

CARTON 5:19

STRONG IN THE STRUGGLE

WRITINGS BY LEE BROWN ON
UNIONS, JOBS, POVERTY, SENIOR CITIZENS

CIRCA 1981-1993

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LABOR REPORT

by:

Lee Brown (On Black Seniors)

Over three million Black seniors are victims of the racist system in the U.S.A. There are special problems for older Black people, because we're living in a racist society. Today the Black old Americans are three-times more likely to be poor or at the poverty-level; their struggle for survival is being denied. In the neighborhoods they are victims of crimes throughout their lives. They face health hazards and they live in inferior houses for which they pay too high a rent. And therefore, as a Black senior myself, I propose to the millions of senior citizens in America that we should get involved in the struggle for the betterment of the condition not only for Black seniors but the seniors as a whole in America. We must form a coalition with all senior groups. We must encourage our friends, our neighbors, and others to join us in this effort. And we must remember to use our political power to its fullest, e.g., by encouraging everyone to register to vote and to vote for those who are concerned about the problems of seniors and other poor people who might work with us to better the condition of us all.

We can then make demands at the city, state and national levels. We may not have the money, but we have the vote! By massive registering and voting, we can call on representatives to better conditions for our children and their children. We owe it to ourselves and to them. We must play an important part in fighting racism.

Racism is not only depriving Black seniors, but all seniors and working people in the U.S.A. Massive money is feeding the military budget and taking food out of senior citizens' mouths, destroying their health, rethomes, senior centers, food stamps, escort service, etc.

Black seniors must get involved and become one vehicle and speak out against Reaganomics and racism and get involved in the struggle for peace and justice, and jobs for all. The attack upon seniors, Social Security, S.S.I, escort-services, etc. that they're entitled to is destroying our right to survive. A good example is escort-services: Senior citizens should be able to walk the streets without fear, without doubt and return to their home safe!

We are all in the poverty trap. There is no way out unless we form a coalition. I emphasize that we must fight together despite race, creed, color or religion. We must fight back the attack on the poor. Black seniors have been poor for many generations and watched their children suffer. The word is hopelessness. But there is a solution. We can help each other; we can form coalitions, unity. In this way we can fight for the necessities for all people. We must work collectively to achieve this. As a Black trade-unionist in U.S.A. I call upon you all to register, vote for those who would better all our lives.

Most workers are poor. We Black seniors must come out and speak out for the rights of all seniors in this country. We must fight for the Economic Bill of Rights. And I will continue calling on Black citizens, as myself Lee Brown, to continue fighting for peace and social programs and against military spending. For, as the wise old saying goes, I Lee Brown remind you: 'An injury to one is an injury to all.'

Now is the time for seniors to demand our rights, to fight for the future and proper economic conditions for all Americans. Now is the time to create millions of jobs by transferring billions away from the military to social programs. And I say the increase of elders and poor must resist cutbacks in Social Security and S.S.I. Labor and community groups must fight for an Economic Bill of Rights.

Our country is in a crisis. We must act. We the seniors must act now. We must demand justice in this country. Let us continue. Let us find a solution. And that solution, I think, is unity.



SENIORS UNITE!

by Lee Brown

Over three million black seniors are victims of the racist system in the United States. There are special problems for older black people, because we're living in a racist society. Today the black older Americans are three-times more likely to be living at the poverty level. Their struggle for survival is being denied. In the neighborhoods they are victims of crimes. They face health hazards and live in inferior housing for which they pay too high a rent.

As a black senior, I propose to the millions of senior citizens in America that we get involved

in the struggle not only for black seniors but the seniors as a whole in American. We must form a coalition with all senior groups, encouraging our friends, neighbors, and others to join us in this effort. We must remember to use our political power to its fullest by encouraging everyone to register to vote and to vote for those who are concerned with the problems of seniors and other poor people who might work with us.

We can then make demands at the city, state and national levels. We may not have money, but we have the vote! By mas-

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From Page 10

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Res
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Tuesday, November 10, 1987



California seniors

As a Black trade unionist, I attended the Congress of California Seniors' Convention, Sept. 16-18, 1987. I was a delegate from Local 2 Retirees' Association (Hotel And Restaurant Local). I felt it was a very good convention, with over 400 delegates attending. Many delegates spoke out on many issues. There was a Union Forum, where all union retirees met and spoke in the forum on a number of these issues.

I also spoke on Ron Dellums' National Health Bill H2402, urging the delegates to return to their communities, their organizations, or religious organizations, etc., to get support for it. Having been involved in the trade union movement and community activities, I also urged that we work together in unity, our key to success.

There are over 35 million people without health insurance according to the statistics. The health needs of the people are not a privilege; they are a human right!

President George Sandy brought an extraordinary and inspiring message to take back to our communities. The forum delegates were instructed to go back and prepare ourselves for the 1988 election campaign. We need jobs for younger Americans; youth and age must work together to achieve these things; for we need low-income housing — a national housing program, under public domain.

We confronted other issues like community health centers, community child care centers for the benefit of working mothers, better health care centers for seniors, etc.

We can achieve these things if we all work together. Our nation is in a crisis. It is time for youth and age to work together.

Numbers of resolutions were passed for the good and welfare of the seniors and retirees (trade unionists). There was a resolution on houses and health, introduced by the Grey Panthers. The annual senior rally in Sacramento, May 25, 1988, by the Congress of California Seniors Region III, the East Bay Legislative Council of Senior Citizens Groups and the California Legislative Council for Older Americans should be large.

People's Daily World

Lee Brown,
San Francisco, Calif.

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People's Daily World

Lee Brown,
San Francisco, Calif.

Oct. 5, 1987

Lee Brown
, P.O. Box 1031
S.F., 94101, Ca.

Editor;

As a Black Trade Unionist, I, Lee Brown, am giving my views on the Congress of California Seniors' Convention, Sept. 16-18, 1987. I was a delegate from among three delegates from Local 2 Retirees' Association (Hotel And Restaurant Local). That's why I felt it was a very good convention with over 400 delegates attending. It was the 1987 State Convention at the Oakland Airport Hilton in Oakland, California. And many delegates spoke out on many issues. Wednesday was the Union Forum, where all union retirees met and spoke in the Forum on a number of these issues.

I also spoke on Ron Dellums' National Health Bill H2402; and, I urged the delegates to return to their communities, their organizations, or religious organizations, etc. to get support for the Ron Dellums' National Health Bill, and to write cards and letters for the National Health Bill. And finally I urged every member of the organizations to lobby in support of Ron Dellums' Health Bill. Having been involved in the Trade Union Movement and community activities, I also urged them, that to be successful, we must work together in unity which is our key to success.

The second day of the Convention, Sept. 17, I attended the Health Workshop and I also spoke again on the Ron Dellums National Health Bill. Everyone in the workshop was in support of the National Health Bill.

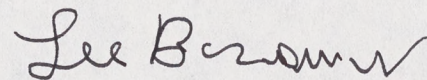
I also called for unity back in our community to mobilize our friends and neighbors and to lobby for the support of this National Health Bill of Ron Dellums, because there are over 35 million people without health insurance according to the statistics. The health needs of the people are not a privilege---they are a human right!

President George Sandy brought an extraordinary and inspiring message to go back to our communities. The Forum delegates were instructed to go back and prepare ourselves for the 1988 election campaign, because we are confronted with many issues. We need jobs for younger Americans; youth and age must work together to achieve these things; for we need low-income houses---a national house program---public domain.

We confronted other issues like community health centers, community child care centers for the benefit of working mothers, better health care centers for seniors, etc. We can achieve these things if we all work together, as I said before and I will say is again: unity is our solution to our problem. Our nation is in a crisis. It is time for youth and age to work together, so we seniors must use every effort in our strength to bring about this National Health Act. The American people should act: let's get get organized now!

Numbers of resolutions were passed for the good and welfare of the seniors and retirees (trade unionists). There was a resolution on houses and health, introduced by the Grey Panthers. The annual senior rally in Sacramento from May 25, 1988 from the Congress of California Seniors Region III, the East Bay Legislative Council of Senior Citizens' Groups and the California Legislative Council for Older Americans. Thus, we we are looking forward to a large rally in 1988 in Sacramento. Peace be with us!

By: Lee Brown

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lee Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

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JULY 2, 1993

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Diary of a Black Trade Unionist

Lobby Rap Rally

by Lee Brown

I attended the "Lobby Rap Rally" June 10 at the State Building in San Francisco along with a crowd of over 2,000 people. The purpose of the event was to urge the Supervisors to "have a heart" and support Senior Services. The mayor's budget will cut the heart right out of vital services if passed.

The final notes, instructions and assignments for the Lobby Rap leaders came from the director of the Senior Action Network (S.A.N.). She explained to the lobbyists that the demand was for no cuts -- no Muni fare increases; no service cuts; no cuts at Laguna Honda Hospital, in public health services, mental



health services, or the prescription drug education program; a fully funded senior escort program; all public libraries kept open; no cuts in police, especially the Community Police on Patrol (C-POP); improvement of 911 response time and the adding of civilian staff; preservation, maintenance, and expansion of affordable housing for seniors.

Health care is a right, not a privilege.

It was also suggested that to offset costs, the hotel tax be increased, a 1/2 cent at-the-pump gas tax be implemented to fund public transit, and that statewide efforts to maintain the 1/2 cent sales tax increase that went into

See Lee Brown, page 10

Abolish Poverty



by Lee Brown

I attended a federal jobs program community meeting Saturday, February 27, at the First Unitarian Church. The meeting was called to abolish poverty. The question was, What is President Clinton going to do about more jobs?

Julianne Malveaux, Ph.D., economist and columnist, Todd Getlin, Ph.D., and Wilson Riles, Jr., were featured speakers. Julianne Malveaux talked about politics and public service and was very concerned about the needs of the people. Other speakers discussed health needs, schools, jobs, and day care centers. Aileen Hernandez, first national president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) was given a certificate of appre-

ciation.

People below the poverty level, especially seniors and youth, should work together to combat crime in San Francisco. We need jobs to get the youth off the street. We as seniors should demand that our youth have work and training programs. We should write letters to our elected officials:

Mayor Frank Jordan
Room 200, City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Senator Dianne Feinstein
1700 Montgomery, Suite 305
San Francisco, CA 94111
Senator Barbara Boxer
1700 Montgomery, Suite 240
San Francisco, CA 94111
President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Now is the time for the American people to wake up and build a United Front for a better way of life. The most dangerous pollution in the world today is racism. If we do not wake up the shocker of the hour is on its way. We must learn to respect the rights of all people in the United States. Let it not be too late.

10 NEW BAYVIEW

Lee Brown Honored by Senior Action Network

A highlight of the Second Annual Convention of the Senior Action Network November 19 at Saint Mary's Cathedral was the presentation of a Certificate of Honor to long time San Francisco activist Lee Brown. Evan White of KRON-TV Channel 4 hosted the event.

Mr. Brown was recognized for his extensive volunteer service. He has served to advance the interests of seniors through the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union (Local 2) Retirees, Legal Assistance to the Elderly, the San Francisco Federation of



Retired Union Members, the National Caucus on Black Aged, and several tenant rights organizations.

He had also served on the board of directors of the Senior Action Network but had to resign for health reasons. He remains an active member of the Crime Committee.

The Senior Action Network (SAN) is a fast growing umbrella association with over 60 affiliated organizations. The Crime Committee works with senior housing, to improve 911 service, and with the police officers of the Community Police on Patrol (CPOP) program.

SAN's Transportation Committee works with traffic issues, Muni drivers, and the escort service. SAN also operates the Senior University, a Senior Leadership Training Program.

MAY 7, 1993

NEW BAYVIEW 5

Community Voices

Diary of a Black Trade Unionist



by Lee Brown

It was in 1939 in Houston, Texas, that I first became aware of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and I soon became a member. Later in Los Angeles I got involved in the NAACP youth movement fighting for better roles for Black Americans in the motion picture industry.

Ms. Charlotte Bath, editor and publisher of the California

NAACP, I have struggled for a better way of life for all oppressed people, better education, better jobs, better health, better housing. I feel money should be available for all human needs. No one should have to go to bed hungry.

In June 1981 I received a Peace Medal recognizing my role in the struggle for peace. I also received at that time a letter from Romesh Chandra, President of the World Peace Council in Helsinki, Finland. In 1955 in Long Beach at the Eleventh Biennial Convention of the Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, I had spoken on a resolution for peace, and the resolution was adopted by a vast majority vote. On November 15, 1973, I was awarded a Certificate for Community Service Activities

Under New Law Proposed by Marks

Welfare Families Could Own Businesses

by Sheila Davis

Legislation proposed by Senator Milton Marks (D-San Francisco/North Bay) to allow welfare recipients to attempt small business ventures is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, May 17, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 2206 of the Capitol Building in Sacramento.

Marks' AFDC /Self-Employment legislation (SB 524) challenges state and federal barriers which prevent a recipient of Aid to Families with Dependent Children from starting a business.

"With limited job availabil-

ity in California, AFDC recipients should be encouraged to pursue sound business development ideas," said Marks. "It is time to change this welfare system that penalizes personal initiative and discourages AFDC recipients from pursuing business ventures that will lead to self-sufficiency," Marks added.

Existing AFDC regulations allow recipients to possess only \$1,000 in total resources. SB 524 proposes to increase AFDC recipients' business assets to \$10,000 and allow recipients to participate in the existing self-employment training and micro-lending (loans of less than

\$10,000) programs.

SB 524 was recommended by a 20-member San Francisco Welfare Reform Ad Hoc Committee which Marks convened last year to provide community involvement in state welfare reform policy.

The Welfare Reform Ad Hoc Committee, comprised of business leaders, AFDC recipients, welfare advocates and social service providers, recommended changing existing AFDC regulations in order to allow AFDC recipients to fully participate in San Francisco's innovative self-employment training and micro-lending programs.

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28 Years Serving The Greater Bay Area

Eagle, the major Black newspaper in Los Angeles during the depression, was the executive director of the Youth League of the NAACP. We would meet once a month at the YMCA located on 28th Street.

A number of Black films - such as "Home of the Brave," "Lost Boundaries," "Intruder in the Dust" -- were made which told about the struggle for a better life in the United States. We made some progress in the motion picture industry, but not enough. We must take a new look at Black Americans' struggle in the entertainment field.

Since my youth with the

from the San Francisco Labor Council AFL-CIO.

Over the years I have written many articles on the need for senior citizens to unite, the housing crisis, my views on the military budget, and other aspects of the struggle for freedom, justice and equality for oppressed people. I have said before and I will say again, the most dangerous pollution in America is racism.

I encourage more people, both youth and seniors, to join the struggle by joining the NAACP. Contact your local chapter: NAACP, P.O. Box 15609, San Francisco, CA 94115, (415) 922-0650.

Police Target Black Males for Abuse

by Steve Crittenden

The cycle of irrational police thinking goes like this:

If you are a Black male, you are most likely involved with drugs

If you are involved with drugs, you probably use drugs

If you use drugs, your drug of choice is crack

If your drug of choice is crack, you probably have an expensive habit

If you have an expensive habit, you will probably have to steal, since Blacks don't like to work

If you have to steal to supplement your crack habit, you are a menace to society

If you are a menace to society, you should be arrested immediately.

Conclusion: Since it is known that if you are a Black male, you will eventually be a threat to society, we are going to arrest you eventually, so we might as well arrest you now.

This conclusion is the basic principle that guides most police behavior, and results in regular assaults by the police upon Black men.

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The Birth of a Mama Child

Before the birth of mama child, mama's fragrance changes to a very sweet honey milky like smell that brings a warm smile, like feeling a butterfly tingling in the very pit of your stomach. Then the birth of a mama child, through her pain, sweat and tears is one of God's greatest and most beautiful gifts to see.

But the reality is mama child will have to grow up and face the world -- face homelessness, ignorance, prejudice and poverty, poor judgment, man-made laws and injustice. But mama will give her child a suit of mental armor along with God's words, saying in God's eyes all humans are created equal and judged by their character. For every tear that is dropped from the face of mama child's eyes will be gently wiped away with the love and sensitivity of mama's good old-fashioned know-how.

Happy Mama's Day to all you mothers. And may every day be Mama's Day. God Bless.

Text and drawing by Ronnie Goodman



Diary of a Black Trade Unionist



by Lee Brown

On January 5 I attended a meeting with other Black leaders. Among them were the Rev. Amos Brown of the Western Addition's Third Baptist Church, Lulann McGriff, president of the local chapter of the NAACP, and Father James Goode of Saint Paul of the Shipwreck Church. They met with Mayor Frank Jordan at City Hall and demanded he take immediate steps to revitalize the economy in the African American community; hire African Americans in visible positions, expand programs for the homeless, provide better city service in our communities, and more.

As a Black trade unionist I support those demands, and I would like to add my proposal. The Black community is in need of more child care centers. I have

talked to mothers of the Western Addition on Muni buses, and they have told me that they have to take their children across town to day care centers.

The Black community is in need of more child care centers. I have talked to mothers of the Western Addition on Muni buses, and they have told me that they have to take their children across town to day care centers.

Over a hundred people attended the meeting, concerned citizens who want to see a change. The Rev. Amos Brown was the keynote speaker. The same people returned Monday, January 11, to the Mayor's office to follow up on the demands. They had prayer, and Father Goode spoke. The people were very much concerned about those demands. And they said they would come back until those demands are met.

In my opinion, 400 years is too long to wait for a change. As the Rev. Amos Brown stated, "We're not looking for welfare; we're looking for our fair share." This country is in a crisis, and it's time for the American people to act, especially to act within the Black community for the things we have wanted and needed for so long.

I want to call upon the community as a whole to organize now! Equality's time has come. I also feel the Church should be the springboard in the community for the needs of the people, and I feel that the community should support the struggle of the Church.

I remain your Brother in struggle. May God bless us all.

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tions, but forgetting not to allow it to happen again at Geneva Towers and Sunnydale. Geneva

Civil Rights, but also your right to have a home that is safe and

See Louise Vaughn, page 6

H.U.D.

They say it means Housing and Urban Development. I say it should mean Help Underprivileged Develop.

by Shirley Hubbard

I live in a complex that is overseen by HUD. I am speaking here for myself, but I also serve as vice president of All Hallows Resident Association. In less than 10 years, I have watched our rent go from \$154 to \$854 a month. I understand things must change, but when it only means "money changing hands," we have a problem.

Six of us live in our four-bedroom apartment. My husband and I are trying to live the All-American Dream: Be responsible, raise our children, take care of medical bills, food, etc. My husband makes approximately \$3,315 per month gross, yet he brings home to the family \$1,753. That means \$1,562 has been taken out of his check before he even gets it. Out of the \$1,753 he brings home, \$854 goes for rent.

The rent is based on gross wages (the \$3,315), and that is

HUD's rule. Now, tell me how is it that HUD is helping us, when they base the rent on the gross, but that is not what we actually get? I don't see HUD as an agency that is a help to residents. HUD seems more concerned with other ends.

HUD should help residents become owners and turn these complexes into co-ops.

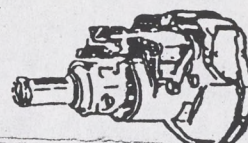
HUD doesn't check to see if on-site management is keeping the maintenance up -- to see whether every house has kitchen cabinet doors, or if the toilet is falling through the floor, or if the unit needs curtains, or if both bathroom faucets are running hot water.

My husband and I can't afford life insurance to send our three children to college. If HUD really wanted to help the residents of complexes it is involved with it would help us plan so we would be financially able to buy some of the new houses that are being built.

See H.U.D., page 7

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color, seems to have almost become an accepted standard of living, not to mention the perpetual problem of substandard housing and broken campaign promises. Add to that more half baked teenage curfew laws. At first strongly enforce anti-littering and abandoned vehicles and more trois to rid the area of stolen and gested improved vehicular parking as a deterrent. He further suggests clothes cops in designated areas



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FEBRUARY 5, 1993

NEW BAYVIEW 5

Community Voices

Life in a Shelter

by Victoria Stith

I lay on my bed thanking the Lord Jesus Christ for a pleasant day and for shelter to help us homeless people.

You meet all kinds of people when you live in a shelter. Some are beggars, some are here to help themselves, and some are here between checks. Shamefully for myself, I've experienced the latter.

In a way I like being here. I can attend A.A./N.A. meetings. The medical staff is great. We have a 9 p.m. curfew. There is absolutely no drug or alcohol usage on the premises whatsoever. We get breakfast and dinner seven days a week. And for those who are on case management

(which means we have overnight privileges), a client can start doing volunteer work, which is excellent for a job reference or even a permanent paid job.

But some people can't help complaining; for example, at dinner time the corned beef we had was lousy. Not only did I have a difficult time chewing it, so did the people with teeth! But back to my point. Complaints about the food and staff are just a part of life, but the biggest problem with being in a shelter is dealing with those who act like they own the place. I guess they forget that if it weren't for shelters, we'd all be at the mercy of anyone, not to mention drugs or alcohol.

Me, I love being here, and

I still get to be with my man and my children. To homeless single men and women out in the cold, if you want to change your life, better yourself, get excellent medical care from Mary Maize and the other fine medical staff, eat good food, follow a few simple rules, then this is the place to be: Pierce Arrow, better known as MSC or Multi Service Center on Polk and Geary.

Oh, one more comment to you readers out there: When you go to bed at night, thank God that you have a place of your own -- even though this is a good place. Most of us are here to help ourselves become productive, God fearing people again. God bless you.

Ms. Stith is studying geriatric home health care at South-

Some of My Thoughts

by Louise Vaughn

I've been busy with the lawsuits at Geneva Towers and everyone asking questions about whether they will be able to live there after the MASTER PLAN, written by The John Stewart Company and approved by the bureaucrats at HUD, is put into effect. These are very legitimate questions considering the NEGRO

REMOVAL that happened in the Fillmore many years ago that now has African Americans Towers residents, it is time for you to all stand up and be counted before John Stewart is al-



Marcellee Cashmere and Louise Vaughn represent decades of selfless dedication to lifting up the African American community.

Diary of a Black Trade Unionist



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Over a hundred people attended the meeting, concerned citizens who want to see a change. The Rev. Amos Brown was the keynote speaker. The same people returned Monday, January 11, to the Mayor's office to follow up on the demands. They had prayer, and Father Goode spoke. The people were very much concerned about those demands. And they said they would come back until those demands are met.

In my opinion, 400 years is too long to wait for a change. As the Rev. Amos Brown stated, "We're not looking for welfare; we're looking for our fair share." This country is in a crisis, and it's time for the American people to act, especially to act within the Black community for the things we have wanted and needed for so long.

I want to call upon the community as a whole to organize now! Equality's time has come. I also feel the Church should be the springboard in the community for the needs of the people, and I feel that the community should support the struggle of the Church.

I remain your Brother in struggle. May God bless us all.

responded to suggestions from Councilwomen Natalie Bayton and Desie Woods-Jones for increasing local minority contractor (MBE) participation on the \$70 million City Hall Earthquake Repair Project. Most of the Councilwomen's effective suggestions were dismissed by City staff as being too costly and time consuming to implement.

The irony here is that, while City staff was unwilling to endorse spending a few thousand dollars to implement effective measures for increasing local MBE participation on the project, the City is spending an extra \$50 million to save the "historic landmark" City Hall building. A new and more efficient building could be built for as low as \$20 million; however, the City, responding to the desires of historical preservationists, agreed to spend the \$70 million to save the old building.

This clearly demonstrates that the City is more concerned with preserving old buildings than improving the economic status of the local minority community.

The City's Department of Public Works claims that they do an "outstanding" job of meeting their MBE and affirmative action goals. However, in-depth examination of City records reveals that, while the City meets

opportunities for the community.

Local minority contractors have traditionally been the best avenue for providing meaningful employment and training for local residents. Local MBE firms are the best qualified to address the social complexities of converting Oakland's chronically under-utilized and unemployed residents to productive and reliable workers. The City of Oakland's recent adoption of a "Hire Oakland" policy for workforce employment is a definite step in the right direction. But until similar measures are taken to increase local MBE participation on City projects, the Hire Oakland program will not realize its full potential to help the local community.

In spite of the City's current affirmative action policies, every form of marketplace discrimination against local minorities occurs in Oakland across a wide range of economic activities, including denial of opportunities to bid contracts, discrimination in insurance and bonding, customer/end user discrimination, the existence and exclusion from the "good-old-boy network" in subcontracting, bid manipulation, price discrimination by suppliers, discrimination in financing, discrimination in employment

almost all of the African American (and local minority) owned firms that traditionally provided employment opportunities for the community.

The current wave of homicides, medication-resistant tuberculosis and other life threatening problems sweeping through Oakland is symptomatic of the lack of economic opportunity that still exists within the community. In downtown Oakland there are many vacant buildings which once were occupied by thriving commercial and retail businesses. The primary reason why so many are now vacant is because the local community simply does not have the economic wherewithal to support local businesses. People who don't have jobs can't contribute to their local economy, and efforts to depend upon the patronage of people outside of the City have met with little success.

To be continued.

Part II: What Must Be Done.

SINGLE AFRICAN AMERICAN MALE

Age: 25, Ht: 6'3" Wt: 200 Incarcerated on death row in San Quentin Prison seeks to correspond with sincere, sensitive, caring woman race unimportant age also unimportant provided 18 or older. I enjoy reading my Bible and any Black History literature I can get my hands on, listening to all kinds of music, and watching all sports. If interested please write: STEVE CRITTENDEN P.O. BOX E-21400, TAMAL, CA 94974

Black people, but because Northern capitalists wanted to control the economy and political system of the South. Northern cap-

...to explore the possibility of using the Navy to remove the Black people to Haiti or to other areas in the Caribbean and South America. In fact such
See Prison Labor, page 10

Abolish Poverty



by Lee Brown

I attended a federal jobs program community meeting Saturday, February 27, at the First Unitarian Church. The meeting was called to abolish poverty. The question was, What is President Clinton going to do about more jobs?

Julianne Malveaux, Ph.D., economist and columnist, Todd Getlin, Ph.D., and Wilson Riles, Jr., were featured speakers. Julianne Malveaux talked about politics and public service and was very concerned about the needs of the people. Other speakers discussed health needs, schools, jobs, and day care centers. Aileen Hernandez, first national president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) was given a certificate of appre-

ciation.

People below the poverty level, especially seniors and youth, should work together to combat crime in San Francisco. We need jobs to get the youth off the street. We as seniors should demand that our youth have work and training programs. We should write letters to our elected officials:

Mayor Frank Jordan
Room 200, City Hall
San Francisco, CA 94102

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Senator Dianne Feinstein
1700 Montgomery, Suite 305
San Francisco, CA 94111

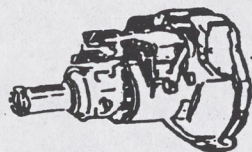
Senator Barbara Boxer
1700 Montgomery, Suite 240
San Francisco, CA 94111

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Now is the time for the American people to wake up and build a United Front for a better way of life. The most dangerous pollution in the world today is racism. If we do not wake up the shocker of the hour is on its way. We must learn to respect the rights of all people in the United States. Let it not be too late.

Member of the
San Francisco
Neighborhood
Newspapers
Association

Between Mission and Valencia
3355 17th Street
415-861-9642



AUTOMATIC AND STANDARD
Rebuilt-adjusted-exchanged-Fast-
Economic-Dependable
Offer Applies to...

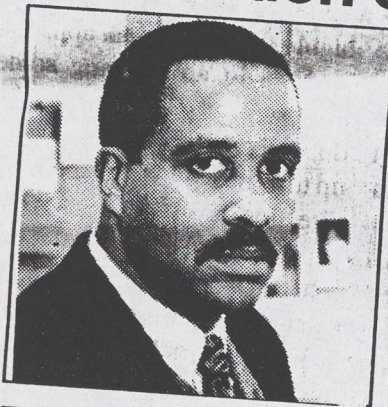
problem for these complexes are nothing that the companies who manage But the fact of the matter is doing all they can with the re- these folks try to work hard on complexes, because God knows see the daily functions of these American employees who over- to be a criticism of those African clarification, this is not intended operate the station. Controversy and the

MARCH 19, 1993

Community Voices

NEW BAYVIEW 5

A Question of Priorities



Part I: How much is minority economic participation worth?

by Alan E. Dones, President,
National Association of Minority
Contractors - Northern California

At a recent meeting of the

its prescribed numerical goals, the quality of the minority participation is poor. Minorities on City projects are, for the most part, relegated to menial employment and contractual tasks which provide relatively low income and little beneficial vocational experience.

As a result of the lack of contract opportunities, Oakland has lost almost all of the African American owned firms that traditionally provided

opportunities, double standards in performance criteria and qualifications, limited access to private sector markets, slow payment and non-payment of bills.

Systemic and institutionalized discrimination against local minorities has emerged as one of the major factors responsible for the marginal economic condition of the African American community and the City of Oakland. Over the last five years, less than 5 percent of construction contracts in the City of Oakland went to African American construction firms. Because African Americans make up over 43 percent of the population of Oakland, this trend is indicative of MBE policies that don't work.

Prison Labor/ Prison Slavery

Part I

by Craig A. Ross

In a famous reply to editor Horace Greeley in August 1862, Abraham Lincoln openly stated: "My paramount objective in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that."

Contrary to what we were taught in the public school

italists were becoming increasingly afraid that slave owners would open up factories and produce goods more cheaply because they didn't have to pay for labor. The South believed in slave labor religiously and was thoroughly convinced that free Blacks would not work steadily or effectively. All the differences between the North and South were economic, not moral.

In 1865, at the end of the Civil War and with the demise of

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SAT - NOV 2 1981 PEOPLE'S WORLD 9



Black trade unionist reports

SAN FRANCISCO

AS A Black trade unionist I was sent as a delegate to the Conference in Solidarity with the Liberation Struggle of the People of Southern Africa. As a representative of Local 2, (Hotel and Restaurant Employees) I was one of thousands of observers and delegates from youth, labor, community, religious and civil rights organizations attending the conference in New York City Oct. 9-11.

The purpose of the conference was to establish a plan of action to educate and organize the U.S. masses against the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. Apartheid is the racist system of government whereby the white minority (17 percent of the total population) owns and controls over 85 percent of the wealth. The 70 percent Black majority suffer atrocities most North Americans find difficult to comprehend.

The distribution of wealth in South Africa is itself a reflection of how these atrocities are possible. Blacks in South Africa are among the world's most poverty-stricken people.

The declaration submitted by the New York delegation was adopted by conference delegates; it included the following:

- To organize mass support in the U.S. for the liberation movement of South Africa;
- To expose the U.S. government and corporations' leading role in the South African apartheid system;
- To mobilize the people in the U.S. from the grassroots in the anti-apartheid struggle.

I will report back to Local 2, demanding ongoing assistance to the liberation struggle in South Africa. I urge everyone to fight this system of genocide against South African Blacks.

"An Injury To One Is An Injury To All."

—LEE BROWN

FILE

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CONFERENCE
Conference in Solidarity with the Liberation Struggles of the Peoples of Southern Africa:

CONTINUATIONS COMMITTEE

c/o The Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027 (212) 864-2068

March, 1982

Gary Hicks
U.S. Anti-Imperialist League
652-7111

Dear Friend:

→ A primary mandate which emerged from the October, 1981 national Conference in Solidarity with the Liberation Struggles of the Peoples of Southern Africa held at Riverside Church in New York City was that the implementation of the Program of Action and other objectives arising from the conference should continue and that a Results Conference should be held in Spring, 1983.

A steering committee including persons associated with conference preparations and others in the United States who support the end to the illegal occupation of Namibia and the establishment of a democratic state in South Africa have been meeting in New York to form a national Continuations Committee and to organize working groups to implement the Program of Action.

→ You have been nominated to serve as a member of the working group whose task it is to develop strategies for implementation in the area of MEDIA.

→ You have been selected because of your national reputation as an advocate for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in the United States and abroad and your record of accomplishments in the area of MEDIA.

→ GERALD C. HORNE who is the convener of this working group will be contacting you shortly to discuss your participation and to answer any questions you may have.

→ We urge you to agree to share your thinking, experience and contacts with us. Recent events in Southern Africa and the increasingly clear intention of the Reagan administration to bolster the outcast apartheid regime in the face of international opinion by political and material support pose an increasing threat to peace for the region and the world. The peoples of Southern Africa can no longer wait. The people of the United States can no longer ignore the role of our government in suppressing the human and legal rights of the people of South Africa and Namibia. We urge you to join us in our work.
In Solidarity,

Lennox S. Hinds, Esq., Chair

In co-sponsorship with the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)
In cooperation with the International Committee Against Apartheid, Racism and Colonialism in Southern Africa (ICSA).

Hosts: The Southern Africa Team/Outreach Ministry, Riverside Church; Dr. Carl Fields, Leader, and The Rev. George Thomas, Minister of Outreach, Riverside Church.

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PAGE 4 MARCH 1, 1985 - NEW BAYVIEW NEWS



WE MUST DEMAND JOBS!

by Lee Brown

As a black trade unionist, labor activist, and grassroots' advocate, I am calling the American workers together to demand jobs. I'm not going to leave any stone unturned and that means calling on all peace and peoples' organizations, religious groups, labor groups, senior groups, youth groups and individuals regarding the demand for jobs.

We should also have classes and workshops to discuss this issue, because this is a serious matter—a life-and-death struggle for survival. America is in a crisis!

I'd like to say that jobs are not a privilege for the American people—they are a human right. We can better the economic problem by creating jobs: by abolishing crime, improving housing, day-care centers, community health centers, psychiatric institutions, senior low-income housing, senior resthomes, and educational institutions. In addition, we should have free national health care service for the American people, and also free education from grammar school to two years of college, and/or sufficient vocational training for each and every person to secure a job.

We must demand jobs so that education and training for jobs is not wasted. We must further demand the reopening of schools in all low-income or poverty-level communities (which, in itself, will create jobs), along with the building of low-income housing. And, finally, we must strengthen rent-control for low-income people and people at the poverty level. Much of the low-income housing needs to be repaired. Some need running water, electric or gas stoves, refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, telephones and decent furniture.

If you add together all these demands which I have briefly outlined, you will see that this in itself is not too much for the American peoples' needs—the same people who have made America what it is today—rich and powerful. Our people are the greatest natural resource of our country and should be developed in the interest of the American people.

I suggest that people go to the available institutions to study and train for a career. Let's build a united front with the Rainbow Coalition and demand that the local, city, state, and national governments grant these job demands.

Those who read this article and are concerned, please write to me in care of this newspaper.

Lee Brown is a resident of the Bayview with close to 50 years experience in the struggle for working people in America.

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JOIN IN THE LABOR FIGHT

*A report on Local 2
by Trade Unionist Lee Brown*

Workers from Labor Union Local 2 sent a loud and clear message to San Francisco hotel owners, voting 94 percent in favor of a new contract. Having gone on strike once, we will go on strike again if necessary.

Workers are angry over threats to take away some holidays, such as July 4 and Thanksgiving Day, in addition to a threat to take away the union hiring hall. These issues have given a stronger unity to the rank and file.

From my point of view, the hotel workers are much stronger than they were during the first strike. The real source of power for the union is its rank and file membership. We are united behind the negotiating committee and the staff of Local 2 in struggling for a better and fairer contract in



LEE BROWN

the culinary industry. But struggles will teach us a lesson. Labor must get involved in American politics.

Owners are scheduled to present before the statewide elections on Dec. 13 a bill by Assemblyman Don Sebastiani (R-Sonoma). Sebastiani is author of the scheme to make

California become an open-union shop and a right-to-work state. So we must fight back and organize a united front. All community members are encouraged to seek work in the culinary industry. There are many job classifications, from cook, to bartender to telephone operator, and more. The hiring hall is located at 209 Golden Gate (at the corner of Leavenworth). Applicants may also apply at the hotel personnel office. Remember, you must within 30 days, join Local 2. As a former member of the Executive Board and appointee of the Affirmative Action Committee and second Vice-President of the Retirees' Association, I will continue fighting for a progressive, democratic Local 2 and a strong, fighting, militant union in the culinary industry.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1983

NEW BAYVIEW NEWS

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BLACK TRADE UNIONIST SPEAKS

by Lee Brown

On May 12, 1982, there was supposed to have been an advisory meeting of the Commissioners. The meeting was to discuss the financial problems concerning the five eating-sites. One was the Booker T. Washington, second was the Community Baptist, third the Filipino American Senior Club, fourth the Pride Foundation, and fifth the Salvation Army. That particular meeting was postponed.

We went up there for the meeting, two of us from the press: me from the New Bayview newspaper and the other was from the People's World newspaper. We were told that due to an error in the paper, that the date of the meeting was wrong. But, on that same day, I went to a press conference at 814 Mission St. and we listened to them discuss the financial problem they were facing, which they say was caused by the cuts.

The escort service at North of Market and the Neighborhood Coordinator from Potrero Hill were present. The representatives of those groups made a statement. After the press conference was over, the group, including myself, went to 1095 Market and picketed. T.V. cameras were there & news reporters. I learned later on that the groups there, that day, were given some consideration.

On Wednesday, May 19, the Senior Community Advisory Council to the San Francisco Commission On Aging, at 101 Grove St. met at 9:30 a.m. I was present, representing the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. A representative from the N.A.A.C.P. was there. The representative was opposed to the cuts; I also supported him in his stand and I also spoke in opposition to the cuts. Maintaining that "seniors are being oppressed," I, Lee Brown, member of the Retired Assn. of Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union (AFL-CIO) Local 2, described the cutbacks as "disgraceful" and voiced his support for the angry seniors. After the debate, the meeting at this place was ad-

jourled, pending further discussions.

Tuesday May 25, 1982 in Sacramento I covered the 12th Annual Senior Rally in Sacramento East Capital Park. On the agenda was: 1) roll back utility rates; 2) no cuts in Social Security or any pensions; 3) housing for all; 4) maintain Medicare and MediCal; 5) cut the arms budget. There was an open-mike from which the seniors were allowed to plead their case before the local, state, and federal authorities about their human needs. I, Lee Brown, also came to the mike. I

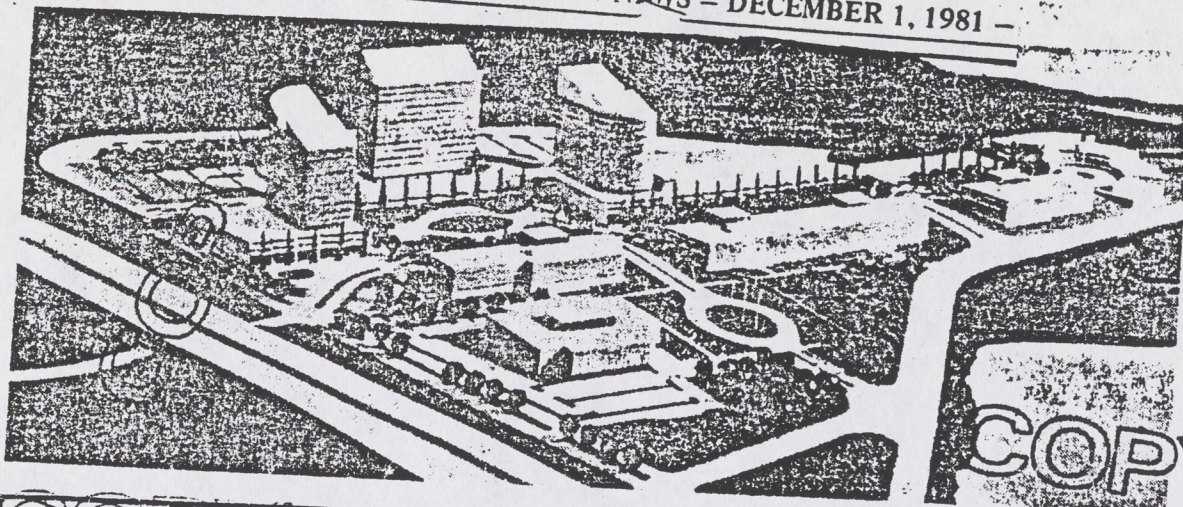


LEE BROWN

called for unity, not only the seniors, but unity of all working people, including young workers, that we must work collectively to solve our problems. This is everybody's job regardless of race or creed. I proposed this to the seniors now what must do done: "Now is the time for seniors to demand their rights to food, shelter, health care, energy and transportation and safety in their community and in their homes. We want economic independence for older Americans. Now is the time to reform supplemented income—to increase it for the eld-

erly poor. Labor and community groups must work together and form an economic coalition. We must work and fight for economic justice for all Americans. Houses are a problem in the city; high rent! We must demand either local or national rent control laws, for the benefit of all low-income, fixed, income, seniors, handicapped, youth, etc. I would call upon the 35 million senior citizens in the U.S.A. to demand jobs now for all people who are able to work and want to work and I would call upon the senior citizens to form a coalition to bring this about and also to maintain escort services and put money into Social Security so we can have money for all these human needs. We will call this the Economic Bill of Rights, which includes decent housing, healthy food, jobs, etc. so those who want Social Security can continue to draw it, since Social Security would obviously run out if nobody's working. We demand peace so we can have a healthy economy and save millions and millions of lives.

CRISIS: BLACKS KILLING BLACKS



SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE

I, Lee Brown, a Black Trade Unionist, was sent to the Conference in Solidarity with the Liberation Struggle of the People of Southern Africa, as a representative of Local 2. I was on hand with thousands of observers and delegates ranging from youth, labor, Community, religious, and Civil Rights Organizations.

The Conference was held in New York City from Oct. 9 to Oct. 11

The purpose of the Conference was to establish a plan of action to educate and organize the U. S. masses against the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. Apartheid is the racist system of government



LEE BROWN

whereby the White minority (17% of the total population) own and

control over 85% of the wealth. The 70% Black majority suffer Atrocities most North Americans find difficult to comprehend.

The distribution of wealth in South Africa is itself a reflection of how these atrocities are possible. Blacks in South Africa are among the world's most poverty-stricken people.

The Declaration submitted by the New York delegation was adopted by Conference Delegates; it included the following:

- 1) To organize mass support in the U.S.A. for the liberation movement of South Africa;
- 2) To expose U.S. government & Corporations playing a leading role in the South Africa apartheid system;
- 3) To mobilize the people in the U.S. from the Grass Roots in the anti-apartheid struggle.

I will be reporting back to Local 2 & demanding on-going assistance to the liberation Struggle in South Africa. I urge everyone to fight this System of Genocide against South African Blacks.

"An Injury To One Is An Injury To All." To stop city, state and public funds from being invested in South Africa, write to Assembly Bill No. 1431. State Capitol Sacramento. Ca. 95814."

EDWARD WARREN (Owner & Manager)

CHAIRMAN - PAUL ROBESON
(1948 - THE COUNCIL ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS)

13th Annual Rally

by Lee Brown

The 13th annual rally was held in Sacramento, California. Seniors from all parts of the state participated in the four-hour rally.

Attended by 5-6,000 persons of all nationalities, along with many retired and disabled, the rally included a large representation from the grassroots level. While some march around the Capital, others visited legislators, demanding Social Security improvement, restoration of Medicare and MediCal, full quotas for SSI and AFDC, roll backs on utility rates, equal tax-related laws for the rich and the poor, and reductions in defense spending.

There were many speakers, including Angie Norman, a young disabled black youth. Many people from the crowd spoke

from the open mike while others listened and ate bag lunches.

Two resolutions on Social Security were passed: One asking the government to transfer money from the war budget to Social Security and restore all cuts from 1981, 1982 and 1983. The second resolution urged the government to rescind cuts in Medicare and Medical and a curbing of the runaway profit of health divisions used to rob the poor, the elderly and the youth.

Many people were concerned and outspoken, thus the slogan: "We must act to survive." Seniors expressed themselves and gained much support, with many participants agreeing to use senior power and voting power to change or reform the conditions. Many were looked forward to the next presidential election to bring out the votes.

The rally was sponsored by California Legislative Council for Older Americans; California Grey Panthers; Congress of Seniors; California Seniors; East Bay Legislative Council of Senior Groups; Guide-Dogs As Our Eyes Committee; National Council of Senior Citizens; Oakland Mayor's Commission On Disabled Persons;

New Bayview welcomes letters to the editor, but we regret that because of the volume of mail received, we cannot acknowledge them all. Letters for publication should be addressed to NEW BAYVIEW NEWSPAPER, Post Office Box 24477, San Francisco, California 94124.

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...sing the participation of women ... supporting two women for corporations; luxury taxes on

Black senior's call to action

SAN FRANCISCO

OVER THREE million Black seniors are victims of the racist system in the U.S. There are special problems for older Black people, because we're living in a racist society. Today the Black older Americans are three times more likely to be poor or at the poverty level; their struggle for survival is being denied.

In the neighborhoods they are victims of crimes throughout their lives. They face health hazards and they live in inferior houses for which they pay too high a rent. And therefore, as a Black senior myself, I want to see the millions of senior citizens in America get involved in the struggle for the betterment of the condition not only for Black seniors but for all the 34 million seniors in America.

We must build coalitions amongst all senior groups. We must call on organized labor and community leaders, and others to help us in this effort. And we must remember to use our political power to its fullest, e.g., by encouraging everyone to register to vote and to vote for those who are concerned about the problems of seniors and other poor people who might work with us to better the condition of us all.

Building senior power can make demands at the city, state and national levels. We may not have the money, but we have the vote. By massive registering and voting, we can call on representatives to better conditions for our children and their children. We owe it to ourselves and to

them. We must play an important part in fighting racism.

Racism is not only depriving us Black seniors, but all seniors and working people in the U.S. Massive money is feeding the military budget and taking food out of senior citizens' mouths, destroying their health, rest homes, senior centers, food stamps, escort service, etc. Reagan and his gang in Congress cut \$359 million off Social Security to give to the military.



LEE BROWN
... "must organize"

BLACK SENIORS must get involved and speak out against Reaganomics and its racism and get involved in the struggle for peace and justice, to win jobs for all. The Reagan gang's attack upon seniors, Social Security, SSI, escort services, is destroying our right to survive. A good example is elimination of escort services: Senior citizens

should be able to walk the streets without fear, and return to their homes safely.

Because of Reaganomics we are all in the poverty trap. We must fight together despite race, creed, color or religion. We must fight back the attack on the poor. Black seniors have been poor for many generations and watched their children suffer. There is a solution. We can help each other; we can form coalitions, have unity. In this way we can fight for the necessities for all people. We must work collectively to achieve this.

We Black seniors must come out and speak out for the rights of all seniors in this country. We must fight for the Economic Bill of Rights. And I will continue calling on Black citizens, to continue fighting for peace and social programs and against military spending. For, as the wise old saying goes, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Now is the time for seniors at the California Congress of Seniors Convention to demand our rights, to fight for the future and proper economic conditions for all Americans. Now is the time to work to win millions of jobs by transferring billions away from the military to social programs; to resist cutbacks in Social Security and SSI, labor and community groups.

Because of capitalism our country is in a crisis. We the seniors must act now. To end Reaganomics.

—LEE BROWN

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NEW BAYVIEW NEWS

NEEDS OF POOR MUST BE MET!

It is time for the health needs of the poor, the rights of the

poor, to be met. It is a right, not a privilege for these people's

to be met. I am in the midst of the poor, elderly, disabled and mentally disturbed, and I've studied the poor, day in



—Lee Brown

and day out, and feel I'm well informed enough to build a poor people's movement.

I have studied the rights of the elderly and retirees. I have knowledge of the roots of poverty.

From my study and knowledge of these many problems, I can tell you without a doubt that we must support and demand the National Health Service Act proposed by Ron Dellums. Each of us must write and/or contact our representatives, unions, lodges, senior groups, etc. We must not leave any stone unturned, because this is a life and death struggle.

I have seen many mentally disturbed right here in San Francisco and I know that they need treatment. Take a look for yourselves and see how badly we need a health bill to create health-care centers and hospitals to meet the needs of the these people who are living be-

low the poverty level. When this health bill is enacted and comes into effect to take care of the needs of these American poor, we will see a more healthy America for all of us concerned. That's the reason I'm calling

on you because I believe in people helping people for I feel it is our duty and responsibility that we, the strong, must stand firm to lift up our brothers and sisters who stand in need of help.