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***WWFOR** seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, equality, peace and justice. It links and strengthens FOR members and chapters throughout Western Washington in promoting activities consistent with the national FOR statement of purpose. WWFOR helps members and chapters accomplish together what we could not accomplish alone.*



... WHAT'S NEXT?

~Moving into the Great Turning~

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Respectful Policing, Respected Police:

A Proposal for Prevention

by Steve Richmond

Officers who killed George Floyd must be held fully accountable, but that will not bring him back, and it won't be enough. The discussion here is about prevention, and tempering a total-control culture that disregards constituents' humanity. A defiant, justice-minded generation will not rest, disgusted with racially disparate treatment and a criminal "criminal justice" system that gives a black man 20 years for two joints, while a hard-drinking prosecutor lets whites off on bail.

Given institutional hypocrisy, oppressive laws, and a police force that role models violence, prison time for police will indeed feel good. But, will it actually prevent future tragedies? Or will it deepen divisions and amplify friction?

Rather than blunt budget cuts to defund police, there are many creative reforms to consider. One reform is "**collective accountability**" applied with floating incentives that aim to prevent biased reactions in the heat of the moment. This proposal offers a peaceful, meaningful outlet for public frustration, and an acknowledgement of police professionalism in the face of rising risks.

The proposal is as follows:

1) Offer a voting mechanism to measure public satisfaction with police performance – do people feel respected, protected, and served? At the same time, conduct independent, professional performance reviews of police conduct and desired outcomes.

2) Combine public opinion and professional reviews to rate improvements or regressions in police performance. Apply this rating annually to salaries across the board, holding the entire police force accountable by collectively adjusting salaries within discretionary limits, perhaps 5 or 10 percent above or below current salaries.

After-the-fact inquiries, reprimands, and prosecutions are too little, too late, and they obviously have not worked. Training helps, but bias exists, and tragic, perfect storms will happen. But maybe, if performance pay were collectively awarded, peer pressure within the ranks would encourage police to hold each other accountable to professional standards in real time.

Police deserve compensation for their vital services, commensurate with their professionalism and the risks and expectations of the job. And they deserve unbiased opportunities to earn back respect, including public commendations for lives saved when deadly force might be legally justified. The public deserves compassion, understanding, and an opportunity to evaluate police services.

Historic circumstances require that we explore every proposal, including collective incentives, to move forward toward a mutual civil regard.

Confessions of a Racist

by Marjorie Prince

I am a racist. Racism is not a condition that I chose, but I am and have been a participant in and beneficiary of a society built on racism. My continuing job is to become anti-racist in word and deed.

Confession of sin is not the end of racism but is a crucial first step in becoming anti-racist. James 5:16 tells us to “confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.” John 1:9-10 teaches that “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

White people who deny that they are racist (like Donald Trump) ignore white history, culture and institutions. The whole concept of modern policing in the U.S., for example, grew out of the slave patrols which were created to track down black people (both slaves and free) and return them to bondage so whites could continue their comfortable way of life. Black people built the wealth of whites.

Although institutional police racism too often results in black deaths, all U.S. institutions from banks and home sales and rental agencies to schools, businesses, churches, community groups, labor organizations, and health care facilities perpetuate white privilege. Confessing our participation in this institutional racism is the first step in acting to change these institutions and become anti-racist.

Action is especially urgent now when the coronavirus pandemic exposes the racism pandemic. More African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans die from COVID-19 than whites. Why? More people of color work at essential, but low-paying jobs, lack access to stable and uncrowded housing, are denied access to medical care, and are pushed into toxic and environmentally unsafe neighborhoods.

Slavery in the U.S. is our original sin. Whites need not feel guilty about what our white ancestors did, but we need to identify how we perpetuate racial inequities and work to abolish them. As the late civil rights activist and Georgia Congressman John Lewis taught us: we must embrace “good trouble” and speak out against injustice wherever we find it. As old and frequently disabled people (Marjorie lives at Mount St. Vincent in West Seattle), we find it difficult physically to march, but we can support those who do with our prayers and our dollars. We can encourage young activists who speak truth to power. We can vote for people who tell the truth and reject those who try to prevent black people and poor people from voting. We can speak of justice in every church or group in which we belong and point out how specific policies and practices can change to reflect racial equality. We can write letters and make telephone calls to our national, state, county, and local officials

supporting anti-racist legislation and effective enforcement of it.

We can admire non-violent protestors on the front lines of change. We can relieve the Seattle Police Department of the responsibility of dealing with the homelessness, mental illness, and addiction and transfer that responsibility to experts in their respective fields. We can also demand stricter regulation of the sale and use of guns.

Defunding the Seattle Police Department means transferring a large portion of the money currently spent on deadly weapons and military machinery to reparations to the black community. Some elected leaders may not agree, but if we don't ask for justice now, when will we? After confessing our sin of inaction and eliminating personal and systematic racism comes repentance, which is intentional action to become anti-racist. I invite all the Mount St. Vincent to join me in this faith journey. We must act to make Black Lives Matter a reality in our lifetime.

“The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it's the only way forward.”

—IJEOMA OLUO

BERNIE SANDERS sent out a letter on Sept 4, 2020 to all the people on his email list expressing his concern about all the remarks Trump has been making about the upcoming election. Trump has intimated that if he loses, he will call the election “rigged” and refuse to leave office. What can we do? Sanders is advocating that “state legislatures must take immediate action to allow for votes to be counted before Election Day, as they come in” (Will Governor Inslee call for a special session of the Washington State legislature?) He wants the American news media to explain to its audience that there is no longer one election day and we most probably will not know the results for some time after November 3. He is hoping the social media companies like Facebook will get their act together and work harder to stop the spread of disinformation. Finally, he wants Congress to hold hearings so we may learn what local officials are planning to insure we have free and fair elections

A Federal Job Guarantee or a Universal Basic Income?

by John M Repp, Pacific Call editor

Where there is no vision, the people perish. (Proverbs 29:18) We need to reimagine a better America to get beyond the overlapping crisis we face in this summer of 2020, a pandemic, massive unemployment, uprisings protesting police violence and an approaching election. I want to discuss two ideas for reform: A Federal Job Guarantee and the Universal Basic Income.

After the financial crash and recession of 2008-2009, it took 10 years before the American economy got back to what conventional economists said was “full employment”. But even then, there were millions of people who were not working full time as well as millions who were discouraged about finding work at all.

A Federal Job Guarantee is a policy to provide a job with a good wage and benefits for anyone who wants to work. It would be voluntary, part-time or full-time and pay \$15. It seems like a simple reform of the labor market, but it turns out to have a myriad of positive effects touching many areas of modern life. Such a policy would provide an absolute floor for wages, a real minimum wage. If an employer payed less and gave less benefits it would be difficult for that employer to keep a workforce. The larger economy would become more stable and the usual ups and downs of the business cycle would be moderated by more jobs not a spike in unemployment.

The money to pay the wages would come from the Federal government, but as much as possible the work would be managed locally. The local agencies administering the program will take input from local people. Another part of the proposal is the idea of fitting the job to the person rather than the other way around, although the program would need to have a training component. Both these things would be part of the legislation to establish the Federal Job Guarantee.

How much would a job guarantee cost? There are several estimates, hovering around one-half a trillion dollars. On the other side of the ledger, the program would get rid of unemployment compensation as well as much of Medicaid, food stamps, and other programs designed to help people in poverty. The program would cost more as it starts up but could eventually add about one-half a trillion dollars to the nation’s gross domestic product. It would be money well spent.

What will all these people do? We have many unmet needs such as converting our electrical power system to solar and wind, electrifying our public transportation system, weatherizing our buildings, converting our industrial farming to regenerative farming, planting billions of trees and millions of acres of hemp, creating kelp gardens all along our coasts (the last two things to drawdown carbon dioxide), cleaning up the environmental messes and taking care of children and elders. There is plenty of work to do.

House Resolution 109 which recognizes “the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal”

includes in its list of “goals and projects”, item (H): “guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, paid vacations and retirement security to all people of the United States.” The Second Bill of Rights, an economic bill of rights, advocated by Franklin Roosevelt’s administration includes the right to a job. The International Bill of Rights includes the right to a good job. In modern society if a person does not have a job that pays good wages and benefits, they cannot have real freedom, dignity or security.

The job guarantee would start to lessen the wage and wealth gap that has become so destructive to so many Americans over the last 40 years of austerity. The austerity was the result of the false belief that the Federal government was running out of money. A sovereign government that has the right to issue currency simply cannot run out of money. The current method of government accounting treats the government like a private corporation, keeping track of its income (taxes and bond sales) and its spending. It ignores the government’s right to create money, a right the Constitution gives to the government in Article 1, Section 8.

The policy would help blacks, Latinx, and native Americans as groups to a greater extent than whites, since the blacks, Latinx and native Americans now have higher rates of unemployment. So, it can be part of a reparations package for the long train of injustices these people and their ancestors have suffered. We often forget that the 1963 March on Washington led by Martin Luther King, Jr was named “The March for Jobs and Freedom”. Corey Booker has drafted a bill for a pilot project for a job guarantee in certain blighted areas in our country.

The idea is popular with many people. Vast majorities of both Democratic and Republican voters support the job guarantee policy.

What is wrong with our political leaders? Who opposes such an idea? Maybe economists or people who cannot move beyond the old economic paradigms. Maybe the financial elite because they want to continue to make 40% of the profits of our whole economy when 40 years ago, they got only 2%. That financial elite has starved our country of real capital to build new wealth i.e. factories, buildings, farms, schools, and infrastructure in exchange for mere money gained by speculation. The political right has called the idea of a job guarantee a “disaster”, just repeating the myth that it would cost too much. Maybe the employer class would oppose the idea because it would lessen the sting and power over workers they have because they can fire workers. Of course, they can still fire workers who are not performing, but those workers can be assured they will have another job.

What about the Universal Basic Income (UBI)? It too would be funded by the Federal government. Compared to a Federal Job Guarantee, it would be easy to accomplish. We already see the Congress during this pandemic handing out checks to most people. The problem I see with the UBI is that while it would help many people who are poor, it would just reinforce the *status quo*. The cash would be spent on what private corporations and small businesses already produce and sell. Unlike a Federal Job Guarantee, new sectors like solar and wind, refitting our buildings, regenerative agriculture, expanding and improving educational opportunities and providing care for people and our environment would not be developed and expanded.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLENCE AT RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS by Black Lives Matter activists since George Floyd's murder? Trump is trying to blame antifa. But there are reports that racist white provocateurs have infiltrated some demonstrations and broken windows, looted stores and thrown things at the police. This is a new tactic by white racists. They are making Black Lives Matter demonstrators seem violent. And, it must be said that 93% of the demonstrations have been peaceful. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/sep/05/nearly-all-black-lives-matter-protests-are-peaceful-despite-trump-narrative-report-finds>

See the links below for the reports on right-wing infiltration of Black Lives Matter demonstrations:

<https://www.justsecurity.org/70497/far-right-infiltrators-and-agitators-in-george-floyd-protests-indicators-of-white-supremacists/>

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/06/26/infiltrating-black-lives-matter-cops-feds-and-white-supremacists/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/06/22/who-caused-violence-protests-its-not-antifa/> Here is a quote from the *Washington Post* article of June 22, 2020. "Roughly 80 federal charges, including murder and throwing Molotov cocktails at police vehicles, reveal no evidence of an antifa plot. Four people who identify with the far-right extremist "boogaloo" movement are among those facing the most serious federal charges."

<https://www.complex.com/life/2020/07/white-supremacists-infiltrated-black-lives-matter-protest-in-richmond-instigate-riots>.

<https://news3lv.com/news/local/three-men-tied-to-white-extremist-group-arrested-on-terrorism-related-charges-in-las-vegas>

FROM JOHN LEWIS' POSTHUMOUS LETTER: "Ordinary people with extraordinary vision can redeem the soul of America by getting in what I call good trouble, necessary trouble. **Voting and participating in the democratic process are key.** The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society. You must use it because it is not guaranteed. You can lose it." <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html>

EVER WONDER WHY THE U.S. STOCK MARKET IS DOING SO WELL WHILE THE REAL ECONOMY IS DOING POORLY? According to Michael Hudson it is because the Federal Reserve Bank is buying stocks, bonds, mortgages, all to prop up the value of those assets, which 95% of the people will never be able own. <https://www.unz.com/mhudson/feds-10-trillion-defends-assets-of-the-rich/> We will see how long this pump priming of the stock market can keep the market going up while the real economy is doing so poorly because of the pandemic.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS ALREADY HAVING LARGE NEGATIVE EFFECTS: "From 1972 to 2018, California saw a **400 percent increase** in annual burned area – a trend scientists attribute to climate change. "The Nation. August 24/30, 2020, page 11" <https://literariness.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Literariness.org-The-Nation-August-24-31.pdf>

[The New York Times magazine of July 26, 2020](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/26/magazine/the-climate-issue.html) ("The Climate Issue") wrote of the migration from Central America that is the result of failing crops of small farmers due to climate change. The migrants, like so often in our history, will likely play a productive role here. The magazine also had a story about Jamie Margolin, a former Mike Yarrow Peace Fellow.

AN APPEAL TO NAVY PERSONNEL. On the 75th year of Remembrance of the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action published full page ads in local newspapers around Bangor, Washington asking for Navy personnel to refuse to obey any orders to launch nuclear weapons. <https://www.gzcenter.org/2020/08/04/ground-zero-appeals-to-navy-personnel-in-newspaper-psa/>

Movie Review

"My Octopus Teacher" <https://www.netflix.com/title/81045007> is about a filmmaker who has "adrenal burnout", a malady many of us might have right now due to the multiple crises we face. Craig Foster turns to diving in a freezing cold kelp forest without scuba gear or a wet suit off of South Africa's coast. He sees an octopus one day and decides to go back and visit her everyday for a year. She loses her fear of him and they become friends. She teaches him that he is part of this world, not a visitor, and that lesson changes his life. This is the best documentary film I have ever seen. "A spiritual experience" one reviewer wrote.

VOTE
like your life
depends on it
(it does)

