

Point of View

Editorial

What Can We Do About Trash?

In our July 18 issue the SENTINEL reported the ugliness of the big trash pile that was accumulating at the corner of Carey and Highland. It was steadily growing day by day.

There are two "NO DUMPING" signs at the site carrying a message of \$100 fine to be assessed to the perpetrators. These messages were completely ignored. The pile was spreading and festering a breeding spot for rodents, etc.

There were mattresses, chairs, stoves, tires, toys, auto parts, tree limbs, broken lumber and glass, refrigerators... you name it.

The SENTINEL carried pictures of the rubbish in its Aug. 8 and 21 issues and pleaded that something should be done to eliminate that tasteless sight.

Something was done through the pleadings of the residents nearby and through the SENTINEL

push. The trash was removed by the City.

WELL, we are very sorry to report that the PILE OF TRASH IS BACK at the corner of Carey and Highland and already the size of the previous load. THIS IS TOTALLY DISGRACEFUL and an insult to those who have worked so hard to keep the area clean.

Then there's another unsightly mess on the empty lot on "H" Street about 75 yards north of West Owens. The whole lot, stretching about 100 yards, is littered with broken glass and a number of piles of trash.

THIS TRASH SPELL MUST BE BROKEN. It calls on the thrust of our community leaders and the community as a whole to put pressure on those responsible. It is truly hurting COMMUNITY PRIDE. Let's not ignore our responsibilities.

FOUR YEARS — IN GOOD HANDS?

The Changing Of The Guard

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

January 20 marks the day America changes Administrations; the White House gets a new occupant and the nation new leadership. It is also an appropriate time to assess President Carter's four years of leadership.

That leadership was judged and found wanting by the electorate last November, but I have a feeling that history will judge the Carter Administration more favorably than did its contemporaries.

Burdened by the pressing problems of the day, people tend to blame the Administration in power. Separated from those day-to-day problems by the distance lent by time, we tend to see the broad outlines of policies better.

By and large, the Carter Administration accomplished much. It presided over four years of peace, in itself an accomplishment in this

troubled world. In the Middle East, it helped Israel and Egypt to bury their long enmity.

However imperfectly implemented, its human rights policies saved countless lives and brought a measure of



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morality to the international scene.

And the Carter team can be especially proud of its success in improving America's relations with the Third World, and especially with the closer ties with mineral-rich Black Africa. A major accomplishment was helping to bring in-

dependence and majority rule to Zimbabwe.

The domestic situation was plagued by inflation and unemployment. The President took the orthodox route to deal with inflation — slowing down the economy and taking a

relieve the economy's impact on the poor.

On civil rights, Mr. Carter will go down in history as a leader who cared, a man who demonstrated in his public and his private life that he believes in racial equality and in the government's duty to

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recession that is still with us.

That was a mistake, politically and economically. It probably cost Mr. Carter re-election, while leaving inflation essentially unchanged and millions out of work.

But even here, President Carter governed with a compassionate concern for the economy's victims. He greatly expanded public service jobs and fought for urban aid, food stamps, and other measures that would

defend the rights of minorities.

One of his last acts in office was a courageous veto of a money bill that contained an anti-busing amendment. He fought for putting teeth in the fair housing law and presided over the most effective and activist federal equal employment opportunity enforcement program in history.

His appointments mirrored his belief that blacks and other

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Election Bordered On Panic

Blacks And The Reagan Program

By Bayard Rustin and Norman Hill

Washington - Already Reagan is being put down as an ogre on human rights, someone who will rush to embrace any tin-pot tyrant who claims to be manning the anti-communist ramparts. His disdain for the moralistic, up-front, sock-'em approach identified with Jimmy Carter is being portrayed as his last word on the subject. Especially is this said to be so in respect to Latin America, whose geographical and political proximity and whose tippiness on the democratic-authoritarian seasaw make it a region where American policy really counts.

I am not one, however, who feels that Reagan, as distinguished from some of his more

smaller-bore advisers, needs to be lectured right off on human rights. This is not simply because I expect Reagan to drop his criticism of



Bayard Rustin

the Carter line now that he's won power. Reagan's anti-communism appears to me to be value-oriented as well as

balance-of-power-oriented. He has already warned South Korea not to execute the particular opposition figure the regime has it in for. At this point he should be considered open to human rights approaches that work.

In that spirit, may I present, and salute, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, an arm of the Organization of American States.

Argentina has been the litmus test. Its war against terrorism produced heinous abuses of personal rights by the junta that took power in 1976. Carter took out directly after the abuses, which included torture and thousands of disappearances. In the most

important sense - helping people who were being hurt - his policy succeeded: it made a measurable difference in individual cases, and not just those of VIPs, and it helped move the internal Argentine debate. But it exacerbated relations, and it never gained the political or bureaucratic support it needed to be sustained.

Along with many Argentine citizens, the junta in Buenos Aires was angered and baffled to find in Jimmy Carter, and particularly in Patricia Derian, the point of his human rights lance, so little reflection of its own certainty that in the terrorism it was facing a threat to the very integrity of the nation. Thus the junta

bristled at outside pressure and criticism until it came to believe, toward 1979, that it had crushed that threat.

It was at that point that, thanks largely to



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the United States, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights entered the picture. Carter pried it in by procuring an Eximbank loan for a big Allis-Chalmers deal and, I gather, by agreeing to de-

emphasize public bludgeoning in favor of asking quietly about individual cases in "non-papers," documents without letterhead or signature. Latins resent being leaned on by the United States. The multinational commission made it possible for Argentina to set aside its nationalistic revulsion to outside interference.

There was a subtler current running. Argentines, who themselves felt their government had gone too far and who could see how difficult it was for the junta to back off, welcomed the commission's multinational knock on the door. It helped them argue internally for relaxing the actual arrival of the com-

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