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600,000 to nearly one million. As the President was boasting of having spent more money for human needs than ever spent before, the number of blacks living in poverty INCREASED for the first time in a dozen years. The President has preached of the "work ethic" in one breath and sought the curtailment of job programs in the next; distorted the busing issue and unilaterally declared that the urban crisis is over as and absurd justification for the dismantlement of essential housing programs.

Thus it should amaze no one that blacks do not feel that their trust was betrayed; they had no reason to trust the President in the first place.

Blacks also find it ironic that many people--particularly the President's supporters--say that the blame rests with Nixon's having isolated himself from the country. For the President has gone beyond the point of merely isolating himself from blacks; he sees minorities as faceless entities to be manipulated and set apart from the rest of society for political gain.

Blacks do not have a special and personal concern, however with the grand design of the President's political staff to sabotage the elec-

tion campaigns of his opponents. It is not mere coincidence that the Democrats who were the victims of this strategy were those candidates with broad support among minority groups.

For when public officials consider themselves above the law--when fraud and coercion are introduced into politics--it is always the most powerless who suffer. The poor have certainly never benefited from the favors the administration has granted ITT, the milk industry and other corporate interests.

Thus we have a profound stake in whatever good comes out of Watergate. We should be pressing for a broad reform of campaign spending laws, so that never again will the forces of privilege exert the seemingly limitless influence as they did in 1972.

We must also fully recognize the relationship between how the administration deals with minorities, the poor, and working people when it determines social priorities, and how it deals with common ordinary people in the political arena. For if the administration lacks a basic faith in the people's ability to make a democratic choice free from manipulation it can scarcely be expected to formulate social policy with any commitment to the democratic needs of the majority.

And because our needs are so deep and immediate, we should view Watergate as a means of gaining momentum over the course of social policy, rather than worrying about which former Nixon officials is pointing a finger at his colleagues.

Rather than wallowing in the details of the scandal, or engaging in excessive moralizing, or initiating premature efforts at impeachment, we should be mobilizing all progressive forces against the budget cuts and domestic retrenchment the President so confidently proposed just a few months ago. What I am suggesting is not just exploiting the weakness of the President; it is rather that we should begin to take the initiative from an administration that can no more be believed about inflation, unemployment, busing and welfare than it can be believed about its conduct in the political arena.

Vets Findings Jobs Thru Employment Security Department

CARSON CITY---The Nevada Employment Security Department found jobs for 561 Nevada veterans in May.

It was an increase of more than 100 jobs over the department's April mark and brought the total effort up to 2,090 former servicemen and women found jobs since last January.

Included among May's 561 veterans helped into jobs free of charge were 273 Vietnam veterans. They hiked the number of Nevada Vietnam veterans in civilian jobs to more than 1,000 since the first of the year.

The department's highest priority is finding jobs for Nevada's returned veterans. The Nevada job agency leads its region in job placement for veterans, excelling California, Arizona, Hawaii and Guam.

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