

Point of View

Editorial

Depression Is Hardest On Us

Black Americans perceive the debate over change. This agenda, it should be stressed, would require a considerable break from the thinking of the past. It would be more far-reaching than the limited response from the Great Society...their limited response to pervasive class and racial injustices. More to the point, it would not be a recognizably black program, but would instead embrace all those who need social change or the protection of government against consequences of a mismanaged economy. It was not long ago when the basic goals of black people defined a national agenda of change. While this agenda was built around the specific and unique needs and minorities, it was relevant to all those who had been excluded from a share of the good things our society has generated. Today, of course, the destiny of blacks is much more intertwined with the future of the American society.

Blacks will not move ahead while the rest of the society is in a widespread decline. Our needs will only be served by a rapid and dramatic transformation of a society which results in a new and better social order that meets the needs of all who are in need.

The prophets of defeat and gloom, however, will no doubt be proven accurate if the level of local leadership does not rise above its present mediocrity and timidity. And while the black community certainly did not create the problems we are mired in, it has a natural and fundamental leadership role to play in helping to determine how the community is to face the enormous consequences of economic deterioration, and to help formulate an aggressive,

Letters To The Editor

To the Editor of the Las Vegas Sentinel:

Like a lot of other Americans, I was not happy with who won the race for president. I was mostly happy with what happened here in the elections.

I had not planned to vote until I read Professor Fitzgerald's article. He made me want to vote. He writes so well and he makes you feel important. He is a good man and we need more like him.

I hope that the people of Las Vegas appreciate what he is doing. I would vote for him in a minute.

Good luck to you, sir, and God bless you.

E.W. Mitchell

To The Editor:

Professor Fitzgerald's articles are continuously a welcome relief from the kinds of writings which appear in other newspapers.

No one else has ever contributed as much to understanding and appreciating the contributions of Black people to Las Vegas. He has clearly put a lot of work in researching.

I have lived in several other cities and I have never known as much about any of those places as I do about Las Vegas. A year ago, when anyone would ask me about my town, I could only tell them about the Strip and a few other tid-bits. I could show them around, but I could not tell them anything.

Don't let him get away! I hope someone thought to nominate him for the NAACP awards. He is always giving them the credit they so rightfully deserve and he deserves a lot of credit for what he is doing for our community.

Mrs. Shirley Greene



CARL ROWAN

A Brave Expose of Justice Denied

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. — In one of the finest and bravest pieces of reporting that I seen in some time, Marion Hale of the Fort Lauderdale News has turned a searing light on racial injustice in America's courtrooms.

And she has enlightened us anew — if we need new convincing — as to why violence erupts in a Miami, or why there is a racial tranquility in America's great cities.

Ms. Hale is now peppered by angry telephone calls from whites who think only white "traitors" would write what she has written; but in writing that "judges treat blacks more harshly" in Broward County, she provides powerful support for those who argue

that not only should the federal criminal code be revised so as to standardize sentences for a given crime, but that state and local jurisdiction ought to take away from judges the right to deal with those accused of wrong-doing according to their whims, their racial prejudices, their social and economic loyalties.

Consider just one pair of cases cited by Marion Hale as evidence of "justice denied" in the courtroom: "Rex Alan Sloan and two friends robbed an elderly blind man at gunpoint, cleaning out the old man's wallet as he lay helplessly on the floor. Sloan was placed on three years probation.

"Gregory Renard Washington held up a Plantation convenience

store, pulling a knife on the clerk before emptying the cash register. Washington was sentenced to five years in prison.

"Sloan and Washington were both charged with armed robbery. They were born just months apart in the same year: 1960. Small amounts of money were taken in the robberies, about \$17 from the blind man and \$57 from the Farm Store. No one was injured in either holdup.

"And they were sentenced by the same judge, James M. Reasbeck. But Rex Alan Sloan, who got three years probation, is white. Gregory Renard Washington, who is serving a five year prison term, is black."

The Fort Lauderdale See Judges Page 16

CONGRESS MOUNTS ATTACK ON RIGHTS LAWS

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

The landmark civil rights laws were passed in the light of day; they were endlessly debated, extensively reviewed in Congressional Committees, and finally passed as the result of a broad consensus of both Congressional and political opinion.

But now we are seeing a concerted effort to gut those laws, an effort carried out in stealth, under cover of darkness, and without appropriate consideration by the public or its representatives.

The strategy for the counter-attack on the civil rights laws is deceptively simple. It consists of adding amendments onto important bills that the Congressional leadership is anxious to pass.

Federal departmental appropriations bills are prime targets. Such bills fund Cabinet Departments; if their passage is delayed, the target

department's activities could grind to a halt. The bills are also relatively non-controversial, since the budget limits have already been thrashed out in advance, with plenty of discussion in



JORDAN

Committee.

Then, when the Bill hits the floor of either House, someone comes along with an amendment, or a series of amendments, that would sharply limit federal enforcement of civil rights laws.

One such "back door" amendment, for

example, was passed by the House of Representatives as part of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Department appropriations bill. It would bar the use of federal funds to implement or enforce affirmative action programs in employment or in school admissions.

Another "back-door" amendment would stop the Justice Department from bringing action to enforce school desegregation through busing.

Still another would prohibit the Department of Education from requiring busing as a last resort to desegregate schools that are unconstitutionally segregated.

The Treasury Department appropriations bill is saddled with two

See Rights, Page 23

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