

# Editorial

# Vernon Jordan

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member of the Clark County Republican Committee said he was appalled.

Assemblyman Marion Bennett said he was greatly saddened by the shooting as Jordan is "my hero." Sandy Cummings, who is organizing a chapter of the Urban League in Las Vegas, said, "I'm praying he will survive."

"Jordan is the voice for moderation and for getting along with people," related Bennett.

The nation stood stunned at this senseless criminal act.

Sunday, the nation was shocked again when learning of the attempt on New York Yankees star Reggie Jackson's life following their game the day before with Toronto in New York. Jackson had hit a game winning homerun. Three shots were fired but none hit Jackson.

When does it stop?

Why Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.? Since January 1, 1972, he has directed the National Urban League,

whose 116 affiliates, four regional offices, Washington Bureau and New York headquarters work tirelessly to bring solid advances to the minority community.

He has received numerous awards in recognition of his accomplishments, including, in 1977, the Alexis de Tocqueville Award of the United Way of America, a special tribute to his leadership in voluntarism.

His weekly newspaper column, "To Be Equal," appears in about 200 newspapers, and he has written extensively on national issues for major publications. (Jordan's column appears weekly in the SENTINEL.)

Jordan's radio commentaries are broadcast three times a week on the Westinghouse Broadcasting network.

He is a graduate of Depauw University, (B.A.); Howard University Law School, (J.D.) and Fellow, Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government,

Harvard University, and has been admitted to the Arkansas Bar, Georgia Bar, the U.S. Supreme Court and has membership in the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, University Club, The Century Association, and The Boardroom. His credentials also include honorary degrees from 34 leading universities throughout the nation.

Vernon Jordan grew up in Atlantia, Georgia, where he was born. He is married to the former Shirley M. Yarbrough. The couple has one daughter and make their home in New York City.

He is highly regarded by the black and white community who deeply regret this unfortunate incident. We hope his recovery will be swift and that the perpetrators will be caught and brought to justice promptly.

Let us all join hands in fervent prayer for the speedy recovery of this great man — Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

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jobs. Other emerging groups, especially white women, made gains while black workers lost out.

Black gains in the 80's will be largely dependent on new job opportunities for female heads of families. Over a third of black families are headed by women and most are poor because of the failure to provide full-time employment, a situation likely to continue and even worsen in the decade ahead.

## BENIGN NEGLECT

If the 70's were a decade of benign neglect, the eighties threaten to render black people, their needs and their aspirations, invisible.

Closing the black-white gap has been a matter of national indifference for over a decade, and current national obstructions indicate the issue may virtually disappear from national debate.

The President's State

of the Union address, in sharp contrast to the State of Black America report, ignored the continuing disadvantage of America's largest minority.

Candidates in both parties refuse to address issues of black-white disparity, poverty, and a new deal for the nation's disadvantaged.

Instead, a deteriorating international situation has resulted in calls for a renewed cold war and increased military spending.

## STRONG DEFENSE

Despite the obvious need for a strong defense, substantive improvements in our military posture are not always identical with splashy new weapons systems and their inevitable cost overruns and malfunctions.

So we enter the 80's with the nation's attention focused on military weapons, energy,

and inflation to the neglect of racial equality, full employment, and urban revitalization. The inevitable result will be further deterioration of the living conditions of poor people and black people.

But the state of America is interwoven with the state of black America; a strong, economically healthy and just America is as essential to national security as any missile arsenal — even more so.

It is vital to have a balanced national policy that includes important domestic initiatives such as full employment, welfare reform, and health, education and urban initiatives designed to secure parity between the races.

Such measures would also benefit the nation as a whole, improve the lives of all its citizens, and heal the wounds that weaken our nation domestically and internationally.

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