

WE MUST NOT BECOME "JUST SPECTATORS" TO OUR OWN DOOM



**EDITOR'S  
NOTEBOOK**

**LET'S KEEP  
OUR EYES  
OPEN**

by  
LAWRENCE ALBERT

An election is not the end in itself -- it is more of a beginning. The serious business of government begins after the shouting has died down and our elected officials begin running their offices.

Now that the election is over, it is a good idea for the Black community to take stock of the political and economic situation in Las Vegas. We say "political and economic" because the two are inseparable. Without the right political climate, Black education suffers; without adequate education Blacks are handicapped economically. Not only that, but the actions of our elected officials determine the town's economy, upon which we are all dependent.

All of the candidates made statements as to what they intend to do if and when elected. They owe it to us to fulfill those promises; and we owe it to ourselves and our neighbors to demand such fulfillment.

They do not operate in a vacuum. We can actually be of help to them as well as to ourselves if we let them know what we want.

The VOICE intends to watch progress closely, and we urge our readers to do the same and to let us know their thoughts. Let's all take stock; let's all watch what's happening; let's all plan on letting our officials know what we expect and demand of them.

**Just what IS inflationary?**

News from Washington indicates that President Ford has vetoed the "jobs" bill on the grounds that it would be inflationary to put all this money in the hands of the poor and the unemployed.

It is only a matter of days since the President said he would raise the tariff on imported oil--thereby sending the

price of gasoline still higher -- and at the same time reduce the profit tax, allowing the domestic oil producers to reap enormous profits.

It is interesting to note the President's idea that it is inflationary to give money to the poor but not inflationary to give vast sums to wealthy oil companies.



**Just the FACTS**

Sometime it is hard to determine if Whites are naive, stupid, or ignorant of the plight of Black people in this country. They ask for studies on the situation of Blacks. When the facts are known, they still won't accept them.

U.S. Labor Secretary John T. Dunlop highlighted this recently when he said unemployment among teenage Black males has almost doubled in the past 20 years. However, he refused to draw any conclusions from his information, stating, he would welcome a serious study of the subject.

Dunlop said between 1960 and 1970 the number of Black teenage males seeking or holding jobs tumbled from nearly 57 out of 100 to just 47 out of 100. Among White males in the same age group, about 59 of 100 worked or looked for work in both 1960 and 1970.

"Teenage Black males have been hit by a heavy burden of unemployment during the past 20 years. In 1954 their unemployment rate stood at 16.5 per cent, about the same as for White males, but by 1973 it had soared to 30.2 per cent--almost double the rate for Whites," Dunlop said.

Black people do not need any more studies done on either them or their plight.

If someone would do a study on why so many Black teenagers are unemployed, he would find what all the other researchers have found in the past--the Black man's major problem is his blackness.

Because of his color, he has been deprived of education; therefore, he can not compete for the jobs in this highly technical society. His color has shortchanged his parents; so they do not have the businesses in which to employ their children.

However, a more serious problem exists in the Black community than the lack of education--it could be called weariness. Not only the young, but the old also just do not have the hope or the energy to keep them struggling against what seems like insurmountable odds.

It seems as though the full impact of the disappointments, heartbreaks, defeats and tiredness of our ancestors, has come home to roost on this generation.

**Activists' aims**

(The leading Black activists from America's trade unions met recently in Baltimore, Maryland, at the national conference of the A. Philip Randolph Institute to formulate a response to the economic crisis. This week's column is an excerpt from the conference's keynote address by Norman Hill, the Institute's executive director.)

We have long preached the gospel of coalition politics. There was a time, of course, when the notion of coalition was not fashionable in certain circles--when separatism was the keynote that the media responded to. But despite all the seeming dislocation and controversy, Black people were in fact engaging in politics, making coalitions, winning elections, and helping their White allies win elections.

Today we face a new and deepened crisis and must answer a new question. For the issue is no longer whether we are to make political coalitions; that issue has already been decided. The issue today is who we make coalitions with--what social forces can we depend on to help remake this society so that it begins to serve human needs, and not profits?

Let me start by indicating who we are not likely to be making alliances with.

We are not likely to make coalition with the (continued on p. 12)

**LETTER to the EDITOR**

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter with the appreciation and hope that it will appear in your paper. I am presently incarcerated here in Ohio, and since I have been here I haven't received much mail - for my so-called friends have forgotten and -forsaken me. I am not looking for pity or for someone to feel

sorry for me, but I must admit that I am a very lonely man. With this declaration I am offering an invitation to any interested sister. I am a virgo, 30 years old, 5'7" tall and a trim 170 lbs. Here's thanking - you for any consideration that you may offer.

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