12, should have been the day SEIU workers went on strike along with workers from two other unions at Providence.

The union contract for hospital engineers and maintenance workers, members of Local 286, Operating Engineers, had expired and notice to strike city-wide had been given. In the struggle for their first union contract, technicians at Providence, represented by the National Economic Council, (NEC), were ready to strike.

When hospital workers decide to strike they are required by federal law to file a 30-day notice plus a 10-day notice with the federal government. This had been done by SEIU and Local 286. NEC overlooked filing the 30-day notice. Due to this technicality NEC employees could not strike which was a

big factor in SEIU and Local 286 postponing their walkout.

Members of Local 286 then voted 34-28 to accept their contract despite the fact the contract does not fully satisfy their demands for better wages and benefits.

The Local 286 settlement was a determining factor in the SEIU accepting their contract because without having support from the workers who run the power machines at Providence a strike by SEIU employees alone would not have been very effective.

SEIU workers are dissatisfied with their new contract but some positive results have come from their struggle. Providence is the first large hospital in the Seattle area where the workers are almost completely organized. The only group still without a union are the clerical workers who already filed on Monday, February 9, to have an election to join SEIU.

Many of the service workers are Filipino immigrants who were professionals in their homeland, and now struggle against the racism in this

country which forces them into the lowest paying unskilled jobs. Many other workers are Black and have been kept down by racism all their lives. A positive effect of the battle for a contract that would benefit all Providence service workers is that the unity among these Filipino and Black workers, as well as the White workers, has been strengthened. In addition, women played a key role in the leadership among the workers.

The Strike Support Committee formed at Providence was able to rally much community support. This boosted the morale of the workers and showed them the possibility of uniting with the community to put forth a solid stand.

Workers at Providence have learned a hard lesson as a result of their struggle for a strong union to represent them. They realize it is crucial for all groups, the service workers, the technicians and the maintenance workers, to stick together and fight for better contracts to protect the rights of workers.