

# Point of View

## Editorial

### 'Cove' Appearance Community Insult

The Cove Hotel building, located at Jackson and "D" Streets in West Las Vegas, stands as an imposing structure. It is the center of attention. It can be seen for miles around. It is the tallest building in the heart of the community.

The Cove Hotel building, in its present condition, is a pure insult to the black community. There are broken windows, battered window frames, chipped paint marks throughout the exterior, warped support

beams, rusted bolts and the obvious need for paint throughout. It is pure evidence of neglect.

It appears certain that if such a building stood on the "Strip" or on Fremont Street, steps would have been taken a long time ago to have it "torn down" or improved. It could be labeled a "safety hazard."

The landlords owe it to the community to give the Cove Hotel building a facelift...not later, but now!

There is no question that the effort made by the landlords to provide space for Operation Life is noteworthy. The space provided has been a lifesaver. But goodwill does not necessarily end there.

Our community deserves better treatment and attention.

WHEN WILL IT BEGIN?

## Rebuttal

### BLACK LEADERS OUT OF TOUCH?

By Lubertha Johnson

The article with the above caption written by one Thomas Sowell appearing in the Review Journal on Tuesday, Feb. 17, obviously calls for some answers.

As for leading blacks being out of touch with people, Sowell must only be in touch with fewer than a baker's dozen. He is not listed among the eminent gentlemen of any color who have borne the burdens and made the sacrifices required by anyone who takes on the task of participating in the black man's fight for freedom and human dignity.

Mr. Sowell did provide some pertinent information about himself. First, that he is ignorant of the vital facts regarding black history. Second, why he was chosen as a member of an Advisory

Board of the New Right and how he perceives his role in that position.

Down through the years, many people both black and white, have tried to prove that those who have made it are the enemies of



Lubertha Johnson

those of us who have not. Nothing is further from the truth. Just a cursory look at history will prove it. Let Dr. Sowell check the records.

W.E.B. Dubois, one of America's most brilliant scholars, trained and inspired

thousands of black boys and girls in Atlanta and later served as an NAACP secretary where his Crisis Magazine became the strongest force in America for civil rights.

Walter White, a man whose skin was whiter than most white men, well-educated, could have lived comfortably in the white world — chose to join the black struggle by risking his life, investigating lynchings and other atrocities perpetrated against blacks in the south. His exposure of the cruel acts shocked America and brought about a reduction of these atrocities. He also became one of the most effective NAACP executive secretaries.

Andy Young, one of the bravest among diplomats to speak out for minority rights. Adam Clayton Powell, of very light skin, was a power for civil rights.

He left a legend as one of the most outstanding Congressmen to sit in that august body. Much of his work there was in the interest of blacks.

A. Philip Randolph, light of skin, spoke with his Harvard accent but organized black pullman porters into one of the strongest unions, bringing them better working conditions, decent pay and greater respect.

I am sure everyone, except perhaps Thomas Sowell, knows about Thurgood Marshall's unprecedented success in the legal battle for civil rights, and that Benjamin Hooks, through devotion with hard work, has brought new life with thousands of new members into NAACP, our greatest force for freedom.

It must have been in the divine plan that a few people managed to get some education.

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## Reagan's Attack On Working Poor

By Norman Hill

Ronald Reagan's program of cutbacks in social services is an attempt to revitalize America's corporations at the expense of the working poor. While the Reagan program does make some cutbacks in programs for the poor and elderly, the full force of the Administration's budget-slashing axe will be felt by our country's working poor: unskilled and semi-skilled workers, a disproportionate number of whom are black.

The Reagan approach will cut back unemployment insurance benefits from 39 weeks to 26 weeks. To propose this reduction in aid at a time when jobs are scarce and unemployment is well above 7 percent is to drive more out-of-work Americans onto the welfare rolls. But, the Reagan Administration is not content with this measure. It also

proposes changing unemployment compensation in a way that would force workers who have been jobless for three months to take minimum-wage jobs or lose their unemployment benefits. The plan suggests precisely the kind of federal coercion President Reagan claimed he opposed. Clearly the Administration is not so much interested in getting the government off the backs of people, as it is getting government off the backs of corporations and the rich. Under the plan, for example, a skilled autoworker or steelworker with no job prospects in his area of skill would be forced to take an available job at a fast-food restaurant or as a housekeeper, or risk losing his benefits.

The Reagan program represents a massive effort to take services and benefits from working people and to

transfer them to the wealthy. This will be achieved through the elimination of social security benefits for college age students whose parents are dead, retired, or disabled. President Reagan also intends to lower the minimum social security payment of \$122 per month and to drastically reduce the extent of coverage for workers who are disabled.

In the past two decades, education has been the principal mechanism for black advancement into the middle class. The Reagan proposals will cut \$1 billion in aid to higher education in 1982 and will reduce spending on vocational training programs by \$200 million. The cost of a college education today is prohibitive. Without federal subsidies to the children of middle and lower income workers, higher education would be

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## Food Stamps A Target

By Vernon E. Jordan

The Food Stamp program is slated to expire this year, and if we are to avoid creating a hungrier America, it will have to make its way through an increasingly hostile Congress.



While there have been calls to drop the program, few of its opponents plan anything so drastic this early in the game. Rather, they are targeting the program for drastic cuts in funding and a harsh restriction in eligibility requirements that would remove many needy people from the rolls.

From its inception, the Food Stamp program has faced a rough road. It started as an attempt, not to feed the hungry, but to help reduce farm surpluses. That's why the program has always been lodged in the Department of Agriculture.

Even after it got off the ground, the program came under heavy attack for escalating costs, waste, and welfarism.

fact that it is a program that helps poor people in a way that effectively demonstrates how well a federal social program can work.

Not that costs haven't been rising fast — they have. It is expected that the Food Stamp program will take over 10 billion in the budget next year.

But that reflects the greater need for food stamps, as more people are unemployed and as

*Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. is President of the National Urban League.*

Those attacks increased after the recessions sent the numbers of eligible people higher and the Carter Administration, to its credit, loosened punitive eligibility requirements.

The real reason for attacks on the program have little to do with costs, which are inevitable, or waste, which is virtually non-existent. They have everything to do with the

food prices rise sharply. If Congressmen are concerned with cutting costs, let them take positive steps to create jobs and restore the general economy to health. That way, people won't need food stamps to survive — they'll have paychecks instead.

Not that food stamps provide any lavish aid. The average recipient gets stamps worth about

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