

# Point of View

## Editorial

### Blacks Do Not Look, Act Alike

One of my favorite television shows is "The Untouchables." It is a fictionalized version of an era in American history depicting federal attempts to curb the illegal manufacture, transportation and sale of alcohol. It was an era of lawlessness characterized by gang warfare, daily shootings, murders and terrorism. On any given day, law abiding citizens out for a stroll or on their way to work or sitting on the front stoop or in a restaurant, were constantly subjected to the anxieties inherent in wondering if and when a shootout would erupt. Their fears were not of some person pulling out a 22 caliber pistol and firing randomly. There's involved several "hoods" with violin cases who, at any moment, would draw their "axes," release the safety, put it on full automatic and spray an entire area with 30 caliber missiles at the rate of a hundred per minute. The penetrating force of those slugs endangered everyone within a radius of 200 yards. Elliot Ness and

the Untouchables sought to end the menace by using their own Thompson sub-machine guns. Local people spent their time hitting the deck dodging bullets, flying glass and whizzing ricochets. When the dust settled and the echos of the explosions had dimmed into obscurity, they erected themselves, brushed the dust off their gabardine slacks & suits and went on about their business or they lay in the gutters or on hardwood linoleum covered floors while their life's blood oozed out to make their final impression on the world.

There were no mass migrations of residents or business from those areas. There were no negative stigmas attached to a whole populace. Some members of the Untouchables were born and raised in the neighborhood, some policemen on the beat were from the neighborhood, some of the judges, newspaper people and other sin city government were born (See Mobster, page 20)

## Letters To The Editor

### Bob Palm Has Little Understanding

Dear Editor:

Normally, we members of the Board for SNEDC don't get involved with trivia in the press about our President and Executive Director, Otis Harris. Today I feel like responding to Bob Palm's evaluation of him as a leader in the black community. I am one of the "many" he refers to as considering Harris to be one of the most brilliant persons in the area, through my years of acquaintance and association in his many

pioneering successful efforts to improve the quality of life in Southern Nevada and in the black community. After polishing off the "preachers" as wielders of influence, Mr. Palm states that "leadership roles have shifted to the men and women who are promoting economic development." He deals kingly with few movers and shakers in the community and finally, mentioning Harris in a cavalier fashion, states (See Otis, page 5)



CARL ROWAN

### Why Jesse Jackson Will Endorse Carter

WASHINGTON — Several weeks ago a lot of Americans were surprised to see front-page headlines saying that the Rev. Jesse Jackson might support Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan.

Jackson, the ever-active and sometimes flamboyant head of Chicago-based Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity), had been critical of the Carter administration; still most blacks didn't believe that Jackson would use his considerable influence to get blacks to vote for Reagan.

But the former California governor believed it. Stung by charges that he had "written off the black vote" after a snafu in which he failed to appear at the NAACP convention, Reagan went to Jackson's headquarters seeking his support.

Reagan, blacks, John Anderson and the Carter administration will learn soon — perhaps this weekend — that Jackson is going to endorse... Jimmy Carter.

I telephoned this outspoken civil rights leader and said, "OK, you've criticized and analyzed the candidates. Where do you come out?" He responded in that inimical Jesse Jackson style, and set forth some interesting reasons for his decision.

"We can be critical of all the candidates, but we still must make critical choices," he said.

Jackson has concluded the blacks and other Americans would be "foolish" to cast "frustration votes" for independent John Anderson. He recalls that blacks and white liberals cast a lot of frustration votes in 1968, or didn't

vote at all, and they gave Richard Nixon victory over Hubert Humphrey. Jackson says blacks cannot afford to "waste" any votes on Anderson and that they absolutely must not "sit out" the fall elections when not only a president, but 435 congressmen, 34 senators and thousands of state and local officials will be chosen.

Why no Jackson endorsement of Reagan?

"After close study I concluded that Reagan would bring into power a lot of people who are hostile toward blacks and the poor. Reagan and those around him have embraced right-wing extreme positions and pushed aside the moderates like Sens. Chuck Percy (R-Ill.) and Howard Baker (R-Tenn.).

"When Reagan visited me I submitted several questions on which I

thought his views important. He said his people would get back to me immediately with the answers. After a month, I've heard nothing. I can only conclude that Reagan has adopted a policy of retreat in dealing with blacks."

But how does Jimmy Carter merit Jesse Jackson's endorsement?

"Carter isn't freedom," Jackson said, "but at least he offers black people a chance to find it. It is important to me that there has been no race-baiting from the Carter administration. The Carter people haven't thrown out the buzz words you hear in the Reagan camp which are designed to humiliate the poor. You haven't heard the Carter people railing against 'handouts' or so-called 'big bucks buying T- (See Carl, page 6)

## Recession Hits Blacks Hardest

By Vernon E. Jordan

It looks like we are in for a replay of the 1973-75 recession, the worst in our post-war history. That one was also set in motion by federal policies designed to halt inflation.

Despite the pain it caused, after the nation dug itself out from under it was left with a higher base rate of inflation and a higher base level of unemployment than before the recession.

There's little reason to expect anything different this time around. Policymakers did not learn the dire lessons of the 1973-75 slump, and the result was to again engineer a recession as a way to fight inflation.

The only problem with that approach, besides the obvious objection that it doesn't work, is



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of the burdens on the backs of poor people and working people. They're supposed to pay with their jobs for the rest of us to have a shot at lower inflation.

The escalating figures on unemployment bear this out. Those figures contain a hidden time bomb in that blacks and other minorities are hit hardest. This recession could deal a heavy blow to emerging middle-income black families.

Many in the so-called black middle class enjoy middle income status only because of multiple earners in the family. If a youngster living at home loses his job or the mother is laid off, there goes the middle income designation. That family drops down a big notch or two on the income scale.

Most such families rely for the bulk of their income on a male head of household. So heavy layoffs in basic industries where blacks have landed decently-paid factory jobs mean that some black middle income families drop into poverty or near-poverty with every plant closing.

The experience of the last recession is instructive. Then, the relatively small number of black middle class

families declined.

Another result of that recession was a permanent private sector job loss for black men. A National Urban League research study summarizes that dismal story.

Between 1974 and 1977 — or from the recession's trough to well into the recovery period — the economy created over five million new jobs. Over three and a half million were in the private sector.

In that time too, the black working age population increased by fifteen percent. But blacks didn't get fifteen percent of the new jobs. Instead, they got only eight percent.

And in the private sector, their share of the new jobs was even lower. Most disastrous, (See Vernon, page 18)