political reform

PEOPLE

V.S.

BIG MONEY

The election game is on. In other words, it is time for the big money to register with the candidates of their choice and for perhaps half of the electorate to get ready to vote.

Berkeley knows what big money can do for an election. It only needs to remember the 1973 election of three of the well-financed Berkeley Four.

People's Lobby knows what big money can do on a state level. In 1972 it used the initiative to qualify the Clean Environment Act, Proposition 9. It would have lowered the content of lead in gasoline and sulfur in diesel fuel, banned DDT, and put a moratorium on fission power plants. Some goals prompted Californians Against the Pollution Initiative to, among many other expensive endeavors, blanket the state with full page ads claiming, "People's Lobby is a group of long-haired, hippy radicals whose Pollution Initiative will bring the mosquito to reign and typhus to rage in California." Unknown to most voters, CAPI was not a dedicated band of citizens but the massive public relations effort of the PG&E, as their name implies. They point out to the PG&E stockholders meeting at April 23.

New PRC investigator Harold Rogers Photo by Scott Banks

For good reason. They're the PG&E Board of Directors.

And they expect to pocket $233 million of our money!

This week the wealthy bankers and corporate executives who make up Pacific Gas and Electric's Board of Directors will preside over the 1974 PG&E stockholders' meeting. They will probably celebrate the $243.6 million in profits that PG&E made last year—$28.3 million more than in 1972. They will undoubtedly be looking forward to the incredible $233 million rate increase now pending before the Public Utilities Commission—the 12th such increase in the last 14 months, and the largest in PG&E's history.

A group of people has formed together to stop the PG&E rate increase. The group, Electricity and Gas for People (E&GP), wants "to turn PG&E around," as their name implies. They point out that people are tired of endless collusion between Big Business and Big Government at the expense of American workers and consumers. "We're fed up with Watergate, runaway inflation, wage controls, IT&T scandals, milk deals and phony 'energy crises.' And we're fed up with PG&E." E&GP is encouraging people to come to the PG&E stockholders meeting at PG&E headquarters in San Francisco, on April 23.

PRC MEMBER WALKER CHARGES

POLICE HARASSMENT OF FAMILY

Bill Walker has been involved in Berkeley politics for a long time. As chairman of both the Berkeley Black Caucus and the Ocean View Committee, and now as a member of the Police Review Commission, (not to mention his involvement in almost every other struggle over the past few years), he has done more than his share in working to bring about real, fundamental change in Berkeley.

He has been outspoken in his criticism of those he disagrees with, including the Berkeley Police Department. As a result, he and his family have been singled out for harassment by the BPD.

Police anger at Walker's action has resulted in a long series of harassment, and imposed a ten-day suspension. (The Police Officers' Association appealed the decision and there has been no public disclosure of the final outcome.)

HARASSMENTS DETAILED

Police anger at Walker's action has resulted in a long series of harassment, which Walker detailed in a press release: "March 1972: I became aware of the unusual (and successful) cooperation between the BFT and the BTA.

No School Strike

The Berkeley Federation of Teachers and the Berkeley Teachers Association, at a joint meeting on Thursday, April 18, voted by a 4-1 margin to accept the final offer made by the Board of Education in the negotiations over teacher demands for salary increases and improved working conditions. The Certified Employees Council (composed of representatives from both of the above teachers' organizations) had been negotiating around the clock with Clifford Wong, Director of Personnel for the BUSD, to come up with terms acceptable to both sides.

The final offer includes: an across the board salary increase of $125.00 per teacher (which averages out to about 9 percent of present salaries), an increase of $5.00 per day in substitute,
NEW BUSD STAFFING MODEL ANNOUNCED

At their April 15th meeting, the Berkeley Board of Education voted 3-1 in favor of the BUSD administration's proposed staffing model for certificated personnel for 1974-75. This model will be used as the guideline for personnel assignments in the coming school year. It establishes the ratio of teaching to non-teaching positions in the coming school year. It was accepted by the Board with the understanding that it would have to be changed in the future.

STOLL VOTES NO

Director Louise Stoll, who supported the Board's recommendation, argued that the administration's proposal had been carefully thought-out choices and that the Board would have had to accept his whole proposal - not just parts of it - in order for it to have any real effect.

FIGURES FALSIFIED?

The Berkeley Federation of Teachers (BFT) and the Berkeley Teachers Association (BTA) have jointly charged the administration with the juggling and falsification of figures. Using the district's own data as the basis for their calculations, the teachers' organizations claim that the ratio of administrators to teachers is closer to 13 per 100. Their data is based on the number of teachers and administrators in the district.

UNANIMOUS VOTE

At an unusual action at their April 15th meeting, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the administration’s classified (non-certificated) staffing recommendations; these include a proposed cut of 30 full-time positions in the next school year.

The movie Serpico: See it, see it!
At its April 16th meeting, the Berkeley City Council refused to take an official position on the planned closure of North Berkeley Community College and the proposed decision to transfer the Learning Pavilion on the Hearst Street. Instead, the Council voted to hold a public meeting with the Berkeley Planning Board to discuss educational plans for the area. Councilman Ying Kelley and Bona Hancock unsuccessfully attempted to have the City Council go on record in opposition to the proposed plans of the Peralta Board of Trustees. Some Councilmembers did indicate that they felt the actions of the Peralta Board were inappropriate.

Kelley argued that since the Peralta Board is scheduled to take a clear position by announcing that North Berkeley Community College will close, the City Council should move to the closest representation, rather than after the two bodies meet. The other Councilmembers agreed with Wilmont Sweeney that it would be premature for the Council to take a position on the subject, pending the action of the Board. However the proposed programấn was 10½ x 16 foot mural was made by Romare Bearden’s fee of $16,000 was beyond the city’s relationship to art. The Arts Commission was considering the renovation of the City Council Chamber. The composition is commissioned for its present site and was installed in December of 1973. Public response to the painting, as far as there has been any, has been mixed. On the aesthetic side, some like it, some don’t, and others are in between that’s about for art. My opinion I’ll leave till later, but I suggest you use your own eyes. On the political side, I can offer you some definite “reliable source”-type information.

The council majority defeated a proposal to establish regulations concerning the future of the Hearst Street. The Council will vote to establish regulations concerning the Hearst Street to be for low and moderate income housing, parks and open space, the housing to be low density.

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Since Huey P. Newton's release from prison in 1970 the Oakland-based Black Panther Party has developed many of its strategies in the community-oriented approach, engaging in non-violent rhetoric and entering the world of community boycotts and electoral politics. After the split between Huey Newton and Eldridge Cleaver, those who went on the West Coast aligned themselves with Cleaver and who maintained that Black Liberation can come about only through armed struggle, have gone to frame the most militant leaders in the SLA as a catch-all for militant leaders in the Black community.

Earlier this year, the New York Daily News ran a series of articles and interviews supposed to show how the N.Y. City Police Department had virtually eliminated the BLA. This series came after the murder of Twymon Meyers, gunned down by police in the Bronx, an act which police describe it. Richard Moore, the former New York City police commissioner, claimed that the BLA was a small band of disenfranchised Panthers who roamed from city to city robbing banks and killing police officers. Daley said that the East Coast BLA was headed by Richard Dhoruba Moore, Jo Ann Chesimard (Assata Shakur), and Andrew Jackson. On the West Coast police officials claimed that the BLA was the behind-the-scenes leader of the Black Liberation Army. Other so-called BLA members have been similarly gunned down by the police in the last one year. Those who were captured alive face a series of very complex trials on charges ranging from bank robbery to murder. We have little more on the specific charges in following GRASSROOTS issues.

The primary question still remains: does the BLA really exist? It's clear that communications have been released in the name of the BLA, taking credit principally for assaults against police. While underground groups may exist in particular cities, sharing a similar ideology, it is clear that a nation-wide wideBLA is a propaganda invention. It's not coincident that the BLA scare in New York City started in the midst of the Murphy Commission's televised investigations of police corruption in the N.Y. Police Department. It is that very credibility that police have used to make people warn that "There is and always will be, until every Black Man, Woman, and Child does the BLA suspects" were incarcerated in New York City. The article's pet conversation subject, at least here in the capital of revolution, is the plot. It's a BLA (see "Law and Order Bingham conspiracy. Patty means - no, I am not laying a guilt trip on you; I am not asking you to frame the most militant leaders in the SLA but to deal with the real problem.

It's difficult, oh it is difficult to take them seriously, and then to accept their existence. Just the same, here they are, unless you lock yourself off from all the media, or, if on the issue, decide to say "thank you" to your community FBI agent. But then, really, who doesn't want to hear a story as exciting as this? As you can see, unless you lock yourself off from all the media, or, if on the issue, decide to say "thank you" to your community FBI agent.

We don't want to deal with, because it scrabbles our delicate, patiently organized efforts to build a community of movement. So, what do we do? We have to confront the issue straight, without adding to it to make it look better. Do we give up in the face of the SLA, and are probably able to explain it in the most minute ways, but when it comes down to feeling it, then we have problems.

The SLA, whatever the merit of their actions, are doing precisely that: it's confronting us with a problem, a reality, we don't want to deal with, because it scrabbles our delicate, patiently organized efforts to build a community of movement. So, what do we do? We have to confront the issue straight, without adding to it to make it look better. Do we give up in the face of the SLA, and are probably able to explain it in the most minute ways, but when it comes down to feeling it, then we have problems.

The SLA is calling for a federation. But with whom? They have no mass, no community. Even culturally they have a hard time finding an identity, as they are an assimilationist group, more interested in the women, and their internal relations are rather suspicious. Moreover, the Symbionese is a syndrome, not a passing thing. These people are deadly serious, and there is absolutely no reason to believe that's gonna be it. Sure, the corporate establishment will come down on us, when the news has died down, and the police violate that agreement.

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**MOVIES**

Upcoming revivals are so good that with the exception of Francis Ford Coppola's first psychological thriller, "The Conversation," I don't recommend spending money on new films. CAL offers "Chushingura" (1962) and "Philippine Story" (1940) from May 1-7. And don't forget the continuing series of Buster Keaton films on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 and 9:30 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium.

A select selection of films is offered by SUPERB's Saturday and Monday evening series. A special showing of "The Godfather" is May 14, April 25-27 and at 6 and 9 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium. Also in Wheeler on May 4 is Woody Allen's best "Play It Again, Sam" and "Take the Money and Run." The Woody Allen double bill is 52 cents (10c U.S. and 42c Godfather) 50 cents more in each case.

SUPERB's Monday evening series deserves special mention. It features seldom-seen classics by American directors, with the lowest $1.50 general and $1.00 student. On April 29 they offer Nicholas Ray's "Johnny Guitar" (1954) and John Ford's "The Searchers" (1956). "The Searchers" is considered for a film sold out John Ford's finest film and a classic of world cinema. On May 6, it's "Wild River" (1960) with Montgomery Clift, Lee Remick and "Exodus" (1960) with Paul Newman. Both programs start at 7 p.m. in 155 Dwinelle Hall. Upcoming are several of the better Hitchcock films.

**FREE FILMS**

MERRITT COLLEGE: "The Philadelphia Story" (1940) and "Bonnie and Clyde" (1967) and "The Last Mile" (1959) on April 25; Bogart in both "The Maltese Falcon" and "The Big Sleep" (1942) on May 2. A critical well-received with "Bonnie and Clyde." The program starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Merritt College Cafeteria. For "Bonnie and Clyde," early to go make sure getting a good seat.

LANEY COLLEGE: Continuation of a series on the classics of French film with Jean Renoir's "The Blood of a Poet" (1930) and Jean Vigo's "Zero for Conduct" (1933) on April 25 and Jean Vigo's "L'Atalante" (1934) on May 2. "Zero for Conduct" was the inspiration for both Truffaut's "400 Blows" and Lindsay Anderson's "If." Complete programs at 6:45 and 9 p.m. in the Laney College Cafeteria.

LIVE OAK PARK RECREATION CENTER: "To Be or Not to Be" (1942). Ernest Lubitsch's classic comedy starring Jack Benny and Carole Lombard. "To Be or Not to Be" is April 24 (unless you're a Grassroots subscriber, of course you'll be, you won't hear about this one in time). "The Big Heat" (1953), an exceptionally well-done film by Martin, Glenn Ford, Gloria Grahame, on May 1; "Charlie Chan at the Circus" on May 8. All programs start at 8 p.m. in the Club's Activity Room; 25-cent donation requested.

**PERMIT REQUEST DENIED PERALTA USE**

The Berkeley Board of Adjustments denied a use permit application from North Peralta Community College during the Board's April 10 public meeting in the Berkeley City Council Chambers.

North Peralta has occupied the second floor of the building since 1987 and agreed to begin the process of vacating the building this year over 500,000 blind, aged and disabled persons in California were cut from food stamps because of the proviso in HR-1 that allowed California to buy out of the food stamp program for these sections of the population because their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) cash grants average $10 more than their state grants used to. If all this seems like a complicated and numerical game, it is. But what it simply means is a lot of people on SSI are getting less and less to eat because inflation is eating up their SSI grants.

DBAC and a coalition representing various senior citizens groups recently filed suit against the State of California claiming that since it did not officially cash out of the program until after the deadline of October 1, 1973, the program was still in effect. The presiding judge and the three state officials had corresponded with officials of HR-1 and indicated a desire to get out of the program. The intent was clear and the act sufficient. The universe of Catch-22 expands . . .

**THE ITCHEN**

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JOB RAP CENTER

Monday, April 1, 1974, marked three-and-a-half years of operation of the Berkeley Job Rap Center, a non-profit community service for persons with job or lifestyle problems.

The Center offers supportive group discussions to help expand people's thinking about jobs and careers with emphasis on possibilities for alternative vocations and lifestyles. All ages and backgrounds are welcome. There are no fees and the Center is not an employment agency.

Open meetings are held every Monday evening from 8 to 10 in the Education Building of the Berkeley Unitarian Fellowship, 1606 Bonita Street, just south of Cedar Street in Berkeley. The Center is a community service of the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarians.

ATTICA

During the week of April 21-25, the Attica Brothers Legal Defense West will present a series of speaking engagements and film showings throughout the Bay Area. John Hill, a Native American accused of murder of a prison guard, second-degree assault, promoting prison contraband, and possession of a weapon, as a result of the prison uprising in 1971, will be visiting the Bay Area between Sunday, April 21, and Thursday, April 25. John will have an excellent film on Attica through this speaking tour.

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

New American Movement presents a public forum on the Middle East featuring "We are the Palestinian People" an hour-long documentary on the history of Palestine and Zionism. Also, Rene Theberge, co-author of "Roots of the October War" (in Socialist Revolution no. 17).

MIDDLE EAST FORUM

Library Hall, 2300 Grove, Berkeley. 8 p.m., admission $1.50.
mayoral candidate al verdad seeks "truth"

Question from A.D., Berkeley: I have a 1967 Rover 2000 which has served me well until the past two years. Lately the rate and seriousness of repairs has increased drastically. Now I am faced with a dilemma. What should I do? Repairing your motor will be very expensive. I estimate as high as $1,000, because any mechanic who gets the job will want to rebuild it. If you check the wrecking yards in the area, you'll probably find a Rover motor in good condition; the later the model the better. A mechanic will swap motors for $100-$200 and the whole thing might cost you $400-$500 total. WVs are pretty good cars but they don't handle or ride like a Rover. I'm sorry I can't solve your problem. Mike Kromer

AL VERDAD, candidate for city council

The highlights of Diak's venture of Verdad last week as Berkeleyan Al Diak abed that name and replaced it with Al Verdad (al Arabic "the", verdad = Spanish "truth") as the first step in his campaign for mayor of Berkeley...

Verdad's candidacy on the steps of City Hall, a year to the day prior to next April's election. Verdad strewn the theatrical as the keynote of his electoral and office-seeking efforts. "Berkeley has got to get its act together," he said. In response, supporters showered him with plain-blossom petals.

Verdad was formerly a Christian, having been associated for a dozen years with the Christian Brotherhood of the Buddhist Church. That experience, in a generally spiritual atmosphere, gave him a general feeling for how he advocates the regular exchange of living arrangements by families and individuals in the city. Free bus service, a Berkeley passport for world-view. "Berkeley needs to move to a larger humanistic world-view." "Berkeley needs to move to Christianity to a larger humanistic world-view." "Berkeley needs to move to Christianity to a larger humanistic world-view.

Verdad looks for development of a higher consciousness in the working out of Berkeley's social and political experience. Elements of that consciousness include compassion, tolerance of individual differences and the various forms of striving for individual growth for all. He would, for example, establish a job for Mayor Widener as lobbyist for the people; he feels that Widener has good experience at that sort of thing and could grow in such a role while working in the interests of the people of Berkeley.

Verdad plans to walk the streets, talking to people and finding out their concerns. He will issue flyers through all 238 miles of Berkeley. As mayor he would work for a number of programs after he is elected. He would, for example, establish a job for Mayor Widener as lobbyist for the people; he feels that Widener has good experience at that sort of thing and could grow in such a role while working in the interests of the people of Berkeley.

Verdad, a candidate from gubernatorial candidate Jerry Waldie, whom he is actively supporting, Verdad plans to walk through all 238 miles of Berkeley's streets, talking to people and finding out about their concerns. He will issue flyers at intervals to explain to the voters his ideas about the problems which he encounters in discussions with the people he meets. He is also setting up the Verdad Family, a group to made up of all seekers after truth who want to go with the "Berkeley family" idea. Financial support for his campaign will come, he hopes, from monthly donations of $1 each from supporters.

Verdad is looking for odd jobs, yard work, etc., with which to finance his campaign and to help support his programs after he is elected. Verdad strongly that he is perfectly willing to wait for the people to find a job and to help support another candidate if that candidate can come up with a better program. He makes that statement in a spirit not of challenge but of cooperation for the good of the city. He commented that he will work with and in all candidates if that was the April Coalition if such a group develops. Verdad is particularly interested, he says, in having a "strong" woman as an arrangement: if such a person steps forward, he will give her full support, he says.

Bruce Hicklone
These are excerpts from an interview with Miguel Enriquez, Secretary General of the Chilean MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left, formerly known as the French weekly, "L'Aurore", on March 22.

ROUGE: How does the MIR react to accusations that the MIR was partly responsible for the fall of the Popular Unity (UP) government?

ENRIQUEZ: These accusations come basically from two sectors: left reformists and the bourgeoisie. We know that certain elements of European communist parties are trying to explain the UP's defeat by MIR "imperialism" and "leftism." These leaders are trying to historically save reformism and its Chilian failure so as to be able to continue implementing reformism in their own countries.

The UP government was a petit-bourgeois government of the left. Its policies were based on an alliance between reformist sectors of the petit bourgeoisie and workers. For three years, the UP submitted to the bourgeois order amidst constant attempts to realize its project of class collaboration. However, the reformists were unable to carry through this project.

The movement of the masses, increasing since 1967, suddenly erupted with the UP coming to power. During the past three years the Chilean masses developed organization and consciousness which attained an unprecedented level. At the same time, partly as a consequence of the mass movement, the internal crisis of the Chilean petit bourgeoisie became deeper, which led to the liquidation of the reformists into their fatal error. They decided that an alliance with one or both of the factions of the UP would be possible, failing to see that, beyond their divisions, both factions of the UP represented the petit-bourgeois order, which liquidated that the movement of the masses would go far beyond the timid reforms of the UP. Thus, eventually, they would attack the very system of capitalist domination.

To advance its politics of class collaboration, the UP had to make many concessions, mainly by not nationalizing the means of production. The UP did nationalize certain sectors, but in a limited fashion that the nationalizations in the production sector were under pressure from the working class, which occupied more than 300 big factories. Thus the actual UP policies divided the left and confused the workers, who considered the government a tool in their struggle. At the same time, the working class never lost sight of the anti-capitalist and revolutionary character of the mass movement, and produced the conditions very quickly. Thus the UP failed to gain the strength that an alliance with a part of the bourgeoisie would have brought, and at the same time weakened and divided its main sources of strength.

ROUGE: What is MIR's position on an alliance of all "democrats" that would fight merely for the reinstatement of bourgeois dictatorship in its parliamentary form?

ENRIQUEZ: We are promoting a unified front of all those who will, in practice, fight the military dictatorship, including those sectors of the Christian Democrats who had, between 1964 and 1970, opposed to such a move (emphasis in original). This front will struggle to be the working class and the people. There can be no alliance between the UP and the Kingpin that prepared the coup, such as the sector of the Christian Democrats led by Frei. Even though they emerge with timid criticisms of the junta, nor can there be alliances which would cripple the programs and methods of struggle of the people.

Furthermore, we will promote -- and this has already happened -- the liquidation of the popular resistance movement operating through small committees in factories, schools and neighborhoods, which since last year will struggle to be the people's revolutionary army, the only force capable of confronting the guerrillas and defeating the dictatorship.

ROUGE: Do you think that the Chilean left, and the MIR in particular, are isolated from the rest of the world?

ENRIQUEZ: I believe that the guerrilla dictatorship is far more isolated than we are! The working class, the people, the left in Chile have received and continue to receive overwhelming support from all the socialist countries, from revolutionary Cuba, and from revolutions and parties in Latin America.

The revolutionaries of the southern part of South America, including the ERP (Argentina), the MIR (Chile), the ELN (Bolivia) and the MIR (Chile), have formed a coordinating committee which will not only make our isolation impossible, but constitutes a tremendous step forward for the revolutionary struggle in the area. Every initiative tending to unify and strengthen the struggle against the coup d'etat and the coup d'etat for revolution will be welcomed with enthusiasm by the Chilean revolutionaries.

Peoples Translation Service

JUNTA HONORS U.S. GENERAL

(Chile) has formed a coordinating

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

continued from p. 1

firm of Whittaker and Baxter.

Proposition 9 lost, and People's Lobby learned an important lesson: in order to pass, big money had to be removed from politicians. This November of 72, it started drafting a document to that effect. By 1973 the Secretary of State and Common Cause and a thing called Watergate joined the movement.

One would think that in today's atmosphere People's Lobby would fall in line and simply refuse to do anything to limit campaign and lobbyist spending and to require stricter campaign and lobbyist spending and to require stricter campaign and lobbyist spending and lobbyist spending... Perhaps few are standing in the way. Even political leaders who fear what Proposition 9 would do to their game -- including all the gubernatorial candidates except Attilio, Flurnoy, and Reeseke -- have endorsed. Perhaps, on the other hand, the old political money game may just be waiting to reassert itself.

Whittaker and Baxter, who in the '72 campaign spent at least $3 million vs. the $500,000 of People's Lobby, has been holding closed meetings for two weeks now on the Political Reform Initiative. Bill Eger and his small public relations firm have been attacking the initiative as an anti-democratic power grab similar to the plays used by Hitler prior to his power grab. There's then John Henning. As president of the Executive Council of the California Federation of Labor, he has been denouncing Proposition 9 as anti-labor without saying which section of the document makes it such.

Whittaker and Baxter are about to team up in an anti-9 media campaign. John Henning, perhaps part of this pact, may have had his effectiveness stymied in his effort to turn the strength and money of labor against the bill. Henning, People's Lobby has discovered, one of the largest organized lobbyist has with willfully refused to file, under oath, the simple statements and reports required by the Anti-Corruption Law. Consequently, on April 10th People's Lobby sent him a summons to appear in Superior Court on April 26th. More on these developments in the next of this series.

Santiago (LNS) - The chair of the U.S. Air Force Southern Command, General Arthur Salisbury, paid a visit to Santiago, Chile, on March 26 in order to receive a "military honor" from the Chilian junta.

During the September 11 coup against the government of Salvador Allende, a U.S. Air Force reconnaissance plane, manned by a U.S. crew, was observed patrolling over Chile. According to the Chilian resistance news agency Arauco, the plane was equipped with a comprehensive communications center and coordinated the activities of junta forces during the coup.

MIR - Peoples Translation Service