

EDITORIAL

BY PAUL C. SMITH

# BLACKS' DESTINY IN OWN HANDS..

## Our Children Are Between Two Worlds

Las Vegas is in dire trouble if its citizens are caught up with a combination of cynicism and hysteria, on the so called Bus-Out protest. It is indeed tragic to see the faces of so many people scarred with hate and prejudice, following a leader who admits that he does not have a child in the sixth grade. A man who raves that he would not allow his children to be bused. Looking over the faces of the protesters it became apparent there were many among the group who do not have sixth grade children, and as a matter of fact, no children at all. The demands for passage of HR 13915, without full knowledge of what it might cost the taxpayer does not seem to trouble those legislators who want an "anti-busing" record at whatever and all cost.

We have learned men representing us in Washington, so we know that they know the issue is not "anti-busing." They must prefer to be popular, rather than right.

They also know that the constitutionality of this bill will be challenged in the Supreme Court. And as learned men, they know that the chances of that court holding to it's constitutionality are very, very poor. Just why do they aid and abet these protesters?

Where have all those opponents of busing been all these years that busing has been a way of life? Just what are the leaders of "Bus-Out" saying about the 150 buses in use last year, the same number this year, for purposes other than integration? The answer is not one word. They speak with forked-tongues, because they speak of law-order-respect in one breath, and advocate disrespect and defiance with another.

The real tragedy, is to see so many sheep blindly following blind leadership. "If the blind leads the blind they both will fall into the ditch," and their children too.

## Black Unemployment: A National Scandal

By Bayard Rustin

There is a good deal of irony in the reaction toward the persisting high level of unemployment.

We find, for instance, considerable outrage over jobless scientists, engineers and teachers as the college educated find themselves nearly as insecure as the blue collar worker. In response, political office seekers of every ideological hue advance proposals to deal with unemployment for technicians and professionals and other specialized fields.

Blacks might be excused for looking on this with a high degree of cynicism. We know well the anxieties and frustrations of being without a job and we know only too well how few voices have been raised in our behalf; how little moral outrage has been expressed; how little commitment there is to ensuring a job for everyone.

For a social wrong not to be recognized as a social wrong until it affects whites, particularly the more affluent and well-educated, is an old story. The issues change but the response doesn't. Drug addiction was ignored until the financial burden of a week's hospital stay became intolerable for even the middle class.

To label such attitudes as merely the reflections of a hopelessly racist society is simplistic and inaccurate. Nor does it solve any problems. We are not confronted with a white power structure which prefers that blacks remain without jobs, but with a society which has forgotten what it means in terms of human suffering to be without a job. Until, of course, the problem spills over from the ghetto.

Right now there are 700,000 blacks out of work, according to an Urban League estimate. Many of these aren't counted by the federal government's survey's; they have dropped out of the labor market, spiritually and psychologically beaten.

These are those who insist that blacks shouldn't be so particular; there are jobs to be filled, they point out; our aspirations should not be set too high. Again, we are judged by a

double standard. Since when has the unemployment aerospace engineer been advised to hire as a dishwasher or warehouseman? It is assumed, quite rightly, that he should hold out for a job which offers him a salary and personal fulfillment approximating that of his former position. The same holds true for the black skilled factory operative jarning \$6 an hour.

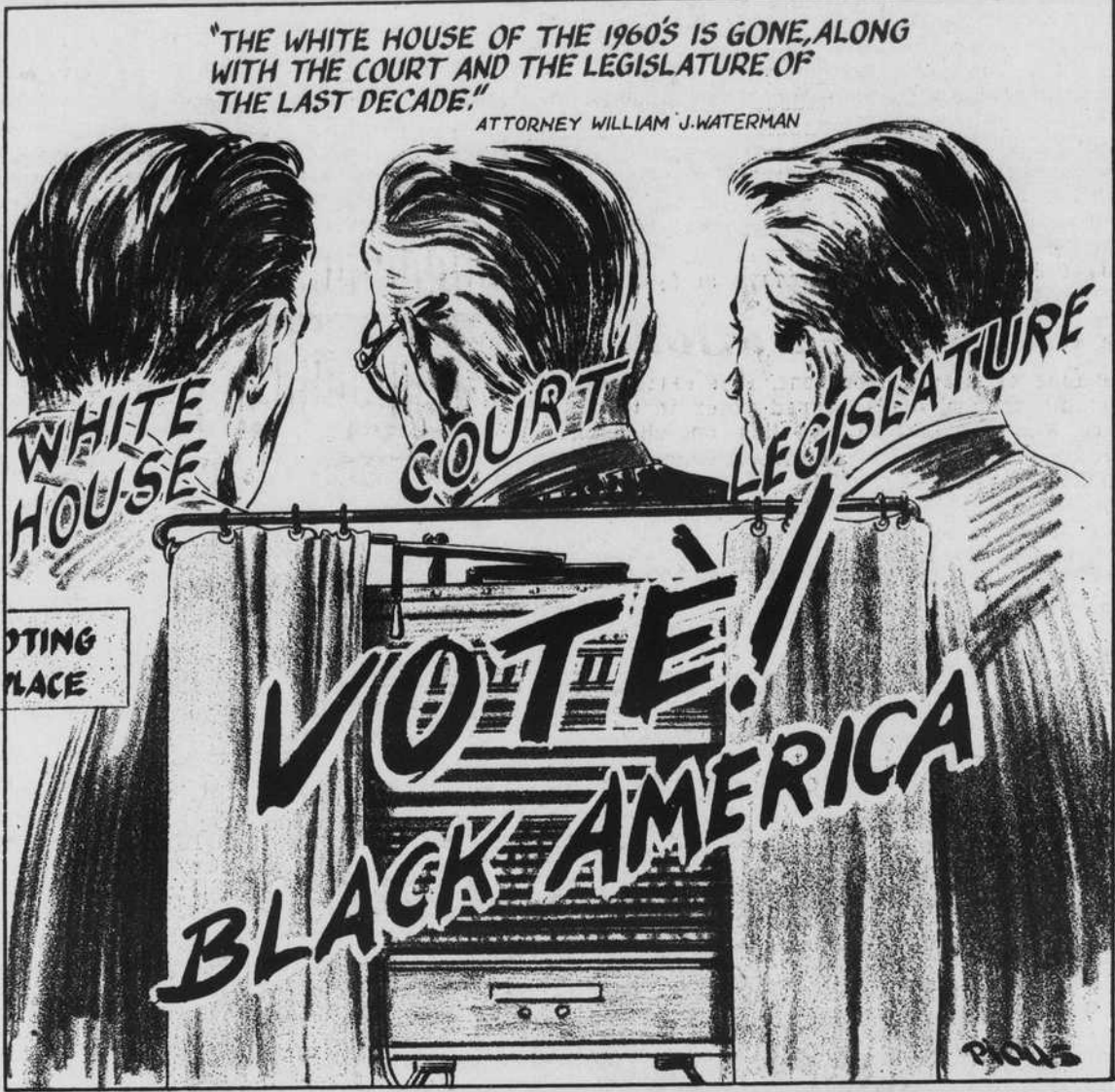
The impact of high unemployment--particularly among working people and the poor--is not limited to the spiritual destruction of an individual. High unemployment spawns many other evils, particularly in the ghetto, where there is an obvious relationship between crime, drug addiction and scarcity of jobs.

And if it is true that young blacks are growing increasingly impatient with and alienated from American institutions and traditions, it is in large measure due to the heavy unemployment burden they must bear. The federal government, which regularly under-estimates unemployment levels, says that one of every three young blacks is out of work. And the inability of government to ensure jobs for returning black Vietnam veterans has reached scandalous proportions.

Jobs have traditionally been an important element in the liberal program for social and racial progress. We now find, however, that some liberals have abandoned full employment as a social ideal. Thus we have a conservative president who sacrifices jobs in an ineffectual inflation and a vocal segment of liberalism which is openly hostile to the concept of increased economic growth.

They proclaim themselves as staunch supporters of racial equality but dismiss the most compelling problem of the ghetto. They define racial progress in their own terms, and these terms too often have scant relevance to our day to day existence.

Unemployment is not limited by geography or type of occupation; it is pervasive, striking at the young, at women, at older workers. It calls for massive efforts by government not limited to one area, one ailing industry or corporation, or, for that matter, one race. The campaign for a full employment economy should enervate all liberals and those who are committed to racial advancement. Those who are wondering where the civil rights movement is today need look no further.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It is interesting that in all the years Nevada has been a State and had a State Government; that at Saturday night's \$25.00 a plate dinner for Sargent Shriver, the good liberal Governor could not find one (1) Black, native American, (Indian) or one (1) Chicano (Mexican American) who had progressed to a level that would warrant his being seated at the head table.

Is the Governor denying minorities the opportunities to progress to that level?

There are Indian Chiefs in the State. There are Chicano's and Blacks who worked hard for O'Callaghan's election--lest Guv forget I wonder why, when he called names of incumbent and candidate judges, he omitted the name of Robert Reid the people Judge.

Name Withheld By Request

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