

Point of View

EDITORIAL

Greater The Votes, Greater The Power

It is apparent that voter registration and voter education remain paramount toward gaining the power needed in the election process. It is an uphill battle and a long, drawn-out, frustrating experience.

This year, more than ever before, there is a determined effort being made to turn around "the system" and to take positive steps toward exposing the "machine"-- a catalyst which stands in the way of community progress.

A machine, as we know it, is an element of the leadership that inhibits growth and organizes, by design, a political entity that places into office individuals who will accede to their desires rather than those of their constituency. Their choices in office are manipulated as they see fit. The end result, is of course, disastrous for the community. There's chaos and distrust... there's the beginning of a toppling municipality.

Here's an example of how the "machine" could work: The political action committee will make a determination as to whom they want in office. While there may be two good prospects running for office, the committee makes a prior determination as to whom they want in office. The reason could be racial, religious affiliation, economic or "one of the boys."

Politicians in office could, by design, pad the work force with extra, unnecessary workers who they know will place votes in their camp. This method could mushroom through votes from relatives and friends. The committee also could look cautiously at the candidates to ascertain which one would assure allegiance to the committee or party rather than to his or her constituency.

The case is clear. Voter education and voter registration is the only answer. Numbers count. That's the only name of the game. At this point, positively 10,000 registered voters are needed in the Black Community. There are no Blacks in office at the county and city level. There will be none if we don't get the numbers of registered voters desired.

Letters To The Editor

Our readers are encouraged to send in "Letters to the Editor" sharing your views on the issues and matters of today. Forward them to Las Vegas Sentinel, 2450 Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89102. Be sure to sign your name and address to the letter. Upon request, your name will be withheld when letter is printed.



CARL ROWAN

Blacks are doing most of the sacrificing in Carter's war to whip inflation

WASHINGTON- It says something about the crazy nature of this town that as banks drop their prime lending rate to a loan-sharking 18 percent and indicators appear that we are entering one of the worst recessions since the Great Depression, President Carter should be calling people to the White House to tell them how optimistic he is about the economy.

Mr. Carter's conversion to the idea that inflation is the disease-of-diseases apparently has been so complete that he fails to comprehend the horrors of the recession that he is offering us as a cure.

While the president was showering optimism on a group of Indianians (a primary election was coming up in that state), his Labor Department was announcing that a record 605,000 people had filed initial claims for unemployment benefits in the week ending April 19. His chief inflation adviser, Alfred Kahn, was saying that unemployment could rise to 8 percent by early 1981.

That is woeful news for millions of Americans, especially blacks. Hispanics and other minorities, who face brutal depression.

During the recession of 1975-76, when overall unemployment was "only" 7.6 percent, it was 13.7 percent for blacks.

Figures released last Friday show that joblessness already has climbed to 7 percent nationally (6.2 percent for whites), but that it is up to 12.6 percent for blacks.

Black voters and members of other minority groups are not going to share Mr. Carter's optimism-- and may, in fact, conclude that they are doing most of the sacrificing in the war to whip inflation.

The Labor department put out some other figures last week that may cause families of all races to refrain from rejoicing with Mr. Carter.

An urban family of four now needs \$20,517 to have an "intermediate," or moderate, standard of living. Of the 58 million families in America, almost six out of 10 don't have incomes that allow them to enjoy that moderate level of life. Eight black families out of 10 have annual incomes less than \$20,000.

As the recession deepens, a lot more builders will go bankrupt; car dealers will go out of business; the steel, tire, glass and other industries will suffer. Cities (like Detroit) will lay off policemen and firemen. The ripples of recession will hurt all but a privileged few.

A lot of families that have thought the "intermediate" level of living

finally within their grasp will see it slip away. And those fortunate enough to have attained a middle-class "moderate" standard of living can kiss goodbye their dreams of that "higher" standard of life which the Labor Department says requires an income of at least \$30,317.

Add to this gloomy picture the virtual certainty that petroleum prices will be raised again and again. Even Saudi Arabia, our chief foreign supplier, which has been the major restraint on oil price hikes among the members of OPEC, now seems on the verge of boosting prices.

What we are talking about is a possible permanent decline in the American standard of living-- with serious class and political upheaval over who is to bear the brunt of a decline brought on only partly by the fact that cheap petroleum and raw resources from abroad are no longer readily available.

An incumbent president is almost obligated to appear optimistic about nearly everything. But Mr. Carter's optimism regarding the economy seems unjustified-- even in a presidential election year.



A black community newspaper published every Friday by the Galaxy Publishing Company.

Betty Brown
General Manager &
Editor In Chief

Bernard Rivers
Advertising Director

Sports Editor Lonnie Wright
Lay-Out Editor Quin Leggett
Fashion Editor Lei Strouther

National contributing writers:
Carl Rowan, Vernon Jordan, Bayard Rustin, Norman Hill, Brad Pye.

Local contributing writers: Dorothy Allen, Al Brown, Mae Couyette, Rudi Jackson, Quin Leggett, Doris Pinkney, Ruth Turner, Rev. Charles Wyatt, Bishop E.N. Webb.

Office: 2450 Industrial Road, Las Vegas, Nev. 89102
Tel: (702) 384-9907.

(All rights reserved. Reproduction of contents in whole or in part strictly prohibited unless prior permission received from publisher.)

"Good Luck"
Continental
Beauty Salon

"Where Hair Styling Is An Art"

Mrs. Katherine McCormick

648-6890 1912A No. Las Vegas Blvd.
Bus. 649-9946 No. Las Vegas, Nev. 89106

Phone: Dunes Hotel
(702) 737-4110

A.S.T.A.

Phone: (702) 731-4161

I.A.T.A.

A.T.C.



MOSDEN TRAVEL SERVICE, INC.

DUNES HOTEL
1650 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
TELEX: 684456 DUNESCO LSV