

OP-ED

Carl Rowan's Commentary

A furious campaign is in full force to further demonize North Korean dictator Kim Il-Sung and to frighten us Americans into believing that all humankind would be in peril if North Korea got nuclear weapons.

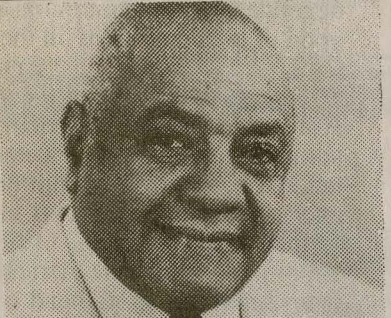
There is a white man—"Great Power" arrogance at work here. It says that in winning the Cold War the U.S. also won the right to declare that only its friends and "sane" leaders may develop nuclear weapons and nerve gas and chemical weapons.

This arrogance is "justified" by arguments that Kim is as crazy as Iraq's Saddam Hussein and thus must be denied weapons that are, or long have been, available to the leaders of the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union, Israel and South Africa, Pakistan and India, China, France and Great Britain, and surely other countries.

Those building up a doomsday shroud for North Korea privately concede that even with a crude one or two nuclear bombs it seems capable of producing, it would be lunacy for the Pyongyang regime to use an atomic weapon against South Korea or Japan. North Korea would be wiped off the face of the earth in days after such an attack.

The "balance of terror" that brought sanity to Nikita Khrushchev during the Cuban missile crisis, and also tied John F. Kennedy to diplomacy, still exists. It still precludes North Korea, China, Pakistan, India or any other new members of the nuclear club from launching an attack that could become Armageddon.

But tell this to those who try to drum up an attack on North Korea's nuclear facilities and they come up with another reason for American



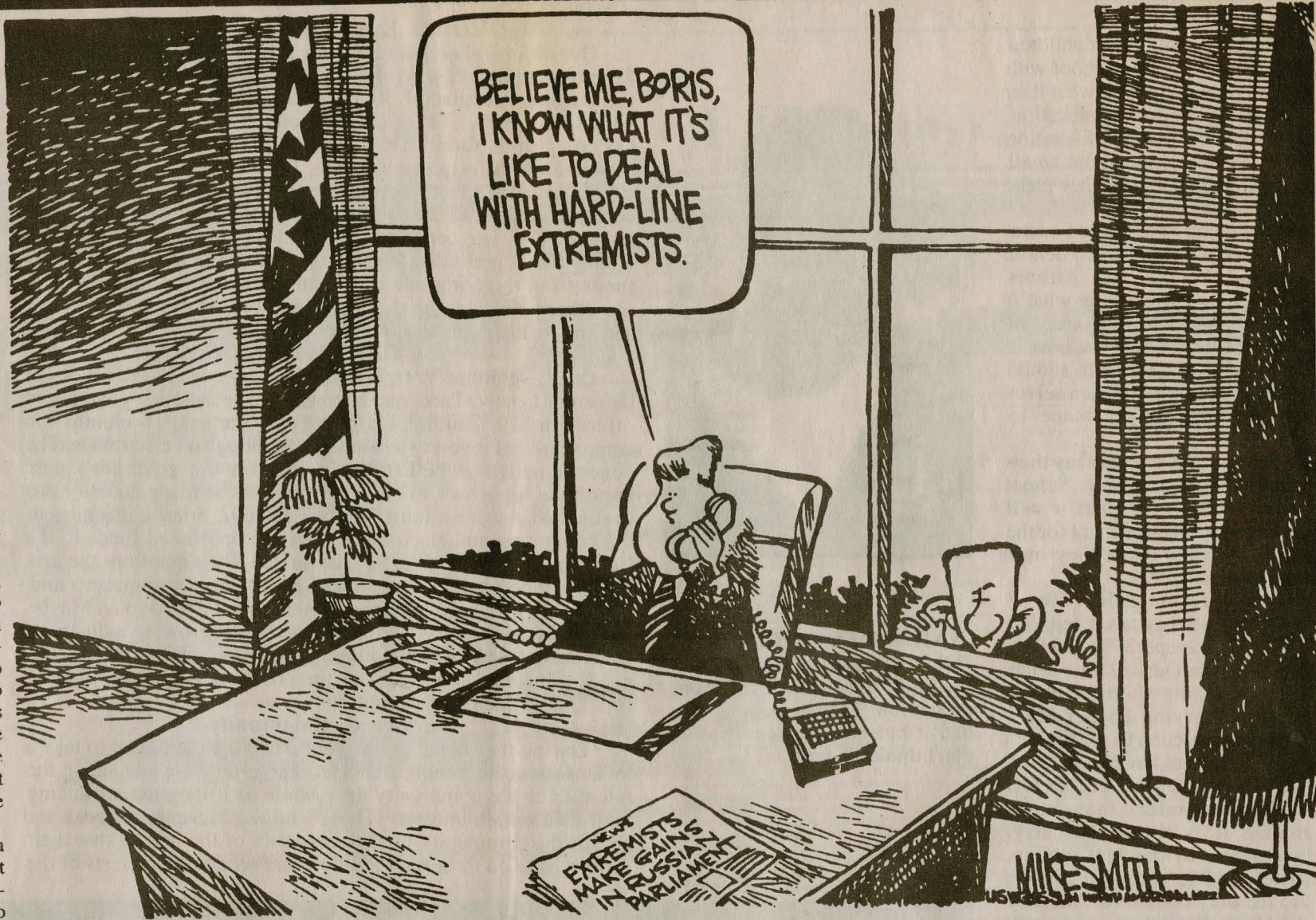
hysteria. Kim Il-Sung, they say, would probably sell nuclear weapons to terrorist groups that want to destroy Israel or deliver nuclear hell to buildings such as the World Trade Center in New York.

My answer is that we've seen for decades shameful and world-damaging transfers of horrible weapons, from the Soviet Union to Arab countries, from Israel to South Africa, from China to Iran and, cynically and incredibly, from the U.S. to Iran and Iraq. We probably need to worry more about nuclear weapons in the Ukraine and other pieces of the former Soviet Union falling into the hands of terrorists than we do about North Korea selling one of its crude weapons to some madman.

A military assault on North Korea would only multiply the chances that the haters of the American double-standard would intensify efforts to deliver some terrible device to some terrorists, including a few we know are among us.

Attacking North Korea would be infinitely more costly than were the wars on Iraq, Panama and Grenada combined. So it is good that U.S. leaders are using diplomacy, hoping to find that the new generation of North Koreans is smarter than the American demonizers think they are.

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COPING

Manipulating Your Way To Happiness

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

Let's face it! When you are honest, lovable and devoted, you receive a mild emotional "kick in the teeth." Your spouse thinks you are weak, takes you for granted and stops treating you with kindness. Your friends become less careful and considerate of your feelings. Your boss expects you to do more work than other employees. And, you generally are made to feel unhappy.

On the other hand, when you play "hard to get," act nasty and intimidating and push people around, the results are often surprisingly different. Your spouse becomes jealous and affectionate. Your friends regard you as strong and assertive. Your boss gives you a promotion for having strong leadership qualities. In general, you get the respect that you want.

The nice people usually gets abused. The manipulative person gets respected. This seems to contradict what you have been told all of your life by your parents, ministers and teachers. You were told to be honest, fair and kind. You were told to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. This was supposed to lead to friendship and happiness because people were supposed to respond to you with kindness whenever you were kind to them. But, it has led to people labeling you as weak and has, as the result, led to your unhappiness.

Most people are reluctant to admit this apparent unfortunate truth, because it seems so wrong. It seems so unfair. It seems so much against what we want to believe. But, no matter how unfair it may appear, no matter how much we want the "nice guy" world to exist, the blatant reality is simply that nice guys, in fact, do not

often win! In fact, nice people usually end up as losers.

The winners in this society are (unfortunately) the manipulators of behavior, or the con men. We are not referring to evil people, bank robbers or sadists. We are not referring to people whose primary objective is to harm you in some way. We are not referring to people who have any negative intent in mind. The reference is to people who modify their behavior in order to provoke a favorable response from others. There is, normally, no desire to hurt anyone.

Are you startled by this revelation? Probably not. You realize that in order to get a pay raise from the boss you must smile, be kind and courteous, and make him think that you regard him as a nice guy (even though you may resent him).

If you want your teacher to give you a good grade, you must act as if you have studied hard and fully understand the lesson (although you may not have studied at all). If you want to be pursued by the opposite sex, you must hide all of your negative qualities and act as if you are kind, desirable, intelligent, confident and give the impression that you are pursued by many other members of the opposite sex (even if this is not true).

The point is that you are already well-schooled in the art of psychological manipulation. But, you have a less provocative name for it. Perhaps we call it psychological pragmatism, a little white lie, gentle persuasion or common sense. But, no matter what you call it, it is manipulation and playing the con game to get what you want.

TO BE EQUAL

Health Care At Top Of 1994's Agenda

By John E. Jacob

This looks to be the Year of Health Care.

The Administration's sweeping reform of the nation's health care system is now on the table, and in 1994 we can expect it to dominate public debate and Congress's schedule.

Unless Congressional gridlock intervenes, we should have a national health care bill by the end of the year, with a new, reformed system kicking in over the next several years.

It will be different, but will it be better?

That depends.

Congress could maul the President's package so it looks very different from the one he developed. Or there could be compromises that weaken some aspects or, hopefully, strengthen others.

But the President has said he will not accept any compromise that weakens the one non-negotiable aspect of his plan -- universal coverage for all Americans.

That alone makes it likely that the nation will be better served by the reformed system than by the present one that leaves 37 million people, most of them children, without health insurance.

Since health security is a major 1994 national agenda item, then protecting the health security stake of the poorest Americans has to be a major agenda item for community-based organizations.

It would be tragic if universal coverage is not complemented by universal access, and access means more than simply being covered by an insurance plan.

Access also means having doctors, clinics, and hospitals in the neighborhoods where poor people live. It means assuring preventive care for the poor and their children.

And it means one health care system serving all, not a two-tier system where the affluent get the best coverage and care, while the poor get the worst.

This equity issue takes on special significance because the high cost of a reformed health care system is supposed to be funded by, among other things, cuts in Medicaid, the program that now provides some coverage for some of the poor.

It seems every time there's a budget squeeze, at either the national or the state levels, the answer is always found in cutting Medicaid.

That answer always winds up costing the poor. Either the eligibility requirements are tightened, forcing many poor people off the Medicaid rolls, or fee schedules are cut, encouraging some doctors to refuse to treat Medicaid patients and imperiling the finances of hospitals that serve poor neighborhoods.

That can't be allowed to happen in the new health system.

The Administration's plan would enroll all Americans in health alliances that would negotiate rates and set premium payment levels for a variety of plans.

People would choose which plan they wish to join, a complex task that should be eased by provisions for community-based organizations to provide counseling services or other assistance.

It won't be easy to protect the interest of the poor in an environment dominated by heavily-bankrolled special interests. Some of those interests could gain or lose massive amounts of money depending on how the health security legislation is written.

And a President who has, rightly or wrongly, developed the reputation as a compromiser, may be tempted to accept changes to his plan that may impact the poor negatively.

But as we saw in the NAFTA vote, this President is also a fighter capable of ramming legislation he believes in through a reluctant Congress.

So the representatives of the poor must be heard, must define the key issues at stake beyond simple universality of coverage, and must pressure Congress and the President to assure equity.

Blacks Criticize Hard-Core Rap Music. . .

FROM FRONT PAGE

as well.

This summer he stunned viewers with his debut role in the movie "Poetic Justice" with Janet Jackson. However, his true colors came out when a 20-year-old fan alleged that the singer and two of his friends raped her. As if that wasn't enough, 2 Pac was recently arraigned for the shooting of two off-duty police officers.

"I am personally outraged at the people who promote these rap artists," said Hubert Locke, a professor at the University of Washington. "These people make money from promoting bad values. In my opinion, some of the music put out today is a disgrace to Black life in America."

Some seem to believe it is not only the responsibility of the rap artist but also of the radio stations who play the music. Frank P. Barrow, who is the program director and operations manager for KRIZ and KZIZ radio stations, said he feels it is definitely up to the radio station to use good judgment. "You have to respect your audience. In return they will respect you. You

can't take a song and try to camouflage cuss words by splicing it yourself," said Barrow. "It isn't the radio station's job to edit and dissect a song just to say you're playing a particular artist."

It must be made clear that not all rap is negative. Groups such as Salt-N-Pepa, DRS, Kriss Kross, Queen Latifah and Hammer do send some positive messages through their music. Queen Latifah and Salt-N-Pepa send strong messages about respect for women and safe sex.

Other groups such as Hammer and Kriss Kross make it clear that kids need to stay in school and off the streets. These types of rap artists get the bad name along with the hard-core rappers when they are all lumped in the same category.

Although it's obvious we can't tell artists what they can record and what they can't, we can control what our youth listen to--and what we listen to. "I feel it is up to the parents, definitely," said Cemal Wright, a young rap listener. "It's up to them to teach their children values. We can't put all the blame on the artists."

Prosecutor Requests Inquest Into Death Of Antonio Jackson. . .

FROM FRONT PAGE

CNA," McCoy told The Medium.

Mothers Against Police Harassment, a local anti-violence group, issued a statement likening the Jackson death to lynching. "We refer to this as a possible lynching because, like a lynching, private citizens took the law into their own hands, serving as arresting officer,

judge, jury and possibly executioner, and it appears that his neck was constricted until he ultimately died."

According to the organization, since a chokehold for law enforcement and detention personnel was outlawed several years ago, the same should apply same should apply to private citizens and store personnel.

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