

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



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EDITORIAL STAFF

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DEL CASTLE
ART MINK

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3440 EAST MARGINAL WAY SO.
SEATTLE, WA 98134

THE INTREPID BROTHER MOORK

We are pleased to report that our President Dick Moork is recovering from chemo therapy treatment. He chaired the last meeting in spite of the fact he had to leave his hospital in Bremerton and travel to our union hall. He and his doctor are feeling good about his recovery.

His fighting spirit, as exemplified in his determination to be present and lead our November meeting has characterized his life.

He never backed down from any challenge the bosses threw at him. He is clearly recognized as one of the fearless working class leaders of our time. His record on the waterfront, as elsewhere will testify to that.

He brings the same spirit to his battle with his illness. We all wish him well as we think of him as an inspiration to all of us in the struggles of the working class.

PROFESSOR BERGQUIST

reported at the last Old Timers meeting on the progress of the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies that our Club sponsored by collecting over \$1,300,000 to endow it.

He reported that money is still coming in adding to the principal. The interest on that money is used to enlarge the Labor Studies program. The principal is not touched so that our Chair in Labor Studies will be forever.

Chuck Bergquist reported that publications on the subject of labor, its regular Bulletin,



MEETINGS:

December	4	Election of Officers
January..To		be announced
February	5	

"BUILDING BRIDGES," hiring more staff to enlarge the curriculum, and sponsoring international labor conferences which put the Chair on the world map are all financed by the fund. It is no exaggeration to say our ILWU Club is noted in academic and labor circles around the globe.

In addition, what seems most important to us in labor is that Highschool teacher seminars are sponsored by the Chair to bring labor's story into public schools. This will counter some of the anti labor attitude of the media and employers. That we surely need!

So, if you have a few extra bucks in your pocket, remember that they could be put to good use for labor's cause by making a contribution to the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies. The address is:

Harry Bridges Memorial Fund
c/o Robert Duggan
#1 Union Square, Suite 2900
6th and University
Seattle, WA. 98101

BOB LINDSEY, President of Local 19, advises the RUSTY HOOK that both of our resolutions concerning pension improvements which were endorsed by Local 19 have been referred to the February Contract Caucus.

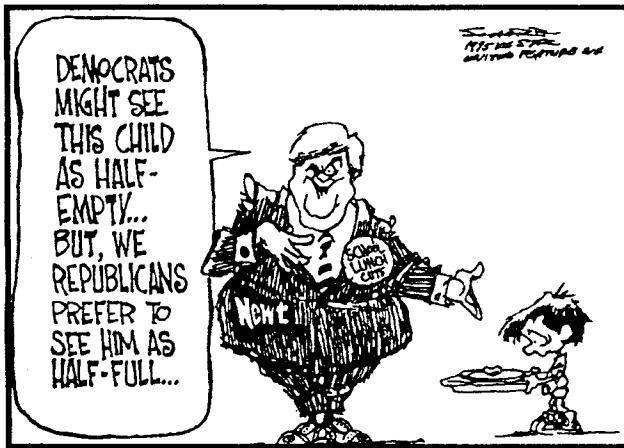
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LONGSHOREMAN STUDIES STUDENTS

Fred Berg

Since late September I have had the privilege of auditing a class at the University of Washington called Introduction to Labor Studies. This course is a prerequisite to a program of labor studies which is the direct result of our donations to the Harry Bridges Chair.

The instructors for the course include the current occupant of the chair, Chuck Bergquist of the History Department and Sharon Reitman who specializes in industrial sociology. The



presence of two points of view during the discussion periods injects a life into the subject matter that obviously stimulates student participation and interest. This along with the quality of the lectures and assigned readings leave me with the impression that the course is in very capable hands.

There are some seventy to seventy-five students in the class. In response to a questionnaire handed out during the first day by the professor, most of the students said they were juniors and seniors and were working from ten to forty hours a week. Seven said they were working forty or more hours and only sixteen said they were not working at all. Very few had taken any other courses on labor.

As to a question about what they thought labor unions do, most of the students said "to protect workers" or something along this line. About a quarter of the responses were negative

or critical such as "supposedly protects workers." One student replied "they take money from your paycheck."

The students as a whole grossly overestimated the percentage of the American work force they thought to be organized into labor unions. The average response was about 35%, whereas the real answer is a little over 12% with about 40% of those so organized being employed by the government.

In response to a question as to whether the nation needs labor unions about 65% answered yes while the remainder thought that labor unions had too much power. The attitudes displayed here, according to the instructors, are not significantly different from those displayed by the American public as a whole.

About half of the students thought that the strength of labor unions was in decline and another half thought that government policy was not good for unions.

Twelve percent said they had belonged to labor unions and another 12% said they had family members who did so.

This last point is especially significant because it shows that most of the students have to support their way through school with non-union jobs with low pay. Moreover they have to compete for grades with many highly qualified foreign students, many of whom have their room, board and tuition paid for by their government.

The University tuition fees are not the least of the worries of the students. The fees are outrageous - they are now approaching a thousand dollars per quarter.

The financial burden on these students must be tremendous. It may behoove us to turn more of our attention to these students and see if we cannot do something to help them out.

They appear to be making rapid progress in their studies. The intelligent questions and observations that come forth during discussion periods show that they are learning very quickly and are changing their attitudes in the process. They deserve the best support we can give them.

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GROUP HEALTH AND VIRGINIA MASON

As you may have heard, Group Health and Virginia Mason are considering a merger. This is a serious matter of concern to all of us.

In the first place it will remove control of Group Health from its cooperative principle of control by the membership. Secondly, it will be absolutely controlled by a private holding company over both. The holding company will be appointed by the Board of Directors of both, but from there on, it will decide all aspects of health care by either one. What this means is that insurance companies with a view of cutting costs will dominate.

This is particularly important to union affiliates of Group Health. Even if they negotiate a full coverage contract with their employers, insurance, not union contracts will decide what kind of coverage will be allowed.

We are cooperating with a very active Committee of Concerned Group Health Consumers. They are warning of the consequences and mobilizing Group health's membership to save it. They are in the process of circularizing 40,000 Group Health members to warn them of the danger. This will cost in the neighborhood of \$5,000.

They need our help. If we are to stop insurance companies from seriously limiting our medical coverage, we need to give the Concerned Consumers our support. They have appealed to union affiliates and Group Health membership for financial support. At our last meeting we donated our usual \$25.00. But that is hardly a good faith effort. We appealed for individuals to contribute as well. Your help would be an investment in helping defend good health coverage for union members and retirees.

If you wish, your contribution can be sent to the Pensioner's office or to -
Concerned Group Health Consumers at-

6221 Greenwood N.
Seattle, WA., 98103

JOB LOSSES ON THE WATERFRONT

At the recent ILWU caucus, Helen Bentley, former head of the Maritime Commission under President Nixon, appeared and warned us of the

threat to longshore jobs if Congress passes HR 2149. This legislation would abolish the Ocean Shipping Act - another Gingrich budget cut. It would in effect privatize docks, according to Bob Lindsey, President of Local 19.

What this means is that large shipping lines would monopolize port facilities and squeeze out small ports. The resulting loss of jobs would be devastating. For one thing, small port longshoremen would either quit or seek to transfer to the large ports. The difficulty here is that it is quite possible that Los Angeles and Seattle would be the only remaining West Coast ports. For instance, APL would likely pull out of Oakland for Seattle leaving longshoremen, warehousemen and related workers out on the street.

We, naturally do not want this to happen. There is too much downsizing going on already.

Local 19 and our Pensioners Club have sent letters of protest to Washington State Senators (it has already passed the House of Representatives) You should do the same.

The addresses are:

Senator Patty Murray
Senate Office Building
111 Russell
Washington, D.C., 20510-4704

And:

Senator Slade Gorton
Senate Office Building
SH 730 Hart
Washington, D.C. 23510-4701



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Senator Slade Gorton
October 30, 1995
Senate Office Building
SH 730 Hart
Washington, D.C., 20510-4701

Dear Senator Gorton:

The Seattle Longshore Pensioners Club is seriously concerned about the possible passage of HR 2149. We understand this Bill, abolishing the Ocean Shipping Act would have a devastating effect on the jobs of longshore workers. It will jeopardize employment in the industry, not only on the West coast, but also the East and Gulf Coasts.

In this period of downsizing in many major industries, to now eliminate jobs in the private sector by legislative action would be counter productive. We feel it is within your power to stave off this serious threat to the welfare of workers - those who do the work of our country.

We await your consideration in this vital matter.

Sincerely yours,
Del Castle, Recording Secretary
Seattle ILWU Pensioner Club
Copy to Senator Murray

This missive, being written on the day the judge granted an injunction against the Fife Teachers Union, is meant to show the partiality of the courts and the powers that be, toward employers or corporations.

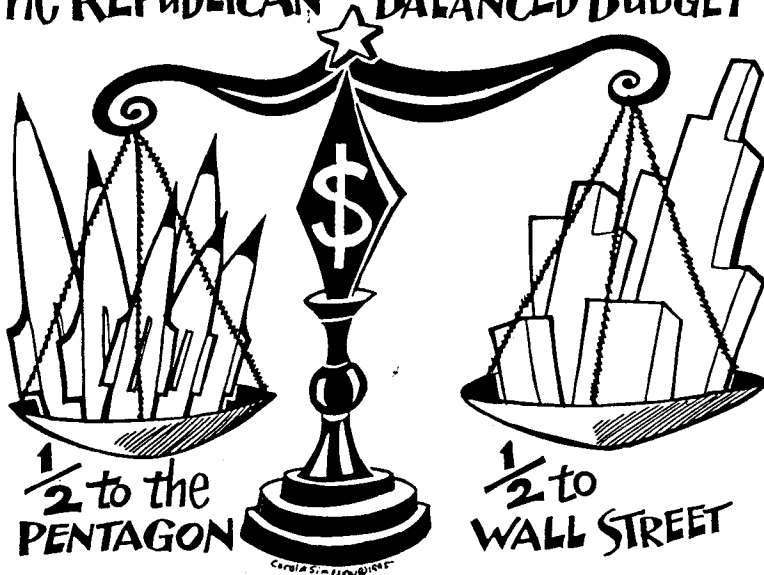
During the month plus long struggle, I have heard many news reports on the strike, but I never heard one that was pro-union. I never heard them tell that the strike was precipitated by the School Board, or that they remained intransigent about their take aways from the teachers, never offering to negotiate the matter.

As much can be said about the judge, who played the old capitalist game of hiding behind the law in the way that Reagan did when he destroyed the aircraft controllers in 1981.

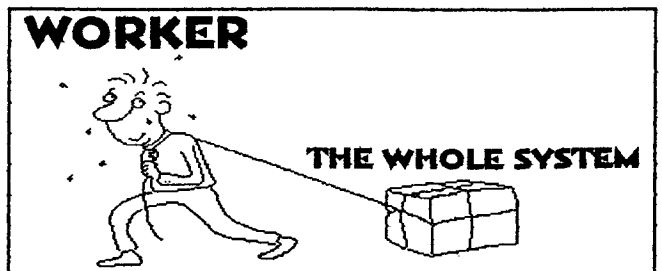
Just remember, as workers, we should never depend on the courts in a labor dispute. They may dispense the letter of the law, but they won't dispense justice. Remember, workers were never consulted when they passed anti-labor laws. The courts are run by our enemies. The Boeing Airplane Co. was found guilty of unfair labor practices, but they defied the findings and nothing was done about it.

Dick Moork

The REPUBLICAN BALANCED BUDGET



WHAT IS GOOD FOR WORKERS IS GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

(The following article, with accompanying cartoons, is excerpted from "The Assault on Social Security" by Edward S. Herman, which appeared in the November 1995 issue of "Z" magazine.)

The Republicans (and New Democrats) have been honing in on Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC), Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid to bear the heaviest burdens of budget cuts for the alleged purpose of achieving a balanced budget. This agenda and the overall attack on civil government and the welfare state, can only be understood in the context of corporate priorities in the New World Order.

In their drive for profits business firms seek expanding markets, low wages and benefits, control over working conditions, low business taxes, and minimal government regulation. The pursuit of these goals was in partial abeyance in the post World War II era, extending roughly from 1945 to 1975, when labor was stronger and an implicit social contract allowed workers to organize and share in productivity gains, permitted the further advance of a modest welfare state, and gave substantial weight to maintaining high levels of employment in determining monetary and fiscal policy. In this earlier period it was even argued that rising wages were helpful in maintaining high levels of demand, even if they increased business costs.

From roughly the mid 1970', however, with slackening productivity growth and intensifying global competition threatening profits, and greater capital mobility increasing business's bargaining power and creating new economic opportunities, business became more aggressive in pursuing its goals. As markets became more global the focus shifted from maintaining effective demand to getting costs down. Cost reductions have been implemented by business by "restructuring", evading and busting unions, relocating to better investment climates, and by bargaining down governments. Business has also advanced its objectives indirectly by massive political and propaganda investments and aggressive lobbying, which have been crucial in getting "market friendly" Republicans and New Democrats in office.

The attack on the welfare state

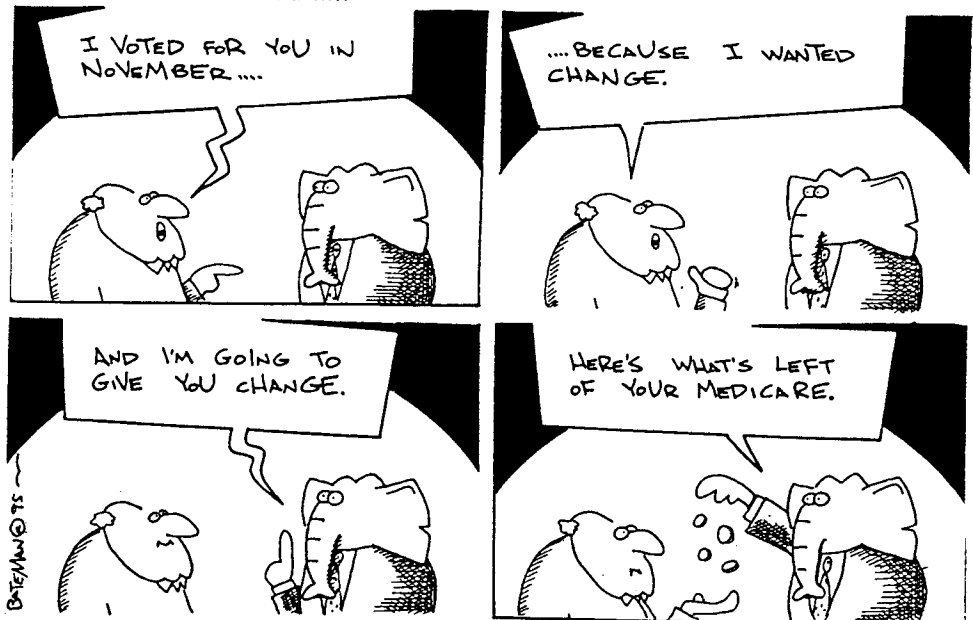
One aim of the corporate community has been a radical paring down of the welfare state, which by mobilizing government power and tax resources to protect ordinary citizens from the ravages of capitalism—unemployment, disability, ill health, poverty and problems of old age—obstructs capital's freedom. The welfare state allows people

to remain out of the labor market, thereby tending to elevate wage rates; it interferes with managerial control over the workplace; it costs money in the form of payroll and other taxes to fund retirement, medical, and welfare programs; and it strengthens the power of government as an agent serving ordinary people.

Since the 1970s the corporate community has been carrying out a sustained propaganda onslaught blaming government for our social problems. In a great propaganda triumph, the desire of business to reduce government financial charges and controls on itself has been transmuted into a widespread belief that gutting major governmental benefits to ordinary citizens gets government off "our" backs.

In its anti welfare state efforts, business and its agents and allies have employed the classic strategies of first attacking the weak, while at the same time trying to divide the victims and set them against one another...

The problem with AFDC and related programs like food stamps is that they involve budgetary peanuts—AFDC cost \$15.9 billion in 1994 (food stamps \$25.5 billion), or 1.1 percent (with food stamps, 2.8 percent) of the budget; AFDC is smaller than the fiscal 1995 tax break to the wealthy through the exemption of inherited property from the capital gains tax (\$20.5 billion), and is only about 6 percent of the size of the Pentagon budget. To seriously reduce the safety net outlays for ordinary citizens one has to go after Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which together add up to over \$500 billion. Of course there are at least equally large possibilities of budget economies in the military budget and corporate subsidies, or by taxing business and the wealthy more heavily. But these routes not fitting the corporate agenda, they are ignored by the Republicans "populists" (who are busily providing further gifts to the haves) and not pressed by the media...



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Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are "populist" programs that serve large numbers of ordinary citizens, extending well into the ranks of the middle class. They have been very successful. Given the influence of corporate priorities in the media and our money driven political system, however, the very success of these programs is troublesome and presents another "threat of a good example". Social Security greatly out performs private pension systems in protecting the elderly and it demonstrates that the government can provide socially important services efficiently (administrative costs of Social Security are under 1 percent of annual benefit payments).

A successful Social Security system also conflicts with business demands for a "deregulated labor market", and entails business expenses in the form of matching contributions to the payroll tax as well as other possible charges. Social Security also bypasses private capital markets, providing the federal government with money that would otherwise have to be raised by selling bonds through dealers. Privatizing social security would mean channeling the contributions into asset pools through private security dealers, with corresponding fees. It is of course claimed that these government programs are financially flawed and need to be "saved" by the foxes busily eating the safety net chickens.

Villianizing Social Security (etc.)

With Social Security (etc.) on the corporate hit list, establishment institutions, intellectuals and pundits have been mobilized to the task of showing these programs to be out of control, inequitable, and a social menace. Some of these claims quickly assume the form of cliché "truths" that hardly require proof, playing the same role as the alleged benefits of "free trade" in the selling of NAFTA and GATT. Most of the are false or grossly inflated.

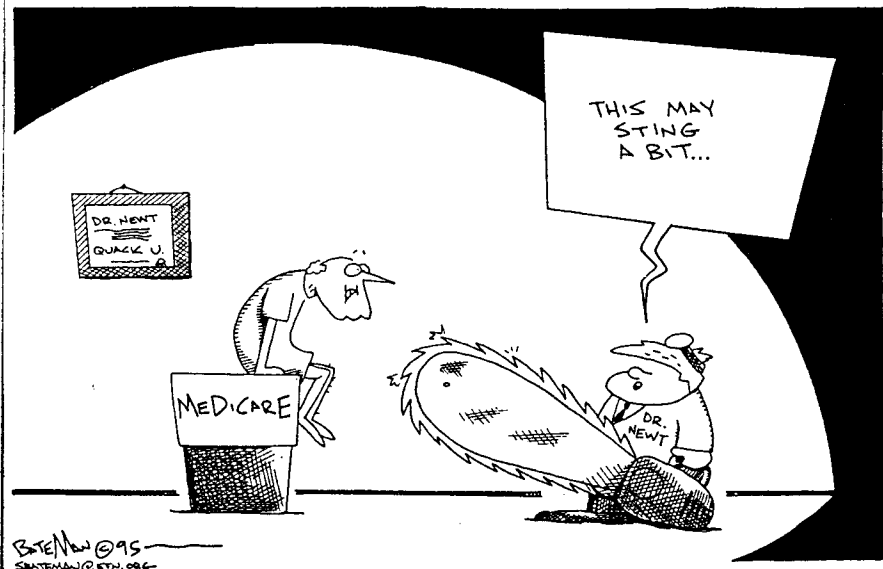
1. Social Security is the root cause of the budget deficit and bringing it under control is necessary to rein in the budget.. In truth, the deficit is a holdover from the Reagan era's regressive tax cuts and huge expansion of the military budget. Returning the tax rates and the military budget to their 1977 levels would completely eliminate the deficit! Social Security produces a sizable budget surplus, Medicare a moderate deficit, and Medicaid is funded out of general revenues at a 1994 cost of about \$82 billion. Curbing their growth is only one of many possible routes to budget control.

The Reagan program of 1981-84 cut social budgets while giving huge benefits to the rich, corporations and the pentagon; and in the process it created a

structural deficit designed to prevent a rehabilitation of social spending. The 1994-95 Republican proposals use the budget deficit as an excuse to further attack social budgets, while giving additional bonanzas to the rich, corporations and the Pentagon.

2. Social Security faces bankruptcy and needs correction now to be "saved". As noted, Social Security produces a surplus and will do so for many years. Forecasts of distant threats are based on highly debatable assumptions about future productivity and income growth, the retiree/worker ratio, the relevant tax base, and tax rates. Claims that the the system will break down in the distant future also rest on forecasts of continuously growing Medicare costs; in one prominent forecast the required lifetime tax rate on workers income in 35 years will be 82 percent. But the assumptions underlying such forecasts are artificial, extending into the future tendencies that would have to be corrected to avoid a systemic crisis with or without Social Security and Medicare.

Dean Baker shows that an analogous set of assumptions about the burden of the huge national debt of 1945 would have led to a forecast of a 71 percent tax burden on the present generation, which was completely invalidated by productivity growth and inflation, despite further moderate debt growth ("Robbing the Cradle: A Critical Assessment of Generational Accounting," Economic Policy Institute, 1995). On plausible assumptions about income growth and rates of retirement, the Social security administration economists now forecast that an increase of 1.46 percentage points would take care of Social Security deficits for 75 years into the future!



Medical costs are projected to rise from 14 percent of GDP now to over 26 percent in 2030. The Republican solution is not to rationalize medical care and reduce the enormous structure of administrative

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costs, but rather to reduce benefit payments and pretend that the market will produce "efficiencies" to avoid a sharp contraction of service. This will certainly not happen: on the contrary, there will be a drastic cut in the quality and quantity of services, mainly at the expense of poor and middle class people.

Dean Baker makes the interesting point that prison expenditure growth is more rapid than that of Medicare, and extrapolated 35 years into the future would create an intolerable burden, but nobody in the establishment is calling for a curb on prison expenditures out of concern for the future burden—the "family values" folks like prisons, as they do guns, bombs, and missiles, just as they can't abide doing anything positive for poor people in families outside of prisons...

3. There isn't any other way to reduce the deficit except cutting Medicare and Medicaid.

In a properly working propaganda system like our own, the corporate agenda is equated with the "national interest", and alternative agendas that might better meet the needs of ordinary citizens are ignored or downplayed. (This was well illustrated in the 1993 "debate" over the enactment of NAFTA.)

Therefore there is never any discussion of the several other possible ways to reduce the deficit, or even if it needs to be reduced.

Let me review briefly a few of the alternative areas for budget economies, which would be front and center in a democratic order

(1) The military budget. Although the enormous size of the military budget was allegedly based on the Soviet Threat, now removed, the assumptions on which the Pentagon budget requests are based are not questioned and the Republicans and Clinton call for increases beyond Pentagon requests. This is an area of gross corruption and inefficiency, but the Republicans, who freely cut social budgets by 20 percent or more on grounds of potential efficiency savings, never support the same process for budgets for killing people.

The August 1995 issue of the Center for Defense Information's "The Defense Monitor" notes that "The Pentagon remains the largest source of wasteful spending in the federal government. The institution which gave us the \$400 hammer, \$600 toilet seat, and \$7,600 coffee pot can also lay claim to [many other] examples of tax dollar waste."

(2) Corporate welfare. Taxes on corporate

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jobs fight crime
If you've got wages you don't have to
steal

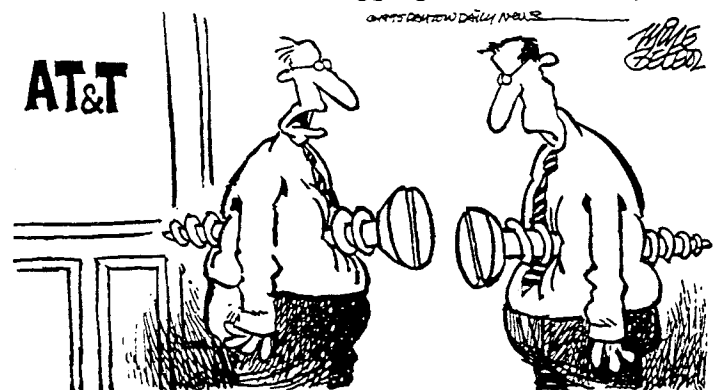
profits have declined since the 1960s from about 4 percent to 2 percent of the Gross Disposable Product (GDP), while corporate share has risen in most rival states (Germany, Japan, etc.) If corporate profits taxes were returned to the 4 percent of GDP level this would yield some \$100 billion a year. If they were pushed up to the Japanese level (7.5 percent) it would produce \$280 billion. enough to wipe out the deficit by itself.

Aid For Dependent Corporations (another kind of AFDC) is also enormous, much of it hidden in "tax expenditures", i.e. reductions in corporate tax liabilities rather than direct payments to corporations. In the years 1981-83, General Electric Company made \$6.5 billion in pre tax profits, but its tax breaks made its tax liability negative and it got a \$283 million tax rebate.

In her compilation of AFDC* (Aid For Dependent Corporations) for 1995, Janice C. Shields identified 153 items of federal welfare to corporations totaling 167.2 billion...Shields points out that the subsidies have no relation to need: Cargill, Inc. immensely profitable and with a net worth of \$3.6 billion, has received \$1.29 billion in Export Enhancement Program bonuses since 1985. By contrast, AFDC (children) and other forms of welfare going to people in need add up to \$50 billion, or less than one-third of AFDC (corporations)

(3) Upper income welfare. It is estimated that if the tax structure were returned to its level of progressiveness of 1977, government tax revenues from the upper 1 percent would increase by \$70 billion a year.

Hidden entitlements of the affluent Are also large, estimated individual tax expenditures for 1995 are \$390.5 billion (1995-1999 aggregate, \$2.2 trillion).



I HEAR THEY USED TO GIVE GOLD WATCHES.

(4) Single payer health care option. Another crucial option for dealing with the growth in government expenditures and bringing the deficit down would be to move to a single payer health care system. The escalation of health care costs is the major under-

(continued on page 8 "LIES")

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GERIATRIC JERRY ASSAULTS THE,,,,,BULGE

A couple of months ago Jerry Tyler found putting on his socks a smothering task. It cut off his wind and "I was nearly blacking out," he said.

Faced with untimely demise, he figured he had better get in shape and hang around a while.

Suiting action to words, Jerry decided to join a fitness club. He was quickly discouraged, "After I pushed levers 10 times and nearly collapsed. By the time I climbed off and on machines and grunted and groaned for an hour, I swore I'd never come back. Then the instructor told me seriously, 'I promise you, my friend, if you stick with this routine four times a week for a month, you will be very happy with the results.' I took his word. My first month is almost up. Results? Lately I've been pulling my socks on and off two or three times in the morning just to enjoy the delightful fact that I can do it and not stop breathing."

Asked about his feeling at present by a

RUSTY HOOK reporter he replied he felt "One hundred percent better." and plans to continue his fitness routine.

This reminded the reporter of the story about the fat fellow who complained to his doctor that he could no longer see his lower parts. Whereupon the doctor advised him to diet. "What color, Doc?" the fellow enquired?

(continued: LIES)

pinning to the rise of Medicare and Medicaid outlays, and the Canadian experience shows that a single payer system could be cost efficient and still permit universal coverage.

Once again, the powerful having decided against a single-payer system, the mainstream politicians and media do not even discuss this as an option even though polls indicate wide public support.

**GOOD JOBS AND GOOD WAGES
ARE GOOD FOR BUSINESS
IF YOU DON'T HAVE MONEY
YOU CAN'T BUY STUFF!**

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