SACRAMENTO, Calif. (LNS) - Twin proposals from the Mexican government and Mexican-American Farm Bureau released at the end of November call for the renewal of the infamous "bracero program" as a means of contracting Mexican nationals as cheap farm labor in the United States. The bracero program was in effect from 1942 until 1964, when the United Farmworkers (UFW), La Raza Unida Party, church groups and many others demanded that the program be terminated. The proposals call for the contracting of up to 500,000 people to solve a so-called "labor shortage" in the farming industry in what many see as an attempt to break the back of the UFW. Braceros were Mexican nationals who were contracted to work in the fields. They were brought across the border legally although they were outside immigration quotas and were returned to Mexico when their work was finished. One word of protest and they could be deported at whim, thus the Bracero Law made union organizing impossible. Braceros were paid lower wages than the then-organized farm workers. They were virtually slave labor.

In the fields, braceros worked "harder than beasts of burden," wrote one observer. In his study, Merchants of Labor: The Mexican Bracero Story, Dr. Ernesto Galarza noted that the system was deliberately set up to isolate the Mexican workers from their families, in a strange country so that they had nothing but their work, and the thoughts of their family waited for the meager wages they could send home to them.

"It was hell right here in Paradise," said Dr. Ben Yellen, an Imperial Valley doctor who treated a lot of farmworkers. His records show that the braceros' lives were a nightmare of illnesses and deaths. Between 1950-1960 alone, 3,485,786 braceros, lured by the promise of American dollars from their homes in central and southern Mexico, passed over the Mexican-American border. Since the U.S., braceros found neither adequate housing nor provisions and not enough social services to come magically to them. Those receiving the jobs faced other dangers. Vehicles crowded with workers overturned, rolled into irrigation ditches, stalled at railroad crossings or burned with their occupants locked inside. Construction and growers charged outrageous prices for simple services and the people were herded into crowded, barrack-type housing.

This is the program that the Mexican government and the California Farm Bureau want to reinitiate. "We need these people," said Ed Backus, president of the San Diego Farm Bureau and organizer of the plan. "The workes would only come for the work period, then return to Mexico - elsewhere they could go on welfare rolls or some such thing.

The obvious results of the bracero program if reinstated would greatly help the growers. They could hire the braceros, desperate for work, at wages much lower than members of the UFW. Also they could be used as scabs to break UFW strikes.

The Farm Bureau is one of the nation's powerful agribusiness organizations. Since the beginning of the UFW, the Farm Bureau has been on the attack against the struggling union. It has been a major force behind the lettuce growers' resistance to the UFW efforts, by printing and distributing smear literature aimed at discrediting the leadership of the farmworkers' movement. The Farm Bureau has supported, with heavy financial and organizing contributions, legislative campaigns in every major agricultural state to institute anti-UFW legislation (outlawing secondary boycotts and picketing in the fields, etc.).

Such bills have been signed into law in Kansas, Idaho, and Arizona. continued on p. 8

The Berkeley Tenant Union strike in 1970 and the rent control Charter Amendment of 1972 were two important aspects of the tenant struggle in Berkeley. This struggle cannot be won within capitalist America. B.T.O.C. believes that the solution to the housing crisis can only be found within a socialist society. But, we cannot act passively by and wait for socialism to come magically to us.

A transitional program must be developed, which will improve our conditions now, challenge the power of corporations, banks and landlords to control our lives and housing, and at the same time help to build a socialist movement. Such a program for housing has four main points: (1) stop speculation in real estate that drives up rents and creates exorbitant profits, (2) recapture past speculative profits, (3) use the recaptured profits to repair existing housing and build new housing, and (4) increase tenant control of housing development and management.

Increased rents and steadily deteriorating housing conditions since the negative court ruling on rent control have led us to the conclusion that the time is ripe for a new tenant offensive in Berkeley. We must begin to implement the transitional program now. The Berkeley Tenant Union strike in 1970 was a series of ordinances to be run in the June and November elections: (1) repairs ordinance, (2) a tenant union enabling act, (3) a comprehensive rent control ordinance, (4) a form of eviction control and (5) an anti-discrimination ordinance. B.T.O.C. proposes running the repairs ordinance in June and the others in November because of the short time before the June election. We want to use the June campaighn to present the entire program to the tenants of Berkeley and to get community input back into the program. The repair ordinance should run first because it addresses one of the most immediate needs of tenants in Berkeley.

HAZARDS REPAIRS ORDINANCE

The repair ordinance, which we are proposing would allow tenants to make repairs of hazards at the expense of the landlord. The money would come from a fund made up of repair contingency fees paid by landlords who have business licenses, as a part of their license fee. If a tenant felt that his or her apartment needed repairs, they would once again submit their cases to the Inspection Services Department which would inspect the building. If a hazardous condition were found, the landlord would be notified and given thirty days to begin making repairs. If the landlord didn't begin making the repairs the tenant could get bids from three contractors and submit them to the Inspection Services Department, which would then sign a contract to have the repairs made. The repairs would be made with money from the contingency fund, and the landlord

continued on p. 3
GRASSROOTS

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L. Bostick formally ruled that Berkeley's rent control law was unconstitutional. Since that time, both the California and United States Supreme Courts have upheld this decision. The transcript from the trial is available in Judge Bostick's opinion. First, Bostick said that the United States Constitution protects property unless regulating housing emergencies. This aspect of the opinion is based on a case decided by the United States Supreme Court in the 1920s. Since this time, both the California and United States Supreme Courts have upheld a variety of price control laws regulating minimum prices in the milk and liquor industries, without imposing a similar emergency requirement. Minimum price laws are designed to protect the profits and stability of existing businesses. What matters is the emergency at least, that the courts agree that an emergency exists at the time the enacting law was passed. Prevention of rent control which protects consumers, but not for the imposition of minimum price laws which protect businesses.

Secondly, Bostick held that no emergency exists in Berkeley. He said that the arguments of Berkeley's population do suffer from a serious housing shortage, but this did not constitute an emergency. The principal emergency includes minorities, the aged, the disabled, and the young. Bostick's solution to this problem, in part, was to have those who can't afford to rent in Berkeley move to another city. Thus, according to Bostick, the citizens of Berkeley are powerless to prevent rent-gouging landlords from driving low-income people out of the city.

Thirdly, the judge said that rent control property rights of landlords and the constitution prohibits citizens from affecting such rights through the initiative process. While Bostick invoked his best legal snow job to support this point, he let us know whose terminal, as well as serving as a multi-use concept was on the judge's hypersensitivity toward the have been in some cases built either by the people to help work on collecting signatures, or the emergency license was issued. People who own four or more units in Berkeley, (3) by not allowing landlords to pass on the cost of repairs, and (4) a municipal housing development corporation, controlled by tenants representatives from all areas and incomes of the city, to administer the recaptured profits to repair existing housing and to build new housing. It is important that they know that under rent control that would forbid rent increases greater than the cost of living.

This ordinance has three major advantages: (1) it is largely self-enforcing, (2) it is essentially the procedure that was for inspecting and repairing a building. A court would think twice before housing in Berkeley, (3) by not allowing landlords to pass on the cost of repairs, and (4) a municipal housing development corporation, controlled by tenants representatives from all areas and incomes of the city, to administer the recaptured profits to repair existing housing and to build new housing. It is important that they know that under rent control that would forbid rent increases greater than the cost of living.
Johnnie Porter has some interesting questions for the City of Berkeley, or rather, for those who govern the city. He has anyone, he wonders, examined the claim that the Berkeley Police Department, that minority police officers don't stay on the force long enough to assure the development of a truly integrated police agency in the city? Johnnie knows why a self-respecting black man might have problems as a police officer in Berkeley: he's black and he tried it. To begin with, the department tried every trick imaginable to avoid hiring him, including a trumped-up psychiatric report, a phony background check, illegal credit inquiries and general bureaucratic deceit and delay. But Johnnie was able to muster support in the community for his application to be a cop and the BPD finally had to give in and hire him. Then the real fun began: racist sergeants, bum assignments, ass-checking instead of correction for honest mistakes, refusal to send trained black applicants out on and on and on. Ten weeks of that was enough. He had to quit.

GRAVEYARD SHIFT

Johnnie also knows that after four years, the situation has not changed. New officers are given the less difficult assignments; one of those is graveyard shift. Who supervises that shift? The most racist sergeants on the force. There are more minority officers coming in these days, as the BPD reluctantly implements the city's affirmative action hiring program, and graveyard is where most of them go to break in. Mary can't back it up and, alas, say the BPD PR people, minority people just won't hang around. And of course the chief cares to the Chamber of Commerce about how understaffed the force is.

It is incomprehensible that in a city with a black mayor, five out of nine black councilpersons, a black city manager and a black city attorney, these conditions are allowed to continue. None of these elected and appointed officials can plead ignorance or say they don't know what's going on. The federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission report on Johnnie's allegations, which documents the conditions and concludes that "an environment of racism pervades the police department," is unanswerable. The city's affirmative action hiring program, and graveyard is where most of them go to break in. Mary can't back it up and, alas, say the BPD PR people, minority people just won't hang around. And of course the chief cares to the Chamber of Commerce about how understaffed the force is.

The usual procedure in a dispute is for each side to prepare a case, which the principals, or their attorneys, take to trial or to a pre-trial conference. As part of that process, Johnnie and his lawyers submitted 53 questions to the BPD. Those questions remained unanswered for seven weeks, in spite of repeated requests by Johnnie's lawyer for some reply. The city and the department simply refused to respond. They have not responded yet, even though Johnnie went back to court for an order directing the chief of police to reply. The city's only response so far has been to file for dismissal of the class action aspect of the case. Hearing on that will be January 18. The court has set a pre-trial conference for February 1. There the matter stands.

It is common knowledge in this community that the police department, which made up 62 percent of the city's budget, does not share the values and ideals of the majority of Berkeley's citizens, is a thoroughly racist institution. Add to that common knowledge the findings of the EEOC, based on an extensive and thorough investigation. The law of the land requires - as does community sentiment - the elimination of racism and the discriminatory treatment which it breeds. Those who govern our city haven't even begun to answer legitimate questions submitted through the courts. The only action our city has taken is to shoot for removal of the class action character of the lawsuit, presumably to avoid extra damage awards in the probable event that Berkeley is found guilty and ordered to pay up. That's where the City of Berkeley is officially at. What do the people think?

— Bruce Haldane

EX-COP PORTER VS BPD

A reporter from the Portland Scribe came through town and interviewed about Bruce Baker, who quit as chief of the BPD to take a similar job in Portland. Our reporter submitted the following article as a review of police activities for which Baker was responsible during his four years as chief of police.

Portland's new mayor is said to be energetic and progressive. Energetic he may be, but his appointment of Johnnie Porter's police chief Bruce R. Baker to head the Portland force was anything but a progressive move. Folks in Berkeley lamented for the few right-wingers we have left - are delighted to see Baker go, but amazed that a politician with Baker's reputation would be chosen in Baker's carefully nurtured image as a smart, highly professional lawman.

There is nothing more than the BPD force is very well regarded. In law-enforcement circles it has a reputation for tough professionalism and for being a bastion of white supremacy, riddled with racism.

EEOC REPORTS

Many folks, when faced with such horrifying tactics of the justice of their cause, chalk it up to experience and go on to other things. Johnnie is more persistent. He has been hassling the BPD about this matter for over four years now, but the end may be in sight, as the courts will be taking the case up within the next few weeks. The EEOC investigated and concluded that it was necessary to "attempt to resolve the dispute and eliminate the unlawful employment practices found through a fair process of informal methods". The conclusion of the commission's follow-up letter to Johnnie succinctly tells the tale: "We regret that a satisfactory settlement could not be reached . . ."

The next step was the lawsuit, in which Johnnie is asking for reinstatement, seniority, back pay, and cessation of all employment and promotion practices which operate to discriminate against racial minorities. He is asking this for himself and "on behalf of all black and other racial minority persons . . . who have applied for or who have been denied employment . . . at the Berkeley Police Department, or who would have applied for such employment or promotion but for their reasonable belief that such would be denied them by operation of the employment practices alleged herein . . ."

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

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BERKELEY'S LOSS: PORTLAND

Once on the force, a black man has a pretty bad time. According to one former black officer, Johnny Porter, the sergeants best known for their hatred of blacks are assigned graveyard shift, which is the most undesirable and dangerous. In addition, the public is not aware of discrimination against blacks.

PORTLAND'S POLICE

On the other hand, Portland has a minority chief, Steven Strachan, who was able to avoid the problems encountered by his Berkeley counterpart. The difference is primarily in the amount of police service, delays in promotion, the number of promotions which operate to discriminate against racial minorities. Johnnie is asking this for himself and "on behalf of all black and other racial minority persons . . . who have applied for or who have been denied employment . . . at the Berkeley Police Department, or who would have applied for such employment or promotion but for their reasonable belief that such would be denied them by operation of the employment practices alleged herein . . ."

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BERKELEY'S LOSS: PORTLAND
Baker was chief in Berkeley during some very hard years for the cops. The student activism of the sixties got its start here with the Free Speech Movement in 1964; protests of various aspects of American adventure and of internal racism at the university often escalation into street actions with attendant violence. Baker was a captain on the force during one such affair in 1968, when vicious, indiscriminate club-swinging by BPD officers outraged even those who usually support the police. In later months, after Baker became chief, the worst shooting and clubbing were by outside forces, such as sheriff’s deputies or highway patrolmen, while BPD officers generally lay low, but the local boys managed to get in their licks. On one occasion Dick York, an Episcopal priest popular among street people and radicals, was on no provocation, beaten into unconsciousness by some of Berkeley’s finest; the officers involved were lightly punished for “violation of departmental procedures,” but there was never an admission of guilt. Another time the Free Clinic, which attempts to provide free medical service to anybody needing it, was invaded by club-swinging officers after someone threw one bottle from the gallery into the hospital. A doctor and several medics were beaten, as were all within sight, including an ambulance driver. At the request of the mayor, Baker declared after the People’s Park actions in 1969, that he fully approved of the atmosphere he would have seen to it that his department and the community, they had better let Baker know about it right from the beginning. They had better make clear to him that they are the offfice calling the shots and that they are not going to allow him to intimidate them with American Legion type speeches, with scare talk about how they’re all rapists unless he gets what he wants (usually more of the city budget, at the expense of other programs for the people), or with undercover infiltration and surveillance of their legitimate political activities (an undercover cop showed up at one of the meetings or the group which put together a recently successful initiative for a police review board). They should insist, when he makes public pronouncements about the police and the job they do, that his statements be factual and detailed, that he work to ensure that they have a police department dedicated to service and not to their personal advantage. Bruce Haldane

Police Chief Baker

Baker’s police department has been an active; when caught, he depended upon a grassroots page

Baker’s record speaks for itself

Police Community Relations and a Closer Tie between Neighborhood People and the Cop on the Beat

Against Community Suggestions

Yet from that day until he resigned, he resisted any and all suggestions from the community— even directives from their elected representatives— which would have brought about that closer relationship. His view of professionalism involves an almost complete separation between the police and the public. Complaints against police officers, presumptions of the citizens at best, are given short shrift. Officers are disciplined only if it is clear that the public will not allow an instance of abuse of authority to go unpunished, and then punishment is minimal. Neighborhood police? What kind of a cop can there be between people on the block and a policeman who cruises through at 30 mph in a sleek, squadron car, between the citizens of Berkeley, who live in an integrated and diverse community, and police officers who go home to homogeneous, lily-white suburbs and spend their off-time with subhuman criminals with rape of white women on their minds; between the residents of a city and a police force the whole precinct is so hostile to the idea of community— that its citizens struggle for? Even anarchist brush those who resist the expansion of police power, which is that unless he gets what he wants (usually more of the city budget, at the expense of other programs for the people), or with undercover infiltration and surveillance of their legitimate political activities (an undercover cop showed up at one of the meetings or the group which put together a recently successful initiative for a police review board). They should insist, when he makes public pronouncements about the police and the job they do, that his statements be factual and detailed, that he work to ensure that they have a police department dedicated to service and not to their personal advantage. Bruce Haldane

WHAT’S IN FOR PORTLAND

Here is what the citizens of Portland can expect from their new police chief. In the first place, any hope they have for any kind of control of their police force is doomed, unless they are prepared for a hard political struggle involving a high degree of commitment and persistence. Baker will resist with all the resources at his command any citizen intrusion into police matters. He will even keep to himself information about the police which the people need in order to make sensible decisions about police matters. Look for speeches before the Chamber of Commerce or other conservative organization, as it is in those speeches that Baker lets the public know what is bothering him or what he wants. He is adept at scare techniques and is not above the big lie. However, he is not a car salesman. He knows better than to rant about communist plots or to paint with an anarchist brush those who resist the expansion of police power, which is that unless he gets what he wants (usually more of the city budget, at the expense of other programs for the people), or with undercover infiltration and surveillance of their legitimate political activities (an undercover cop showed up at one of the meetings or the group which put together a recently successful initiative for a police review board). They should insist, when he makes public pronouncements about the police and the job they do, that his statements be factual and detailed, that he work to ensure that they have a police department dedicated to service and not to their personal advantage. Bruce Haldane

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Austin complains bitterly in her columns that Howard lost out because he was opposed by two black councilors, Kimbrough and Sannossim, and "the one Oriental." She charges that the council "got Howard - like Jesse James they shot him in the back - but they got a Nugget to do it to him so that they could sit on their red rumps and laugh ..."

Well, it's not over yet, but if this sort of thing is being written for public consumption, we can only guess at the kind of pressure that must be being used behind the scenes on council members who refuse to fall in line behind Widener-Ramsey.

... keep on truckin'

Question from L.S., Oakland: Which cars get the best gas mileage? Are there any driving tricks for better mileage? Answer: Smaller cars with smaller motors generally get better gas mileage, but a lot depends on driving conditions and the individual driver. The same make and model manufactured in 1970 or '71 will likely get better mileage than a '73 or '74. Many of the newer cars are less economical when equipped with the latest required emission control devices. Saab, Dodge Colt, Toyota, Datsun, Peugeot of late manufacture get good mileage. Any of the older English, French and Japanese models are very good. Chevy Vega and Ford Pinto consume much more gas than their foreign counterparts. The Dodge and Plymouth "compacts" with 6-cylinder motors use more gas than any of the 4-cylinder makes.

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Question from L.S., Oakland: Which cars get the best gas mileage? Are there any driving tricks for better mileage? Answer: Smaller cars with smaller motors generally get better gas mileage, but a lot depends on driving conditions and the individual driver. The same make and model manufactured in 1970 or '71 will likely get better mileage than a '73 or '74. Many of the newer cars are less economical when equipped with the latest required emission control devices. Saab, Dodge Colt, Toyota, Datsun, Peugeot of late manufacture get good mileage. Any of the older English, French and Japanese models are very good. Chevy Vega and Ford Pinto consume much more gas than their foreign counterparts. The Dodge and Plymouth "compacts" with 6-cylinder motors use more gas than any of the 4-cylinder makes.

I don't know any magic tricks for fuel economy, but here are some things you should know: Accelerate smoothly; don't put the pedal to the floor. Don't race the engine while it's idling. Be prepared to stop; this refers to Howard's work in Social Dynamics, a consulting firm which is rumored to be in financial trouble now that federal "poverty" money is drying up.

Austin complains bitterly in her columns that Howard lost out because he was opposed by two black councilors, Kimbrough and Sannossim, and "the one Oriental." She charges that the council "got Howard - like Jesse James they shot him in the back - but they got a Nugget to do it to him so that they could sit on their red rumps and laugh ..."

Well, it's not over yet, but if this sort of thing is being written for public consumption, we can only guess at the kind of pressure that must be being used behind the scenes on council members who refuse to fall in line behind Widener-Ramsey.
If you are physically disabled, Berkeley is a remarkable city in which to live. A recent survey of Berkeley's disabled population shows that the city is a good place to live, especially if your body often gets in the way of your life in the city. The city-wide effort to rewrite the Master Plan has taken on special significance over the last few years.

Some comments from the residents of Berkeley for whom I have visited Berkeley several times.

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The Council majority refused to consider a proposal by Councilwoman Ilena Henry to prohibit drive-in facilities such as the ones planned for the bank.

The issue will again appear on the Council agenda for the January 8th meeting.

ARREST RECORDS

The Council voted to appeal a Superior Court decision that it was illegal for Berkeley to provide personal access to their state arrest records for political purposes. California State Attorney General Evelle Younger had issued the city its own records access policy, charging that the Council had no authority to show personal state records.

SCHEDULE

The Council continued the current pattern of dissolving in confusion as Councilmembers left the meeting without setting any additional meetings to complete the agenda.

The Council did set a schedule for January 15th, with meetings set for 7:30 p.m. on the Tuesday nights of January 8th, 15th, and 22nd.

The January 15th meeting will include a public hearing at 9:30 on the criteria to be used for selection of a new police chief. That selection will be made by the City Manager under the current Berkeley Charter. Charter Amendments being proposed by the Charter Review Committee would give the Council the power to appoint a police chief, as well as all other department heads.

AFSCME CONFRONTS UCBERKLEY ON PAY DISCRIMINATION

Nearly 7,000 University of California non-academic workers stand to win approximately $230,000 back pay in a precedent-setting grievance arbitration between American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1695 and the University of Berkeley administration.

The grievance case, which began with the filing of hundreds of individual grievances last year, accuses the University of granting higher pay raises to jobs held primarily by white men than to jobs held primarily by women and minorities.

In 1972, pay increases of 8.5, 11 and 13.5 percent went to mostly "male-typed" jobs, while most "female-typed" jobs got only 6 percent. The grievance points out that the pay rate of distribution widened the pay gap between men and women on campus, violating both University rules and contract agreements with campus unions which prohibit discrimination by sex.

The same day that the Farm Bureau had sued the city over its records access policy, California State Attorney General Evelle Younger had issued the city its own records access policy, charging that the Council had no authority to show personal state records.

BOYCOTT

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ROLL OUT OUR NEW DRY RED "ALMADEN" WINE AND PROUDLY ANNOUNCE OUR NEW SPARKLING "ALMADEN" WINE. IT'S THE SAME QUALITY YOU'D EXPECT FROM GALLO, BUT AT A LOWER PRICE. SUPPORT OUR FARMWORKERS AND BUY "ALMADEN" WINE TODAY.

The Farm Bureau business empire is one of the largest commercial conglomerates in the country with nearly 54 billion dollars, states Berger. Despite the fact that the Farm Bureau is now as large as Chrysler, DuPont, or Shell Oil Co., it has retained a tax exemption just like religious, charitable and educational institutions.

The same day that the Farm Bureau approved its resolution calling for the reinstatement of the Bracero Program, the U.S. State Department confirmed that Henry Kissinger has "engaged in conversations" with Mexican government leaders to revive the bracero program.

Mexican President Luis Echeverria said in Mexico City that his government wants a new treaty with the United States to allow some 300,000 Mexican nationals to come to this country as temporary farmworkers.

"We have the impression that the government of the United States wants this," added Echeverria. Indications that the two governments have been toying with the bracero idea have been in the wind for some months now. In mid-July the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento was picketed in protest of the possible agreements. Speakers from the Chicano Students of Aztlan (MECHA), Center for Social Action (CASA), and La Raza Unida stated at the rally at the picket line that the United States-Mexico talks and possible agreement are a conspiracy on the part of the United States to try to destroy the UFW.