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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.*

One Man's Mission: Justice for Iraq

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While in Boston in 1994, full-time peace activist Bert Sacks made a decision that changed his life forever.

He decided to seek out a study produced by a group called the Harvard Study Team, which had reported to The Washington Post that the deliberate destruction of Iraq's civilian infrastructure by the US military, along with the US-led economic sanctions against that country, were likely to cause 170,000 Iraqi children to die. Unfortunately, that estimate would turn out to be far, far too low, as President Bill Clinton's secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, infamously boasted on national television when she said the price of 500,000 dead Iraqi children was "worth it." Albright went on to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Obama.

"Since that time 21 years ago, I could not leave this issue alone," Sacks, a kind, soft-spoken 72-year old activist from Seattle, told Truthout.

He went on to make nine trips into Iraq, the first one in 1996, as part of a Voices in the Wilderness delegation and in an effort to "educate myself and my fellow Americans about the disastrous effect of this policy on Iraqis."

For his efforts, in 2002, he was fined \$10,000 by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) for the heinous crime of bringing \$40,000 worth of medicine to sick and dying Iraqi children in Basra, Iraq, during his second trip there in 1997.

He refused to pay the fine. He then sued the OFAC over the fact that it fined him, but lost the case.

In turn, the OFAC sued him for the fine, plus another \$6,000 in interest and penalties.

Most people in the United States have chosen to ignore the catastrophic situation the US government has caused in both Iraq and the greater Middle East. One could easily argue that both the catastrophe that is today's Iraq as well as the bloodbath in Syria stemmed from the US wars against Iraq, which began in 1991 and continue to this day.

Sacks refuses to ignore what is happening. He is a one-man movement, seeking justice, and continues to look for ways he can help the people of Iraq - and nothing the US government has thrown at him thus far has slowed him down.

Sacks was horrified by the 1991 Gulf War, but even more taken aback by the ensuing US-led sanctions.

"On March 22, 1991, I read a New York Times front-page story covering the UN report by Martti Ahtisaari on the devastating, 'near-apocalyptic conditions' in Iraq after the Gulf War," he explained.

The report read: "famine and epidemic [were imminent] if massive life-supporting needs are not rapidly met. The long summer ... is weeks away. Time is short."

The UN report recommended an immediate survey of civilian damage caused by the US bombing of Iraq and an immediate cessation of the sanctions in order to prevent "imminent catastrophe." Sacks told Truthout that one particular sentence of that article "has stayed with me for nearly 25 years."

It says, "Ever since the trade embargo was imposed on Aug. 6, after the invasion of Kuwait, the United States has argued against any premature relaxation in the belief that by making life uncomfortable for the Iraqi people it will eventually encourage them to remove President Saddam Hussein from power."

"Even today it's hard for me to read this article without a deep feeling of shame, that my country would do such a thing," Sacks has written. "That there would not be a major uprising of citizens over what was such an unequivocal war crime against the most vulnerable part of the Iraqi population, the children."

"This is the practice of total war as followed in World War II," Sacks said. "No civilians are exempt from the war, not the elderly, not women, not even little babies."

It is all well documented to this day: how the US government deliberately targeted the civilian infrastructure of Iraq with bombing runs, then forbade the importing of critical components to rebuild water treatment facilities, electrical grids and hospitals, and forbade the import of medicine, as well as things as basic as food and pencils.

The US Defense Intelligence Agency published a 1991 document (available here) with the subject line, "Iraq Water Treatment Vulnerabilities."

The document notes that Iraq was dependent upon the importation of equipment and chemicals needed to purify its water supply, and went on to add:

Failing to secure supplies will result in a shortage of pure drinking water for much of the population. This could lead to increased incidences, if not epidemics, of disease ... The entire Iraqi water treatment system will not collapse precipitously ... full degradation of the water treatment system probably will take at least another 6 months.

The drumbeat of assaults carried out directly against the Iraqi people continued in the aftermath of the 1991 bombing campaign. On May 27, 1991, then-Secretary of State James Baker infamously stated, "... [W]e will never normalize relations with Iraq so long as Saddam Hussein remains in power." The statement effectively served as a death sentence to well over 1 million Iraqis, who died as a result of the sanctions between 1991 and 2003. Less than a month later, on June 23, 1991, a Washington Post article titled "Allied Air War Struck Broadly in Iraq - Officials Acknowledge Strategy Went Beyond Purely Military Targets" was published.

The article quoted senior US military officers admitting that the worst civilian suffering resulted not from bombs that went astray, but instead from "precision-guided weapons that hit exactly where they were aimed - at electrical plants, oil refineries and transportation networks."

Pentagon analysts calculated that in 1991, Iraq had roughly the same electrical generating capacity it had in 1920, when things like sewage treatment and refrigeration were rare.

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A military planning officer is quoted in the article, saying: "People say, 'You didn't recognize that it was going to have an effect on water or sewage. Well, what were we trying to do with [United Nations-approved economic] sanctions - help out the Iraqi people? No. *What we were doing with the attacks on infrastructure was to accelerate the effect of sanctions.*" [emphasis added]

Col. John Warden III, deputy director of strategy for the US doctrine and plans for the Air Force, agreed that one purpose of destroying Iraq's electrical grid was that "you have imposed a long-term problem on the leadership that it has to deal with sometime."

"Saddam Hussein cannot restore his own electricity," he said. "He needs help. If there are political objectives that the U.N. coalition has, it can say, 'Saddam, when you agree to do these things, we will allow people to come in and fix your electricity.' It gives us long-term leverage."

The strategy of using civilian deaths and suffering as "leverage" against a dictator was not only endorsed by members of the US military. In July 1991, then-Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said that every bombing target in Iraq - including civilian infrastructure - was "perfectly legitimate," and added, "If I had to do it over again, I would do exactly the same thing."

Given that Cheney went on to become one of the leading hawks promoting the 2003 war against Iraq, which led to at least 1 million Iraqi deaths and counting, he clearly remained true to his word.

Sacks' concern about the impacts of US policy on Iraqi children continued to grow.

His trips into Iraq continued, as did his research findings about how the US military knowingly and deliberately destroyed targets that would cause the death and suffering of Iraqis, including children and babies.

A US Air Force publication, in 1995, cited Iraq as an example of "dual-use targeting." Mentioning airstrikes against Iraqi electrical power facilities during the 1991 war, thereport stated, "As a result, epidemics of gastroenteritis, cholera, and typhoid broke out, leading to perhaps as many as 100,000 civilian deaths and a doubling of the infant mortality rate."

The same report went on to question whether Air Force doctrine supported or condemned these actions, but went on to conclude: The US Air Force has a vested interest in attacking dual-use targets so long as dual-use target destruction serves the double role of destroying legitimate military capabilities and indirectly targeting civilian morale. So long as this remains within the letter if not the spirit of the law and the JWE [Christian Just-War Ethic], the Air Force will cling to the status quo.

Sacks was long since aware of a 1992 study published in the New England Journal of Medicine titled, "Special Article: Effect of the Gulf War on Infant and Child Mortality in Iraq," which concluded, "The Gulf war and trade sanctions caused a threefold increase in mortality among Iraqi children under five years of age. We estimate that an excess of more than 46,900 children died between January and August 1991."

The report also showed that the researchers' data demonstrated a direct link between the 1991 war and sanctions to the subsequent increase in deaths, in addition to the reported epidemics of gastrointestinal and other infections - the exact

diseases mentioned in the US Air Force publication.

But that was just the beginning of the sanctions and suffering. As Albright mentioned, at least half a million Iraqi children would go on to be killed by US policy, and at least that number of adults were killed by malnutrition, diseases and other health issues related to the destruction of infrastructure and sanctions.

In 1997, a New England Journal of Medicine report zeroed in on the human costs of the sanctions against Iraq. It mentioned the findings of the 1992 study, and went on to add that Iraqis were experiencing "suffering of tragic proportions ... [with children] dying of preventable diseases and starvation."

As late as 2000, US Rep. Tony Hall visited Iraq and was shocked by what he found. In a letter to Secretary of State Albright, Hall said, "I share UNICEF's concerns about the profound effects of increasing deterioration of Iraq's water supply and sanitation systems on its children's health. The prime killer of children under five years of age - diarrhoeal diseases - has reached epidemic proportions and they now strike four times more often than they did in 1990."

All but one of the contracts for supplies Iraq needed were placed on hold by the US government. The contracts were for purification chemicals, chlorinators, chemical dosing pumps, water tankers and other related equipment. Of this, Hall added, "Holds on contracts for the water and sanitation sector are a prime reason for the increases in sickness and death."

Sacks told Truthout that he thinks about what happened - and continues to happen - daily.

"Whenever there's a power outage here in Seattle, and people complain about not having electricity for a few hours or days, I think of my first visit to a family in Baghdad in 1996. It was four months before they had *any* electricity and *any* water from the tap, after the US Air Force had destroyed nearly all of Iraq's generating capacity," he said. "To this day, there are still only a few rotating hours of electricity a day for most Iraqis, and nothing approaching the prewar 9,000 to 9,500 megawatt capacity Iraq had in 1990."

Sacks reiterated his amazement at the statements made by the Pentagon bombing planners who made it clear that the consequences of taking out Iraq's electricity were not unexpected, but were actually anticipated - and even desired.

"That meant no sewage processing for the 6 million people in Baghdad," he said. "And consequently no safe drinking water for the residents of Baghdad and everyone downstream who got their water from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers."

Sacks stood as the sole defendant in the federal court case of *The United States of America v. Bertram Sacks*.

He took, in his own words from his testimony, this stance: "I contended that I couldn't pay the fine, because that would be giving money to an organization [the United States] that had committed an act of terrorism."

The judge dismissed the lawsuit.

That left the 2010 OFAC suit against Sacks, aimed at collecting the \$10,000 fine, which he'd publicly refused to pay.

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"I wanted to take advantage of this second chance in court to raise the issue that US policy using the suffering and deaths of Iraqis, especially the most innocent and vulnerable, children under 5, to overthrow Saddam Hussein, came to constitute terrorism according to our own US legal code," Sacks explained. "Unfortunately, the judge denied me this chance by dismissing the government's case against me because the statute of limitations had run out."

Despite what Sacks saw as a setback, the suit prompted him to start his blog, IraqiKids.org, "to share with interested parties what I'd learned, and continued to learn, over the five years since then, including related issues," he said.

He is pleased that his research and statements regarding what he sees as war crimes, and even terrorism, remain a matter of federal district court and public records due to his case.

And Sacks is far from finished.

"I'll continue to do whatever seems practical to raise Americans' understanding of the horrendous mess we've made in Iraq and beyond, including what we're doing to our own country," he said.

As Sacks sees it, the real work now is clear: "to continue to study nonviolence - deep nonviolence, not just 'don't throw rocks' - and to learn to understand, internalize and apply it to Iraq issues, as well as to the many conflict situations we face today."

Reflections on the Value of Life in America

by Larry Kershner

What is the value of a life in our country? Do we value life in a country that generally approves of State sponsored death? Many court battles have been fought over the question of what is a life worth after murders or death in accidents of many kinds. How would you value the life of your child or your parent?

Varying estimates have been made of the value of life in the United States. Most private and government-run health insurance plans worldwide use \$50,000 per year of quality life in order to determine whether to cover a new medical procedure. An analysis of kidney dialysis procedures by Stefanos Zenios and colleagues at Stanford Graduate School of Business concluded that \$129,000 per quality-adjusted life-year was the appropriate figure.

In 2010, the U.S. Environmental Agency concluded that a life value is \$9.1 million. In the same year, the U.S. Food and Drug Agency gave a number of \$7.9 million. In 2013, Professor W. Kip Viscusi, Vanderbilt University's Co-Director of the Ph.D. Program in Law and Economics after study valued a life at \$9.1 million. More recently in 2015, the U.S. Transportation Department set a value of \$9.4 million on a life.

As I recall when I was in the military in the late 60's, if a soldier was killed or had major dismemberment the

government would pay up to \$10,000. In 2002, the U.S. government paid \$100,000 to the heirs of a U.S. soldier "whose death is as a result of hostile actions and occurred in a designated combat operations or combat zone or while training for combat or performing hazardous duty". In 2006, the number was raised to \$400,000 through Servicemembers Group Life Insurance a program that provides low-cost term life insurance coverage to eligible Service members.

According to a McClatchy newspaper story of June 1, 2007, the U.S. government was making "condolence" payments for killing or injuring Iraqi and Afghan civilians or damaging their property. Generally these victims of war received up to \$10,000 for both property damage or death of a civilian.

What does it say about U.S. values if we make the same payment in a country that we have invaded for wrongful death and property damage? What does it say about U.S. values if a dead U.S. soldier is valued at forty times as much as an innocent civilian killed by that same U.S. soldier?

Report on 2015-16 Mike Yarrow Peace Fellowship

By Bruce Pruitt-Hamm

Background

After sponsoring and organizing the Peace Activist Trainee Program for 14 years under the leadership of Mike and Ruth Yarrow, with WWFOR Organizer Ellen Finkelstein as the Lead Trainer and Director, the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation faced the dismal prospect that this program might have to be laid down for several reasons.

First, Mike and Ruth Yarrow were compelled to retreat from active leadership in the program when Mike had a recurrence of his colon cancer. His death on June 2, 2014 ultimately led to Ruth moving back to Ithaca to be closer to her children.

Second, Ellen Finkelstein was reluctantly laid off by the WWFOR in October 2014 due to chronic funding issues. Assistant directors Dante Garcia and Kaeley Pruitt-Hamm had moved on to other jobs and commitments and were unable to take over as directors.

In a bold experiment in volunteerism, Bruce and Janis Pruitt-Hamm took over as the directors for the program, renamed it the Mike Yarrow Peace Fellowship and redesigned the program to include a one-week intensive training in the summer followed by a year of mentoring and support.

An Advisory Board of former PAT participants and staff were formed to provide guidance and support to the directors. Mentors were recruited to assist the peace fellows and other volunteers stepped forward to help with logistics for the training. The prior four week PAT training program was redesigned to take place within an intensive one-week period of time, with nearly the same number of hours of actual training, but omitting the common project, since each peace fellow was going to work on their own project during the rest of the program year.

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MYPF Proposal

The WWFOR proposed a budget to support the training of 10 Peace Fellows to the Abe Keller Peace Education Fund. The fund graciously provided a grant of \$10,000 and we were able to fund 6 Peace Fellows. Originally proposing a budget of \$17,000, WWFOR modified its plans and has managed to carry out the program for less than \$10,000 so far this year.

Intensive Training

The intensive training occurred, as planned, from June 28 to July 2 in Seattle and July 2 through July 5 at the Seabeck conference grounds on Hood Canal for the Northwest regional FOR conference.

Both the participants at the Seabeck conference and the peace fellows enthusiastically appreciated the participation of the peace fellows in the conference, not only integrating them thoroughly but providing key opportunities for leadership and presentation. The Seabeck conference organizing committee wrote to the MYPF directors following the conference, stating: "The peace fellows contributed to so many aspects of the conference-introducing the keynoter, participating in the activist fair, adding spice to the talent show, and even driving the golf cart. In retrospect, we recognize that including them in the conference was brilliant! We received lots of favorable comments about the MYPF being a Seabeck on the evaluation forms too."

After the Intensive Training

Sadly, at the close of the conference, the Directors, Bruce and Janis Pruitt-Hamm, received word that their daughter, Kaeley Pruitt-Hamm, a former Assistant Director of the Peace Activist Trainee Program for the last four years, had become seriously ill with Lyme disease and a host of related co-infections and conditions forcing her to leave her position as staff with the Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington DC to live with person Janis so that they can provide 24/7 care giving and financial support.

Bruce and Janis were generously supported by Mary Lou Finley, one of the 11 volunteer mentors, a retired sociology professor from Antioch University-Seattle and a Martin Luther King nonviolence trainer, who took over for them regarding ongoing follow up with the Peace Fellows as the Peace Fellows embarked on their respective projects.

The six peace fellows and their school

Name	School
Tibaria Alnouri	Interlake High School
Edwin Carlos	Newport High School
Sofian Mahmoud	Pacific University
Sophie Morada	Garfield High School
Sitara Nath	University of Portland
Komalpreet Sahota	University of Washington

Future Plans

The future of the program is uncertain at this time. On the positive side, the new design of a 1 week intensive training to replace the 4 week PAT model, the use of volunteer Directors and Mentors made possible by this redesign, all worked very well. The work done on the 2015 program lays critical groundwork that will make programs in future years much easier to organize. However, the loss of our volunteer Directors for the foreseeable future throws into question the continued viability of the program, barring recruitment of alternative leadership. We hope to clarify the situation before the end of the year.

Finance as Class Warfare

A review of Killing the Host (2015) by Michael Hudson

by John M Repp

The wealth of the 1% comes from the 99%. The 99% are enriching the 1%. There are many ways this happens, for example low wages and high prices. But increasingly, today, the 99% redistribute their wealth through indebtedness. In order to try and live in dignity, the 99%, or at least the two-thirds of them that have debts, pay off their debts with interest as they educate themselves, buy houses or small businesses, buy a car, and use their charge cards. Debt peonage is ancient, much older than the industrial revolution and this older pattern is becoming more prominent every day

Since the crash of 2008, millions of people here and around the world have lost businesses, homes, and jobs. Today, many others despair at their not getting ahead financially. Too many blame themselves, thinking there is something wrong with their ability or drive. If they understood the economic, political, and financial **system** in which we live, maybe they would not blame themselves and we could find a collective solution to our problems.

Michael Hudson, distinguished research professor of economics at the University of Missouri, Kansas City has just written a book entitled Killing the Host (2015). Hudson writes that the FIRE sector (Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate) along with the monopoly control of natural resources like oil and gas is the **parasite**. Finance i.e. banks (what we call Wall Street) is the leader of the parasitic forces. The **host** is the productive economy like manufacturing and farming and needed services like health care and education. Even more sinister is the fact that, just like in biology, a successful parasite often inserts **behavior-modifying enzymes** into the host so the host acts like the parasite is part of itself and does not try to reject the parasite. In this case, the behavior modifying enzymes are **a set of false ideas** dominating the economics departments of leading American universities. Hudson calls those ideas "junk economics" and in this book Hudson labors to correct those false ideas. More often the set of ideas is called "neo-liberalism". The politicians and technocrats like Geithner, Summers, Greenspan, Rubin, Clinton, and Obama put those ideas into practice inside the government of the host economy. Banks now control our

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economic and financial policy. The USA is no longer a democracy at the top. It is an oligarchy.

There is \$11.8 trillion in private debt in USA, for houses, education, cars, and consumption. This is overhead and it causes the price of housing, education, cars and consumer goods to be higher. Hudson called this “asset-price inflation”. The debts displace money for other things in people’s budgets. Hudson calls this “debt deflation”. **It is the private debt overload that is harming the US economy, not the government debt. Mixing the two up is one of the main ideas of “junk economics”.** Just ask yourself, would you worry about paying your debts if you could print new money? It is the ability to create new money that makes a sovereign government like the United States very different than a private household. Evidence that private debt is overhead is the fact that after each business cycle since the end of World War II, the private debt in the USA has increased and each recovery has been weaker.

Another idea of “junk economics”, alluded to in the metaphor of parasite and host, is ignoring the difference between on the one hand actual production like manufacturing, farming, or needed services like health care and education, and on the other hand, the paying of interest to private banks. Calling them both “wealth creation” confuses people, especially economics students and via the mass media, the general public. It results in bad policy like the tax deductibility of interest and the tax favoritism of capital gains. A third key idea of “junk economics” is the idea that what a person earns in our society is a measure of the contribution they have made to wealth of our society. A hedge fund owner making a million dollars a hour, and that has happened, does not contribute 66,666 times what a \$15 an hour person contributes.

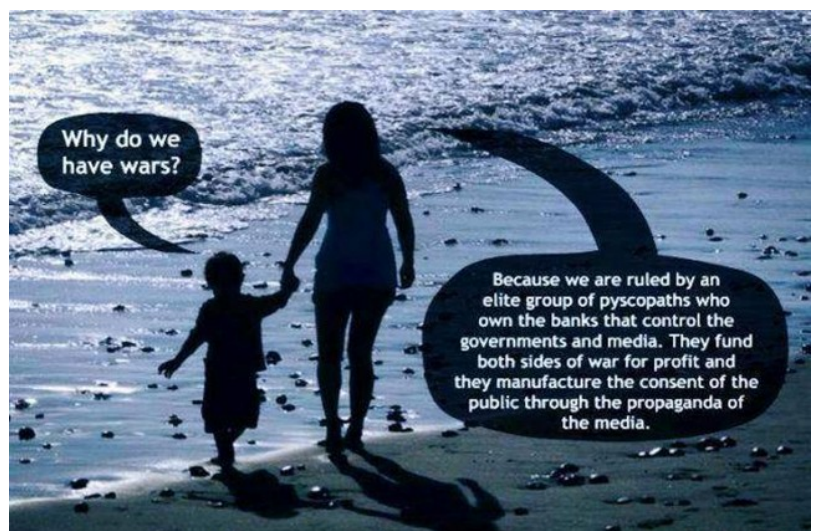
Hudson writes that Obama presided over an oligarchic coup d’état. He let Geithner and Summers convince him, after the collapse of Lehman Brothers, that if the other big Wall Street Banks and hedge funds collapsed, the world economy would collapse. But there was an alternative to the bailouts. The Treasury Department could have taken control of the insolvent banks and could have wound them down like was done after the Savings and Loan crisis in the 1980’s and 1990’s. The FBI and SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) could have continued their investigations into widespread mortgage fraud i.e. the creditors committed fraud, encouraged by the big Wall Street banks, by making loans to people they knew would not be able to pay back the loans, especially, after the higher interest rates kicked in after a few years. The Obama administration continued the Bush policy of stopping the FBI investigations. What was done instead was to bailout the winning speculators in unregulated derivatives, what Warren Buffet called “financial weapons of mass destruction” Even the insolvent banks, primarily Citibank and Goldman Sachs, could have made whole the plain vanilla part of the their business. The threat that America’s ATM machines would have run out of cash was bogus. Seeing that there was an alternative, especially an alternative **with a precedent in our history,**

makes clear why Hudson says Obama presided over an oligarchic coup d’état.

There is an intriguing quote in the book: “If there is a second meltdown...it will come from a political revolt...probably not originating in the United State.. (e.g. a country like Greece cannot or refuses to pay its debts)” James K. Galbraith, fall 2013

There is another possibility that Hudson does not mention. From The Methods of Nonviolent Action (1973) by Gene Sharp, we read that method number 88 is the nonpayment of debts or interest. (pp. 238 -239) If a mass movement of debtors would stop paying interest on their odious debts, it could cause banks to become insolvent. The movement should then demand the nationalization of Wall Street and the Federal Reserve and write-down of people’s odious debts, the taxation of “economic rent” which is unearned income from monopoly privilege, the revocation of the deductibility of interest, the creation of a public bank option, and the adoption of the policies of Modern Monetary Theory in which the nationalized Federal Reserve would create new money and Congress would spend it into the economy. Currently, the public/private Federal Reserve creates new money and gives it to the big Wall Street Banks to prop up their balance sheets, a process called “quantitative easing”. Hudson has a 10 point program (p.403) He writes that “reform must be across the board, not piecemeal” (p. 406) and it “must be done quickly and totally, not slowly and marginally” (p.407).

Behind ancient debt bondage and the modern form of debt peonage is the same basic dynamic. The real economy cannot grow as fast as compound interest does. People become too indebted and cannot pay. In ancient times, because the temples and the palaces of the rulers in Mesopotamia and Egypt loaned the money that indebted the poor, when the social stress became too destructive, because the creditors were public institutions, they could cancel the debts more easily than the private creditors of today. The cancellation of debts released the bondsman, a form of slavery, to return to their families or their land. This was referred to in the Bible as Jubilee. Hudson’s main academic area of study is the ancient Near East economies and long term economic trends. He was one of the few economists to predict the financial crash of 2008.



Corporate Greed by Miner "Ed"

(Interview by Mike Yarrow; arranged by Ruth Yarrow)

Before we came out on strike, the owner asked us,
"If you all go non-union, and you work for this one company,
we can make you millionaires in 20 years."
We asked, "What happens if this one company shuts down?"
"Your retirement starts over."
We asked, "How about our grandpas and our daddies
that are on retirement?"
"We don't care about them. None of them work for us."
We told him flat "No."
He wanted the whole mines to have a decertification vote.
But our grandparents and our daddies made this union,
And without them you wouldn't have the Social Security
they helped push through,
you wouldn't have your black lung insurance,
and your unemployment wouldn't be as high as it is.

During the strike, I really got my eyes opened.
The Company can file for an injunction
and they'd get it in like two days.
You see a superintendent on the witness stand,
And you can count 22 lies he tells under oath,
And the judge doesn't have the nerve to ask why he is lying.
But a union man get up there
and the company lawyer will tear him up –
up one side and down the other.

In my opinion, we tried everything peaceful.
We tried to set down in the road.
We tried setting on the railroad tracks.
We tried running in front of the trains.
We tried serpentine – parking cars in the road far enough apart
to where an ambulance or fire truck could get by
But not a coal truck.
And all that is peaceful.
When that first serpentine got run over by coal trucks,
If the courts would have said,
"That's enough. Pickets go home, negotiate,"
You wouldn't have had the three men
That got run over by a coal truck.
You wouldn't have had \$450 million damage
Against the company.
You wouldn't have had that picket shot over on that picket line.
You wouldn't have had these houses shot at where we slept on
the floor under the windows
and blankets over the windows.
All your court had to say was, "that's enough!"

I think the National Labor Board goes by Reaganomics.
The Labor Board in my opinion ought to be dissolved.
And no judge should have a lifetime job.
You don't have any way of keeping the guy honest.
Reagan fired all the air traffic controllers.
He showed what he stands for there.

What Reagan wants is to eliminate the middle class of people.
He wants to have two classes: the filthy rich, which is his class,
and the poor.

We ran the election campaign because the big company
Controlled the county.
We started campaigning before the strike was over,
And the election was just after.
We got two union men to run for the House of Delegates.
And our wives went door-to-door and did a telephone poll.
I hadn't done anything like that before.
I liked getting out and meeting the public.
I got so many friends, I don't know who they are.
We had a 66% turnout.

When I collected food for the strikers,
I was on the road all day every day.
I put three sets of tires on my truck just during that one summer.
I never had a bit of problem collecting food.
Some of the little stores were just as good as the big ones.
The power company helped.
The local bank, mainly made up of union miners,
bent till it almost broke.

My wife was great. I couldn't have made it without her.
She is vice president of our women's group,
dedicated UMWA women.
Them women took part in the marches,
collected their own money to pay people's bills.
Several times my wife cooked the whole dinner for 300 people.

Here, right beside the road, you hear the trucks go by all day
and all night,
and you know it's scab coal.
And you know the state police are escorting them.

They use you.
We ran their coal, did their work, and we took the benefits
they gave out, of course.
We made them oodles and oodles of money.
But just as soon as they get big enough where they think
they can bust you,
instead of showing their appreciation for the years
that you ran coal for them,
for your buddies that you seen get killed on the section,
they want to bust your union so they can make more money.
It all came down to one thing: corporate greed.
And that will be the downfall of this nation,
if we don't get it under control.

The found poem **Corporate Greed by Miner "Ed"** is
from Voices from the Appalachian Coalfields

Mike and Ruth Yarrow, photos Douglas Yarrow

Bottom Dog Press, 2015 <http://smithdocs.net>