

Point of View

Editorial

Peacetime Budget Increase

PENTAGON'S BLANK CHECK

By Vernon E. Jordan

The same Administration budget that eliminates key social programs and cuts many others of vital importance to poor people,



JORDAN

has granted the Pentagon its largest peacetime budget increase in history.

Now just under a fourth of the federal budget, defense costs are slated to escalate to over a third in four years. And those sums are massive —

\$386 billion by 1986.

Since much of this will come from savings in social programs, the new planes, tanks and missiles will be paid for by making poor people suffer higher unemployment, lower nutritional and health levels, and fewer educational opportunities.

That is a harsh comparison that could be avoided by funding the Pentagon's "wish list" out of other federal programs and revenue sources. There are plenty of subsidies to the affluent and tax loopholes that could do the job.

But since the Administration has not chosen that route, it forces a direct confrontation between domestic and military needs. That is not a choice that should be made, for ultimately, See CHECK, Page 3

—Blacks Must Communicate—

People must be able to talk to one another, if they are to understand one another. People must come together to talk, and they must have some common denominator to hold their interest in a constructive conversation. When the common denominator is a major issue in the lives of these people, they seek and they usually find a line of communication with one another. Through the medium of communication, they seek counsel of each other in a common quest for answers and solutions.

The Black residents in our community, by the accident of their African ancestry, have the common denominator of being classed as second-rate citizens. They have the unenviable denominator of being deprived of equal opportunity because of the blood of their ancestors. It makes no difference how completely Caucasian a Black might be in physical appearance; he is denied equality of American citizenship with the same resistance that faced his African ancestors, provided his identity is known. The American Black is a mixture of all bloods of all races, but his African blood sets him apart from all other Americans as something different from all the other American mongrels.

Our nation came into being because it was a haven of freedom from tyrannical rule. Pilgrims from Europe pioneered, but pilgrimages from every corner of the earth followed in rapid succession.

America became the meeting ground and the melting pot of people from all lands and all races. They mingled and they intermarried, procreating a population of every imaginable blend and mixture. The people of America are today the most mongrelized people of the world. Ironically, the American Black can boast of less mongrelization than any other people of this nation, but he is looked down upon by other Americans. This factor gives the Black the most binding common denominator, and makes him an enigma in a democratic nation.

The social revolution taking place in America today was generated by the Black's impatience with the snail-paced racial reforms of the past century. Since his ancestors were declared free by Presidential Proclamation and established as citizens by Constitutional Amendments, the Blacks today have continually pressed for equal justice and recognition.

The momentum of social reforms taking shape in America today, must be reenergized by each Black doing his or her part in a unified effort. Unity will turn the tide. We must have communications for developing this unity. WE MUST GET TOGETHER IF WE WANT EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY.

UNITY WILL PROVIDE THE POWER FOR TOTAL VICTORY. LET US UNITE AND WIN. COMMUNICATIONS ESTABLISHES UNITY.

DEBATE SAYS MX SAID TO BE MIGHTY EXPENSIVE

By Andrew Young

NEW YORK — The most important debate here was centered just where it should have been — on the economy.

It boiled down to one question: Should we develop a plan for real economic growth with wage and price stability and a policy for full employment, or should we continue the pursuit of military "superiority" while the economy descends into the abyss of inflation and recession?

Meanwhile, there was a serious but little-noticed discussion of economic priorities and military spending policy, as symbolized by the proposed MX missile system. The MX would be a kind of moon-shot

spectacular, featuring nuclear-armed rockets scurrying around on railroad tracks in the deserts of Utah and Nevada.



YOUNG

This scheme supposedly would bolster our confidence in our ability to destroy the world better than the Russians can. It would also siphon billions of additional dollars for the defense establishment

— dollars that most Democrats agree are badly needed for jobs and human services. Delegates on the convention floor waved signs inscribed "MX" — Mighty Expensive."

Given the choice between \$12 billion targeted to create new jobs and productivity, and a similar appropriation for new bombers and missiles, there is no doubt where the nation's mayors, the black delegates or the schoolteachers' convention bloc would have lined up.

To get an idea of the kind of economy we need, we might look at some of the European countries. While we allocate additional billions of dollars to our arsenals around the world, the Europeans are directing their attention to economic revitalization.

New hardward projects like the MX missile do nothing for U.S. economic security. Neither can we countenance new military ventures. The bombs of Vietnam, we should remember, caused an explosion of inflation and unemployment in our cities here at home.

There was a healthy dialogue on the economy during the Democratic convention.

BILL LANE

HOLLYWOOD

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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 jurisdictions 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."

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