

# Point of View

## Editorial

### LET'S SUPPORT NAACP'S GOALS

Dr. James B. McMillan, president of the Las Vegas chapter, NAACP, has announced the election date for the chapter. It is now set for Saturday, Dec. 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the NAACP office, 1040 W. Owens. He also has indicated that the general membership meeting would take place this Sunday, Dec. 7, 4 p.m., at the Economic Opportunity Board Day Care Center, 1818 Balzar Ave.

While Dr. McMillan says that he will not seek re-election, he does call for unity within the organization. He is deeply concerned about the future of the chapter and expressed his wish that the work of the agency be successful. As he put it: "I want to see the NAACP work."

We certainly agree fully with Dr. McMillan's wishes. The NAACP is a very important viable

organization in the whole community, not just the black community.

Through these many years in Las Vegas, the NAACP has been instrumental in obtaining for blacks many avenues for progress and integration in the total community process. The task has not been easy and their work, at times, has been against great odds... but they persevered.

This election, as others in the past, is to be treated as a very important process. We hope that the membership will not sit back and allow the membership and election meetings to be attended by just a few. The vote of every member is important.

Here, again, exercise your right to vote and select leaders who will carry on in the great tradition of the NAACP.



CARL ROWAN

### Few Things Are Crueler Than Economy's Statistics

WASHINGTON -- Few things are crueler than the statistics of the American economy.

Report that in a single week in April a record 605,000 Americans filed for jobless benefits, and Americans yawn. For those who still have jobs you might as well write that 605,000 sparrows laid eggs in cypress trees.

Put General Motors Chairman Thomas A. Murphy on CBS' "Face the Nation" and mention that unemployment in the automobile industry is running around 25 percent, and his response is that "the recession, if there is one, will be short and mild." Murphy says he opposes a tax cut, and that "we need the

discipline of reducing federal spending," and furthermore, "hopefully, we've seen the worst of it." Murphy earned \$366,867 last year and will earn a princely sum this year, no matter how far GM's profits fall.

Statistics are the new opiate of the masses. Those who go on living the luxurious life during periods of economic calamity use numbers to delude ordinary people into believing that a recession is just an interlude in some magically inevitable process of lifting poor people to prosperity.

We ought not forget that the kind of recession we are moving into is not an interlude. Economists

speak of "the recession of 1973-75," but recessions do not die in times and places that economics professors assign to them.

From March to April, unemployment jumped by 827,000, the largest one-month rise since the Jan. 1975 leap of 867,000. But the statistics hide the human tragedy of a child of one of those newly-jobless Americans who will have to drop out of college, never to return. That young American's future will be changed forever.

Long years after Murphy dismisses the sickness of the automobile industry with political cliches about the discipline of reducing

federal spending, some former automobile dealer will twist his gnarled hands and tell his grandchildren how, "We used to be rich, until the government and Detroit tycoons drove me into bankruptcy."

The victims of bankruptcy will be many -- remembering into their dotage. And late this year, perhaps, a male auto worker laid off in Detroit will find his TV set, his refrigerator and his automobile of all things, being repossessed because he is reduced to welfare and can't make the payments.

His wife will say to him, by eye, attitude or voice, "I know that you've read

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## TEXTILE CONTRACT WELL WORTH FINANCIAL HASSLE

By Norman Hill

One of the nation's most protracted and bitter labor struggles ended in late October when J.P. Stevens & Co. announced that it had agreed to sign a labor contract with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU).

The contract which was signed covers 10 plants in the South and is applicable to the 70 other Stevens textile plants should ACTWU win representation elections there.

The Stevens victory was achieved at tremendous financial cost to the Clothing and Textile Workers and to the labor

movement as a whole. Yet the victory was well worth the expense and sacrifice. Moreover, the tactics which ACTWU applied are of great significance because they point the way for further victories for organized labor in the South.

ACTWU utilized a number of untraditional

tactics in its efforts to defeat J.P. Stevens. These included pressure upon Stevens board members to resign, consumer boycotts against the company's products, pressure on business partners of the textile giant, demonstrations, and shareholders' proxy fights.

What was of particular

significance in the Clothing and Textile Workers victory was the broad range of support which was given to the Stevens boycott. Thousands of union, religious, political civil rights and campus groups were enlisted in the effort. This network of support played a critical role in exerting

sufficient pressure on the Stevens company. Clearly, such networks can be mobilized in future organizing struggles.

For black workers, in particular, the Stevens victory is a watershed. The South has provided an inhospitable environment for union

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## Republicans Must Lure Blacks

By Vernon E. Jordan

Blacks were just about the only members of the disintegrating coalition that traditionally provided the Democratic



JORDAN

Party with its core supporters who remained loyal in the 1980 election. Estimates of the black vote for President Carter range from a minimum of 80 percent to a maximum of 90 percent.

That has led to troubled feelings among many. One notion is that blacks will be "punished" by a reigning party that got only a handful of votes from them. Another holds that blacks have to break away from a party that takes them for granted.

I can't buy the idea that blacks will be

"punished" for their votes; the system just doesn't work that way. Common sense suggests Republicans will try to expand their base, not narrow it. The success with which they detached other parts of the Democratic coalition makes it probable that Republicans will go after the black and Hispanic voters they didn't win over in 1980.

As for deserting a party that takes them for granted, any group will vote for candidates who offer it the brightest prospects. Blacks will probably remain largely Democratic until they

feel they have a viable alternative.

In 1980, the black vote may have gone to Carter but black support for him was soft. A more moderate Republican standard-bearer could have split off significant numbers of black voters. Greater enthusiasm for the Carter candidacy would have resulted in a significantly higher black voter turnout.

It is too glib to say the black vote always goes Democratic, without an important qualifier. The black vote traditionally goes to candidates ranging from moderate to liberal who demon-

strate an identification with black needs and aspirations.

That was proved all over again in 1980 as black voters switched to the Republican line to back congressional and local candidates whom they perceived as favorable to black interests.

It is interesting to note too, that the strong identification of blacks with the Democratic Party is relatively recent. It took Roosevelt's New Deal to break the black allegiance to the Republican Party, the party of Lincoln and the Reconstruction. And the lop-

sided Democratic majorities only started in the sixties, when Kennedy and Johnson initiated the Second Reconstruction.

So there is historical evidence that blacks, like other voting groups, switch party identification when another party competes for their votes and frames a program that will appeal to them.

So rather than "punishing" blacks, a Republican Party intent on becoming the nation's new majority party must appeal to black voters through its

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