

moral perspectives



Rev. Robert Schaden

U.S. rights policy called inconsistent

FOR QUITE SOME time, I have wondered about the apparent inconsistency in our national policy.

On one hand, we take a hard stance toward the government of Nicaragua because of its civil rights violations.

At the same time, we are content to offer little more than weak verbal protest against gross violations in South Africa.

But perhaps our approach is more consistent than it might appear.

IF WE PRESUME human rights the issue — and who would not like to believe that? — then indeed we are inconsistent. But take another look and a very common thread begins to show itself.

There is one vast and glaring difference between many of lands south of our borders and South Africa. Those in both Central and South America have been progressively making noise about systematic exploitation. They have learned to prevent corporations from the north taking over their natural resources.

Hello, agribusiness; goodbye, small-time farmer.

Some gratitude may have been felt by a few for jobs provided, but resentment by the many over the issue of being cheap labor for otherwise big spenders is quickly gracious in catering to the needs and fancies of multinational corporations. It has been a good place for our money interests.

IF THERE IS another plus for this nation which makes daily news in its violent denial of human rights, it lies in its stance against communism. Certainly they are more in our camp on that than Ortega who has nowhere else to go for help but to Moscow.

Children are quick to form their allegiances and to draw their battle lines based on who will deliver what they want. We expect that from children who are somewhat narcissistic by nature.

Unfortunately, however, this same tendency is showing itself as the basis for much of our national policy. But the policy makers are not children. They are the so-called responsible adults who have flags of freedom, who give speeches on the importance of the individual and who praise the symbolism of Lady Liberty.

OUR CONSISTENCY lies in a determination to get what we want regardless of the cost to faceless inhabitants of other lands.

We want a place to practice the craft of capital expansion, and we want friends who will put down communism. It is evidently coming to pass that those nations willing to fall into such a line are the good guys and those who don't are not.

Our willingness to prop up the Shah in Iran and Marcos in the Philippines for so long are but two examples. It seems that only too much egg on our national face is enough to move us to a position that can be considered morally acceptable on the yardstick of a concern for human rights.

The egg is continuing to run. But if that is what it takes to move us to a position of national integrity, then so be it. Sometimes those narcissistic

children of whom we spoke can only be moved by a spanking.

It seems that not only our antagonists but a growing list of our allies are beginning to put us over their knee. It would be good if we could learn without such humiliation, but as it stands we do not even seem ready to learn from it.

Ford grants OU \$500,000

Oakland University has received a \$500,000 grant from the Ford Motor Co. Fund for the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

The Ford Fund commitment is in support of the university's 25th anniversary development campaign.

"This act of faith by one of the world's most important corporations is extremely encouraging," said Oakland University President Joseph E. Champagne. "We're excited and pleased that Ford is participating in our 25th anniversary campaign."

HE NOTED that the grant will be paid over five years and will help support the work of Nan K. Loh, a John F. Dodge professor of engineering and director of the Center for Robotics and Advanced Automation. Loh is the editor of *Impact*, the official journal of the Society of Machine Intelligence, and an interna-

"We recognize the university's importance as an educational institution in our community. We know that many of Oakland's graduates remain in the metropolitan Detroit area, and that the school serves as an excellent source for potential employees."

— Donald E. Petersen
Ford Motor chairman

tionally known expert on artificial intelligence.

Specific research areas and instructional programs that will be aided through the grant include: intelli-

gent robotic systems and intelligent machine vision systems; smart suspension systems; automated, nondestructive inspection systems; three-dimensional (3-D) machine vision

systems; and the development of graduate courses on computer-aided inspection (CAI).

"FORD is pleased to make this substantial grant to Oakland University because we recognize the university's importance as an educational institution in our community," said Donald E. Petersen, Ford Motor Co. chairman and co-chairman of OU's development campaign.

"We know that many of Oakland's graduates remain in the metropolitan Detroit area, and that the school serves as an excellent source for potential employees," Peterson added. More than 300 Oakland University graduates currently are employed by Ford. The Ford contribution is designated for research and instructional programs at the Center for Robotics and Advanced Automation within the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

LOOMFIELD HILLS. Charming, well maintained on over two beautiful wooded acres. Vaulted ceiling living room with fireplace. Wood in master bedroom. Good storage, crawl space. \$229,000.

CUTE AND COZY in Duck Lake, Ma. The lot makes a great dock, all approx. \$50,000. (717) 1-5-5.

LOCATED on 3 acres of excellent qualities and extremely one of a kind. Beautifully landscaped, making this a must see for further information on it.

LEVEL CONTEMPORARY has large master fireplace, and opens to a beautiful view of the lake. Alternative room, second level suite. Check on upper level, 100,000. (717) 1-5-5.

FOR color room lot in the area. \$100,000.

Peaceful, peaceful setting view of the pond, cozy two with HOT TUB all master.

Finish an antique table as a backdrop.

View of

WSU will build own utility plant

Wayne State University Board of Governors has approved the construction of an energy plant to generate steam and electricity for university buildings.

The board authorized the administration to enter into a contract with Smith, Hinchman and Grylls for installation of such a plant at an estimated cost of \$3.2 million.

The gas-fired facility would provide steam for State Hall, Science Hall, the Life Science Building, Science Library and the Chemistry Building. A co-generation turbine would provide 800 kilowatts of electricity for the University.

The energy plant is expected to take 12 months to complete and will save the University between \$800,000 and \$1 million annually.

The utility account at the university will provide \$1,874,500 of the project cost. Another \$550,000 would come from appropriations for fiscal year 1986. The remaining \$957,500 would be paid from a state energy fund or the WSU utility account.

WE COVER REAL ESTATE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD LIKE NOBODY ELSE.

If you're looking for a home in your neighborhood, there's no better place than a neighborhood newspaper. And if you're selling your home, we're the way to reach the best, most logical prospects. Keep on top of the housing market. Make our real estate pages a regular reading habit.

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

Rochester Eccentric Garden City Observer Canton Observer Plymouth Observer Troy Eccentric West Bloomfield Eccentric
Westland Observer Farmington Observer Redford Observer Birmingham Eccentric Southfield Eccentric Ann Arbor Observer