

Point of View

Editorial

'Big Stick' Gets Something Done

There's an old adage that says if you carry a "big stick" you'll get something done. That's just about the size of it when something pressing is needed.

Several years ago, the Westside community was badly in need of a cleanup. There were a number of old wrecked cars strewn everywhere, trash scattered in every nook and corner, dead trees hanging dangerously and fire-gutted buildings beckoning for real disaster --- a real unsightly mess.

Something had to be done... and fast.

A small group of ministers and concerned citizens called on city hall to file a complaint. The NAACP and other organizations pushed for support. They all wanted immediate action... to get the mess cleaned-up and for the city to do something about sidewalks and street light. Well, it wasn't long before the city started work in that direction.

To see the street cleaning crews out there daily was a sight to behold. The street excavation teams moved in. Things were happening. The unfortunate thing was that it did not last long. They moved out just about as fast as they moved in. The job was not complete. It appeared to be an attempt to appease.

Now the area is getting back to the old condition. There's still much work to be done, particularly the need for sidewalks and street lights.

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

Jean Harris, the headmistress of Madeira, the girls' school, who brought before the bench of justice, conservative values, manners and propriety, but was none the less convicted of killing her long time lover, diet Dr. Tarnower, has joined the NAACP Bedford Prison program. She will natch teach others in stir during the fifteen-ys she was sentenced to after the most sensational trial in the history of W'chester...Frank Sinatra has told that South African promoter that he will have to live up to the bold and fine print of his contract which guarantees no segregation when the "chairman" plays that hate-aching land of apartheid this yr....Bob Kitchen, one of the big brains of the United Nations, who was politically denied a rightful position in its ivory tower, is home from the hospital, but is not well...Charlie Armstrong, th Chgo Metro publisher, is thinking banner headlines. His daughter Margalynne graduates this edition from the U. of Calif. Law School at Berkely, Ca...Operation Crossroads is back in the thrust after a successful 24th. ann'y dinner. Dean Sayles, who put Harlem Dowling into the minds of a lot of folks, was in on the planning.

NO WRITES:—Martha Louis, widow of the immortal heavyweight, denies that she has given any person in N'York the right to establish a Joe Louis Scholarship Foundation. Or any other setup in his name to collect money through the sale of anything using his name or likeness...Major white politicians are nudging Mayor Maynard Jackson, of Atlanta, to get in the race for the Senate State...The torching of Richard Pryor has brighten his flick career. His "Stir Crazy" is mint-in money at the box-office and he just inked an agreement for two heavy roles next yr. One pic will be based on the life and sounds of Charlie Parker... "Mississippi Homecoming," Fayette's Mayor Charles Evers' annual dedication to the memory of his slain activist bro, is set for June 5th-7th. Co-sponsor B.B. King said they expect a 50,000 turn out this yr. to top the 40,000 which

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One Of World's Poorest Countries

DEATH IN SOMALIA

By Bayard Rustin

Somalia, located in the strategically vital Horn of Africa, is one of the world's poorest countries. Since October, 1979 an average of 1,000 refugees per day have been crossing that country's borders, fleeing the disputed Ogaden region of Ethiopia. The overwhelming majority of these refugees are women and young



Bayard Rustin

children.

In scale, the tragedy of Somalia rivals that of Indochina and its boat people. And yet the world community largely has been indifferent to the suffering of the unfortunate Somali victims of Ethiopian brutality. Moreover, little attention has been paid to this problem by the black community in the United States.

Recently, I returned from Somalia, where, as

part of an International Rescue Committee study group, I observed first-hand the dimensions of the refugee problem.

In one arid refugee camp into which approximately 65,000 Somali women and children have been crammed I observed a thin, sickly young mother taking her child to a nearly dried up river to feed her baby what

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HUMAN RIGHTS AN IMPORTANT POLICY FACTOR

By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

A nation's foreign policy amounts to more than military and economic moves. It has to reflect what that country is all about — its strategy for maintaining its proper place in the world and its strategy for maintaining the values and ideals it lives by.

America's strong identification with democratic ideals, however imperfectly they may be practiced, ought therefore, to be a fundamental part of its foreign policy.

Our national ideals are at least part of the reason why we respond so strongly to Russian imperialism, and why we have so often been uncomfortable with "friends" who trample on basic human rights in their own countries.

The Carter Administration embraced the concept of a strong human rights plank in its international policies. It shocked many by publicly condemning acts by some long-term allies, leading to strained relations with those countries. And it was charged with helping bring down some regimes that had been close to the U.S.

But that human rights policy won a new respect and admiration for the U.S. from people all over the world. When America cut off aid or military assistance to an oppressive, deeply unpopular regime, it was

able to deal with the successor government with clean hands.

While some authoritarian leaders grumbled about the policy and even publicly denounced the U.S., many also quietly released political prisoners, stopped abhorrent forms of persecution, and restored some personal freedoms.



JORDAN

One strong human rights stand impelled us to successfully work for majority rule in Zimbabwe and to apply pressure on South Africa.

A viable human rights policy clarifies the rivalry with Russia. In the eyes of most of the world, it separates us from being just another superpower out to dominate far-off places. Instead, people everywhere can respond to and admire our vision of freedom.

Ditching human rights as part of our foreign policy would be negative. It would again tie us to dictators who

are doomed to fall victims to their own people and their unpopularity is bound to rub off on us.

Because such explosions are inevitable, dictatorships are unstable allies. The services they provide us are unequal to the energy and resources it takes to prop them up.

That does not mean we should break with every government that violates human rights, or

assume signals are being sent for penny-ante dictators to start up the torture chambers.

But the Secretary of State has affirmed that "human rights is an essential and fundamental aspect" of our foreign policy. And that may shed some light on the recent Korean commutation of a death sentence on a prominent opposition leader and the lifting of martial law in the Philippines.

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even with every ally that is undemocratic. Unfortunately, the world being what it is, that would leave few countries we could talk to.

But it does mean keeping our distance from extreme human-rights violators, refusing to become too closely identified with oppressive dictatorships, and pressuring for change to make them less repressive. That would help give moderates a chance in countries otherwise polarized between the anti-democratic extremes of left and right.

Because of various statements made by the New President and key figures in his administration, both before the campaign and after, some commentators have hastened to

It appears that the rulers of those nations felt it advisable to comply with human rights

principles early in the Reagan Administration.

It is likely that there will be less public posturing on human rights in the next four years, but those acts offer hope that an effective human rights policy will remain an integral part of our nation's foreign policy.



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