

Eye on Washington by Stanley Ezrol

'Social science' at the public trough

It is common wisdom in certain circles, including those surrounding President Reagan, that the billions of dollars poured into both foreign aid and domestic 'social services' has done little to alleviate poverty, social disruption, or the proliferation of criminal mentality. On the foundation of this common wisdom, a philosophy variously called 'The New Federalism,' 'Subsidiarity,' 'Mediating Structures,' 'Participatory Democracy,' and 'Community Control,' has been constructed. Its content is that big institutions, like the federal government, cannot do anything useful for little people.

The reality is that the U.S. government has been spending hundreds of millions of dollars, and perhaps billions or tens of billions of dollars per year, to *purchase* poverty, social and economic disruptions, and the proliferation of criminal mentality.

Uselessness guaranteed

AID, the so-called Agency for International Development, is spending tens of millions on various agricultural research projects, although it is AID policy *not* to finance the large-scale energy, irrigation, transportation, or other infrastructural projects, which are the components of major increases in agricultural productivity. Many of the agricultural research projects funded by AID, are attempts to figure out how to obtain marginal increases in agricultural productivity without ir-

rigation, fertilizers, transportation infrastructure, or any of the other inputs for modern agro-industry.

There is every reason to believe that tens of millions of dollars of AID funding may have gone into the terrorist ethnic and tribal separatist movements which have plagued the underdeveloped world for decades. Suspicious studies funded include \$38,343 for a "pilot socio-linguistic study" of Haiti granted to the "Indiana University Foundation," \$45,000 granted to Stanford University for the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation, and millions of dollars granted by the State Department and AID to known terrorist-linked organizations including the World Council of Churches and the American Friends Service Committee, "refugees in areas of civil strife," including Kampuchea and the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region.

'Women and heroin'

Preliminary investigation of the activities of the Department of Health and Human Services, previously the Department of HEW indicates that that department, at least as of Fiscal 1980, was operating on the assumption that the use of narcotic, psychotropic, and psychedelic drugs was becoming the most important aspect of mental life in the United States. An examination of the \$150 million awarded in research grants by HHS's Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration reveals tens of millions of dollars, at least, for research projects whose only practical application can be in the deliberate use of drugs for purposes of social control.

Included in this category are \$70,000 to Arizona State University for a study of "Opiate-Involved Life Styles and Couple Relationships"; \$66,000 for the University of Arizona to develop a "New Model of Marijuana Psychoactivity"; and \$175,000

for the Chicano Pinto Research Project, Inc., of California, to study "Women and Heroin in Chicano Communities."

Other ADAMHA research projects reflect the belief that psychological and social pathologies are caused by membership in non-Anglo-Saxon ethnic or racial groups. Millions of dollars are spent for these race theory studies, including \$269,000 for "Mental Health Treatment of Pacific/Asian Americans"; \$36,000 for "The Course of Schizophrenia among Mexican Americans"; \$214,000 for "Black Family Mental Health and Teenage Pregnancy"; \$53,000 for "Drinking Patterns among American Indian Women"; and \$71,000 for "Coping Styles of Black Adolescent Families."

\$69,000 has been spent to bring "Alcohol in the lives of some Indian women." It is rumored that HHS is negotiating a sequel, "Women in the Lives of some Indian Alcoholics."

Sex and violence

Also, millions of dollars are spent for hundreds of voyeuristic studies on the impact of sexual and other crimes of violence on individuals. Rather than list dozens of names of these studies, I simply report that the Delancey Street Foundation of San Francisco, California was paid \$174,159 by HHS for "Sexual Assault of Prostitutes."

Although details are not available on the ways in which HHS and other departments have squandered money after Ronald Reagan's assumption of control for fiscal 1982, I have been assured by experts in several areas that there has been little radical change. One complicating factor is the fact that the "block grant" approach adopted at the behest of the Reaganite "New Federalists" will make it almost impossible to control the uses to which federal funds for such things as community mental health services are put.