

EDITORIAL

# Welfare Crisis?

After much ado about the condition of welfare, The real solution of handling the problem, appears no where in sight.

The welfare issue has become a game of political passing the buck. With each political entity pointing the finger and laying the blame on some other branch or Government and put the blame on recipients.

If any truth comes to surface at all, it is the fact that no one seems to know what they are doing.

For the last couple of years various government officials have been warning that money would run out. They claimed that some higher level government agency rules made it impossible for them to do anything to handle the issues.

Many voters, because of misleading statements, were against welfare. They were told that welfare cost was responsible for increased taxes.

It became popular for political candidates to campaign against rising welfare cost.

Voters fell for that anti-welfare line without knowing that it was a smoke screen to hide many more expensive programs and projects that were taking a lions share of the tax dollar.

The reason behind the crisis were not told truthfully. As a result, the funds to provide aid were not made available.

Those in whose trust the obligation to come up with a workable plan that would provide the necessary are for the poor, fumbled the ball.

As a result, we have County officials blaming State officials for the crisis, State officials blame both the Federal government and the County government.

The Federal government officials pass the buck back to the states. Caught in the middle are the children and the senior citizens.

It is very difficult to make children believe that, they must go hungry because the money is not available to provide food.

Young people don't need a PHD in math to figure that Government buildings, Highways parks, or that the planting of flowers, lawns, and trees have a higher priority than food, shelter and education with the powers that be.

What we need is responsible government whose priorities are more relevant to economic conditions.

The un-rest in our community could be avoided by facing up to the facts and doing whatever is necessary to provide for our poor.

The poor are the responsibility of our society.

The means to take care of the needs of the unemployed, the underemployed and their children can be found.

That is if our elected officials really care.

## The Plight Of Congressional Liberals

BY BAYARD RUSTIN

The conclusion of the first session of the 92nd Congress has come none too soon for those committed to civil rights and social reform. Here are a few of the highlights of this most discouraging year in Washington.

--William Rehnquist, who once asserted that America is "no more dedicated to an integrated society than to a segregated society," was confirmed for appointment to the Supreme Court.

--A landmark bill to help the nation's children, particularly those of working mothers, was vetoed by President Nixon.

--A bill to create thousands of public service jobs, desperately needed during a year in which joblessness climbed to its highest average level in a decade, was vetoed by President Nixon, who termed the measure "inflationary."

--Welfare reform became the first sacrificial victim to the President's new economic policy.

--The House of Representatives, with the open encouragement of the President, approved a series of measures which could eliminate busing as a means of school desegregation and penalize those school districts which have utilized busing

# In Nineteen Seventy Two, The March Is To The Polls...

**REGISTER SO YOU CAN VOTE!**

*"YOUTH IS THE SEASON OF HOPE, ENTERPRISE, AND ENERGY, TO A NATION AS WELL AS AN INDIVIDUAL."*  
W.R. WILLIAMS

*Pious*

successfully.

What we witnessed, in short, was a Congress immobilized partially by its own divisions and to a great extent by the threat, spoken or unspoken, that creative or progressive social legislation would be greeted by a presidential veto.

1971 was a particularly disheartening year for congressional liberals. On one hand, they were unable to mount any sustained legislative effort. At the same time liberals found themselves increasingly vulnerable on potentially explosive social issues like school busing.

The busing issue illustrates the weakness of liberals when confronted with a hostile White House. Many parents are opposed to busing, not so much out of racial antagonism, but because they cannot perceive that busing will improve the education of their children. At the same time, they are frustrated by the fact that the cost of busing will increase what are probably already steep property taxes.

An equitable approach to integration, and one which might win over many now currently, hostile whites, would have the federal government assuming the costs of the purchasing and operation of the buses and, in addition, providing the school district with massive aid for the improvement of education in all schools. In this way, the alleged inconvenience of busing could be offset by innovative education programs, smaller class sizes, or the construction of new schools.

Yet this option is not open to Congress because of the attitude of the President. Liberals are left with an either-or situation with no middle ground from which to maneuver. They can either support busing, and risk the wrath of white constituents, or oppose busing, thus alienating many Negro voters and violating their own principles.

For his part, Nixon will certainly attempt to exploit the busing issue, integration of the suburbs, and other controversial social issues to enhance his political position and weaken the liberal coalition. He understands that many voters are unlikely to blame him for his inadequate education program, but will blame liberalism for the social disruption, real or imagined, created by busing.

Nixon is also not likely to allow liberals to propose social and economic reforms without countering with proposals of his own. We can expect Nixon to denounce the liberal measures as "inflationary" or somehow "running to the American spirit" while proposing far from

adequate plans of his own.

A good example is Nixon's pension reform bill, which would largely benefit doctors, lawyers and other well paid professionals while neglecting those with incomes of less than \$10,000.

We are learning an important political lesson from the 92nd Congress. No matter how liberal its composition or well-intentioned its members, the legislative branch cannot by itself effect social change. Without the cooperation, support and guidance of the President we will never mount a sustained drive to eradicate slums, guarantee equal access to education and health care, protect the aged, and make any substantial headway in the fight for racial and economic integration. Because these are complex and difficult problems, the temptation exists for liberals to pursue other issues which promise instant, non-controversial solutions. But these problems, which are basic to human dignity and equality, will not be solved by neglect; they will only fester and grow, until they engulf us all, black and white, rich and poor.

In 1970 the coalition of liberals, labor and minorities--and alliance seemingly shattered in the tumult and chaos of 1968--reunited in the face of a concerted reactionary challenge.

The liberal majorities in the House and Senate were salvaged, despite formidable opposition, and those who had rung the death knell on liberalism were temporarily silenced.

We must continue to rebuild, strengthen and solidify the coalition in 1972 if the accomplishments of liberalism are to be anything more than

(see LIBERALS, page 11)

**LAS VEGAS Voice**

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. . . . . . Publisher  
PAUL C. SMITH . . . . . Managing Editor  
DOROTHY S. WEST . . . . . Treasurer  
BEATRICE BRYANT . . . . . Office Manager  
RAY FEASTER . . . . . Art & Layout

DOROTHY JOHNSON . . . . . Food Forum

ELBURT MILLER . . . . . Sports Editor

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES  
Sawyer Building, 301 Miller at Commerce  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030 \* Telephone: 649-3818  
ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Price per copy - 15¢ \* One year - 7.50 \* Two years - 12.50  
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)