

Point of View

Editorial

Black Unity Is Essential

It is said that one drop of instant glue bonds in seconds; that one drop holds a ton and will bond skin instantly. This type of glue really works miracles. Whatever the need when bonding solid materials, this instant glue does the job of uniting, once again, all the broken pieces into a solid unit. So it goes in uniting a community.

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL regrets seeing some of our important community organizations split on certain issues that are so important and paramount to our very existence. Here unity of purpose could very effectively bond us together successfully to effectuate progressive change.

Of primary concern is the alleged split between the Las Vegas Chapter, NAACP and the Southern Nevada Economic Development Council. Both are very important; both are needed in our community to bring about the desired changes so paramount for our existence, growth and development.

There's a certain pride that exists with each and deservedly so. There's the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People founded in 1909 by a group of people of many races to defend the rights and liberties of black Americans. The association works for equal rights for Blacks. It believes that a man should not be hated or treated unfairly because his skin is black. It argues that it is not democratic to treat Blacks differently from whites.

Throughout the years the association has constantly come to the aid of Blacks whom it believed to be mistreated or unjustly accused. It has served as a protector and watchdog to assure that blacks receive just and proper share of a community's resources and benefits. Our local chapter, has championed our cause many years in this community. They truly deserve all the accolades we can muster. The NAACP helped to lead the way toward bonding us together as a family unit — as a solid community to benefit all.

There are also many other organizations who have given equally of their talents and assistance.

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CARL ROWAN

More Miamis Are Waiting To Happen

WASHINGTON - President Carter found himself with two devastating tragedies: one caused by the awesome whim of a volcano on Mt. St. Helen's, another caused by cruel eruptions of hatred and despair in Miami.

Politicians must show concern for the victims of tragedies, especially in election years, so Jimmy Carter flew to Washington State, declared the damage done by the volcano "the worst thing I have ever seen" and made the expected pledge of federal funds to clean up and rebuild areas wiped out by mud, ash and silt.

I can understand why Carter, or any other candidate in a tough race for the presidency, could go to Washington rather than Miami. You don't lose votes deploring the killing quirks of a volcano; you lose supporters in many ways by deploring the murderous madness that was Miami, because to show up is to subject yourself to charges that you are "condoning black

rioters and looters," "supporting white racist police brutality" and on and on.

But President Carter's decision to give priority to the volcano ought not blind Americans to the fact that Miami is the greater tragedy. For while Mr. St. Helen's could now turn peaceful for a hundred years, Miami is but one of many violent social outbursts waiting to happen.

Not only was this Florida rioting predictable -- it was predicted. The white official from Miami-Dade Community College, who recently drove me from the airport to that school's commencement exercises, said: "Many of us are worried that our city is going to explode. We've got four white policemen accused of beating a black insurance executive to death. They've moved the trial into a redneck area before an all-white jury. Then we've got the case of a black former Dade County school superintendent, Dr. Johnny Jones, who has been accused of diverting school funds to

the building of a private home. An all-white jury will decide his fate. Tensions are high, and I don't know if the lid will stay on if that Tampa jury frees the policemen while the all-white jury here convicts Dr. Jones."

Those juries did just what that white professor feared, and the result is at least 15 dead, hundreds injured and more than 1,200 arrested in the wake of a nightmare in which blacks killed and maimed whites brutally, whites shot blacks at random, members of the police force went berserk and blacks, whites, policemen and even National Guardsmen were accused of looting.

I try to avoid predictions of urban violence lest they become self-fulfilling prophecies, but I must repeat that Miami is only a deadly warning of things to come unless responsible officials and citizens wake up to the real meaning of this riot.

Some attribute this blowup to black unemployment and black anger over the huge influx of Cuban refugees who grab

up many of the jobs available to blacks. It is not black economic despair that fueled this costliest of all U.S. riots. If joblessness were the key, Detroit would be in ruins by now.

The problem is black rage over a criminal justice system that often dispenses grotesque injustice. Raymond Fauntroy, Miami director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, reacted with outrage to the acquittal of the policemen who were accused of killing black insurance man Arthur McDuffie: "This is a racist state. This is a racist system. There is no justice here for black people."

Fauntroy spoke of Miami and Florida, but he might just as easily have been speaking for black residents of a hundred cities.

Discriminatory practices dating back to slavery, civil service

"regulations," promotion "exams," buddy-buddy political spoils systems and more not only have Cuban refugees who grab

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Miami Riots Are A Tragedy And A Warning

BY VERNON E. JORDAN, JR.

The rioting that rocked Miami was strongly influenced by local conditions, but variations on those conditions are present in most American cities. The riots are thus a terrible tragedy for Miamians of all races and constitute a dire warning to the nation at large.

In Miami, the black community was placed under tremendous pressure and finally erupted in rioting reminiscent of the urban disorders of the late 1960s.

The immediate cause of the riot was the acquittal of policemen accused of beating a black man to death. The evidence of

their guilt was apparently so strong that few believed a blanket acquittal was a possibility. When the verdict came down, it confirmed the suspicions

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held by many that black lives are held cheaply and that justice is withheld from black people.

While the Miami case was especially blatant, instances of police killings of unarmed civilians are all too common elsewhere. The

issue of deadly force has been downplayed although it is a sore point in black and Hispanic communities around the nation.

Public policymakers

must come to recognize the importance of this issue and implement codes of behavior and use of force. As in the 1960s, police practices, training and continued exclusion of representative numbers of black law enforcement officers

are key issues.

But the cause of a riot is not necessarily the spark that set it off. It is doubtful if Miami's ghetto would have erupted if black Miamians had their fair share of the area's jobs. Unemployment among the city's blacks is more than double that for whites.

Although the city is flourishing economically, the boom hasn't reached blacks, who are experiencing an economic bust. That's true nationally, too, where black unemployment approaches Depression-level figures.

The influx of a new



JORDAN

wave of Cuban refugees into the area appears to have sharpened the jobs problem. Blacks had been replaced by Cubans in a wide variety of unskilled jobs in the past, and this new wave puts new

pressures on the fragile black job market. Blacks who had been unable to find work saw newly arrived immigrants landing jobs within days of their arrival.

The relatively benign welcome given the Cubans also contrasted with the harsh treatment given black Haitian refugees, confirming the belief that racism is a major factor in black disadvantage. But the Haitians were also viewed as competitors for scarce jobs, too. Because they've been denied asylum, many of the Haitians work as "illegal" (See Vernon, page 23)