

Toward a Class-Based Realignment of American Politics: A Movement Strategy

Richard A. Cloward and Frances Fox Piven

1983

To call for voter registration drives is the perennial response of the politically innocent to complaints of governmental injustice. Most hardheaded people, particularly politicians, rarely take such efforts seriously....They know that past voter drives have had little national impact, for none

has succeeded in enlisting significant numbers of new voters....

But there is a difference now. The newly created terrain of the welfare state provides the ideological and organizational opportunities to facilitate voter registration on a vast scale.

Is It Time for the Four-Day Work Week?

Roy Bennett and Frank Riessman

1984

Like the current voter registration strategy, the idea of a four-day work week is not new. But something in this period gives it renewed power....

The most striking aspect of the present economic situation is the simultaneous existence of a strong economic recovery while millions of peo-

ple remain unemployed, underemployed, on welfare, or out of the labor force....

[I]n 1900, the work week was 60 or more hours. In 1935, by law, it was reduced to 40 hours. Now, nearly 50 years later..., there has been no reduction in the work week! Surely, it is overdue.

Regenerating Community

John McKnight

1987

We all remember the childhood question regarding how to describe a glass with water to its midpoint. Is it half full or half empty? Community associations are built upon the recognition of the fullness of each member because it is the sum of their capacities that represents the power of the group. The [social service policy makers], on the other hand, build a world based upon the empti-

ness of each of us—a model based upon deficiency....

As we think about ourselves, our community and institutions, many of us recognize that we have been degraded because our roles as citizens and our communities have been traded in for the right to clienthood and consumer status.

Toxics and Racial Justice

Pat Bryant

1989

No political movement in the United States can claim to be national and progressive unless it addresses the question of race. Environmental organizing, the area that holds the most progressive potential of any movement of the last two decades, is caught up in its failure to respond convincingly to this question. In order to move from isolated local victories to real national

impact, the environmental movement has to confront its own whiteness. Especially in the Deep South, environmentalism is locked up in traditions of liberal do-gooding and racial inequities that make it difficult to build a mass-based movement with the power to stop poisoning of people through the environment.