



by VERNON JORDAN

Blasts U.S. Social Programs

A recent news account reported that the Secretary of the Treasury, William E. Simon, blasted the Food Stamp program, calling it a "well-known haven for the chiselers and the rip-off artists."

Here we go again!

If a federal program transfers funds to low-income families, if it helps feed, house or clothe them, it is invariably denounced as a rip-off. But when a federal program funnels money to high-income families or into large corporations, it is beyond criticism.

Usually, the condemnation comes when a social program begins to prove its usefulness. The Food Stamp program wasn't started to help out poor people who couldn't afford to buy food at going prices, it was originally intended to help farmers get rid of surplus crops.

For a long while most people who qualified for the purchase of food stamps were kept in the dark about how to get them. But the bust in the economy last year led to a boom in qualified applicants for the stamps, turning the program into a relatively costly one that was effective in aiding moderate-income families.

That makes it a prime target for the budget cutters and the preachers of an out-moded rugged individualism that's against any socially-beneficial federal programs.

The Secretary commented that government spending is getting out of hand because "we've been willing to assign to the government the responsibility for solving many of the problems that people should be solving for themselves."

Noble sentiments that would not have been out of place a hundred years ago, but they bear no relation to the reality of government's role in a mixed economy whose prosperity depends on federal activism to correct the imbalances of the private sector.

CHARGES GROUNDLESS

It is unseemly for high officials to blast unfairly a Food Stamp program or similar federal props for the victims of the Depression while accepting high defense costs, federal insurance of private corporate loans (while rejecting similar insurance for municipal bonds) and other costly or risky steps at a time when unemployment is at such a high level.

And the Secretary's groundless "chiseler" charge is not only an insult to the buyers of food stamps, but it also reflects a shocking ignorance of the very real misery and hardship many millions of people suffer today.

But the Secretary's statement is not much different from similar views expressed by high officials, which makes the recent announcement of an Administration reassessment of all social welfare programs a cause for alarm.

It would be nice to think that such a review would result in long overdue reforms. One such would be adoption of the National Urban League's recent call for a universal refundable credit income tax to replace the welfare system and the loophole-ridden tax system. A CIT would assure a basic grant to all, with the grant taxed back from higher income families. This would replace the welfare system and still leave some money in the hands of moderate-income working people.

A lot depends on the attitude of policy-makers. If they see cheats and chiselers hiding every program, they'll try to swing the heaviest axe they can find and chop every program in sight.

But if they truly intend to replace the present chaotic hodgepodge of over-lapping programs with a humane, rational and effectively streamlined approach that seeks to end poverty and inhumane suffering, they've got a good chance to succeed.

Saving lives and human potential should be the goal, not saving a few bucks to transfer to the military or to cut a budget.

What are you doing to HELP the community?

Vegas Heights improvements begin Sept. 15

Work will begin Sept. 15 on the \$1.5 million offsite improvement project for Vegas Heights.

The project, consisting of the installation of curbs, sidewalks, street lights and gutters, is expected to be completed in 90 days, according to the Las Vegas Department of Community Development.

The district was given the final go-ahead last week when the Clark County Regional Planning Council approved the final environmental impact statement.

The statement said the improvements would upgrade the environment. "The only adverse environmental effects produced will be the primary impacts during the actual construction period. These adverse environmental effects stemming from the project construction will be narrowly confined and will be of short-term duration," the statement said.

The project will cost each

resident of Vegas Heights about \$600 stretched over a ten year period.

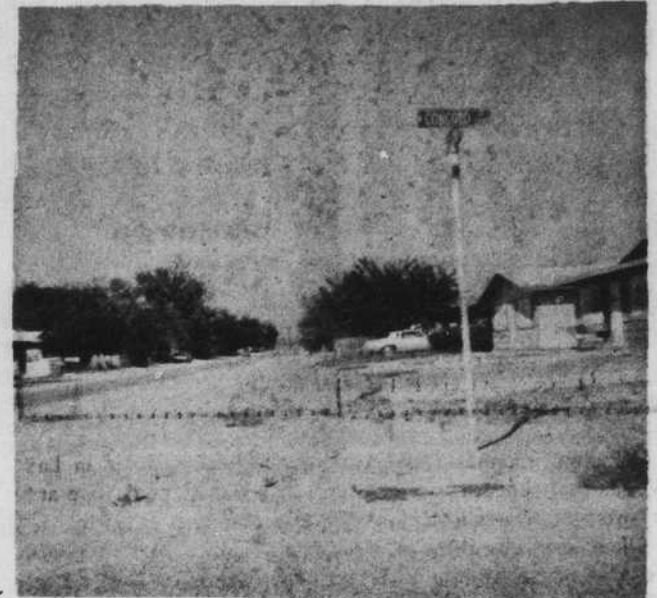
Vegas Heights has been an eye-sore ever since it was annexed by Las Vegas in the early 1960s. It has also been a heatedly debated issue since it was brought into the city.

Some of the residents said the City of Las Vegas promised to do the improvements with no cost to the community when it was annexed.

Then the improvements were stalled for the past two years by the City Commission which would approve the project one day and then vote against it the next.

The Clark County Liquor and Gaming Licensing Board has put a six months freeze on the approval or issuance of any new liquor licenses.

The resolution, unanimously passed, was introduced because the board is having problems in "policing" the



present licenses, according to board member Jack Petitti.

He also said this action was taken to protect the public safety and welfare.

This resolution exempts licensing applications for clubs, hotels, shopping centers and special event permits, Petitti said.

It also exempts persons, firms, or corporations who have applied for a license prior to the effective date of this resolution.

It will not prohibit the issuance of a new license where there is a transfer of ownership of an existing licensed establishment to a new owner, Petitti added.

NERC Recommends Affirmative Action Plans

Affirmative Action is a means through which employers can hire and promote Women and Minorities in an effort to satisfy the Federal Employment Law. Affirmative Action Plans are goals not quotas. Each employer who has 15 or more employees must comply with the mandates of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, as amended, which calls for the hiring and promotion of Women and Minorities in proportion to their current representation in the population or workforce (city, county, state or nation).

According to Jesse D. Scott, Executive Director of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, Affirmative Action Plans are not mandatory but they do assist employers in determining how many Women and Minorities they currently have on their payrolls; how many they need to hire and how soon they want to get them on the payroll based upon specific goals and timetables.

Scott states that there is no guarantee that Affirmative Action Plans will cure all of Management's employment problems; but he does believe that if they are properly developed, applied and monitored, 95 per cent of management's employment problems will be solved.

Most fine-sounding statements issued by firms in the past decade have not substantially improved job opportunities for Minorities and Females. A written statement is only a beginning. To be effective, the statement's provisions must be enforced by top management and all employees must be made aware that Equal Employment Opportunity is basic company policy. The Chief Executive should issue a firm statement of personal commitment, legal obligations and the importance of equal employment opportunity as a business goal. He or she should assign specific responsibility and accountability to every executive and manager.

Many Affirmative Action Plans are not successful because the individual named to head them does not have sufficient status, authority, time or staff. The importance of this program is indicated from the start by the person you place in charge and the authority the position carries. Also, it is a full-time commitment; it cannot be added on to any existing full-time job.

Your Affirmative Action Plan Director or Manager should be directly responsible to the Chief Executive. Appointing qualified Minority and/or Female employees to head or staff your program may offer good role models for present and potential employees as well as add credibility to the program.

However, the most essential requirement of an individual filling such a position is sensitivity to varied ways in which discrimination limits job opportunities, commitment to the program goals and sufficient status and ability to work with others in the company to achieve them.

Santini co-sponsors Rulemaking Act

Through the frequent use of administrative rulemaking, the federal agencies have become, in effect, a fourth branch of government virtually unaccountable to the people, Congressman Jim Santini has charged.


In co-sponsoring the "Administrative Rulemaking Control Act," Santini said as the size and reach of the federal bureaucracy have grown, it becomes necessary to examine its force and power.

He said that last year 67 federal agencies, departments and bureaus issued more than 6,000 administrative rules to laws passed by Congress, filling more than 45,422 pages of the Federal Register.


We have too many examples of administrative excess and zeal going far beyond any Congressional intent," said the Nevada Democrat. "Congress must now place curbs on this practice of administrative legislating."

1325 NORTH MAIN STREET - LAS VEGAS
PHONE 382-1340

Palm Mortuary
Serving All Faiths



James A. Gay
Mortician
382-9626



Andrew Jackson
Family Counselor
382-1386

SERVICE WITH DIGNITY

MODERN FACILITIES ADVANCE OF NEED ARRANGEMENTS
FUNERAL TRUST FUNDS

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE