

# Point of View

## Editorial

The Las Vegas SENTINEL, well underway into its second year of publication, has been making rapid strides in becoming not only the leading Black community newspaper in Las Vegas but is now recognized as one of the most progressive and complete Black weekly publications in the country.

The SENTINEL is now becoming a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and has completed arrangements with the Johnson Publishing Company (Ebony, Jet) to use services provided through their Editorial Offices.

The SENTINEL staff of contributing columnists is one of the largest among the Black weekly publications. Included are Carl Rowan, Andrew Young, Vernon Jordan, Bayard Rustin, Billy Rowe, Bill Lane, Norman Hill and Frank Bannister. Local staff contributing columnists include Roosevelt Fitzgerald, Lei Stroughter, Bishop E.N. Webb, Rev. Charles Wyatt, Lee Walker, Joe Neal, Henry P. Miller and Lonnie Wright.

An additional corps of writers will be added through the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

All of this is added to the SENTINEL's own editorial staff.

Our thanks to our many readers and supporters who have made all of this possible.

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## PEOPLE, PLACES AND POLITICS

By Joe Neal

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Israel has one standard to determine if her actions are in furtherance of peace and security for the Jewish nation, and that criteria is condemnation by the U.N. Then Israel is on the right course."

The above words were written on June 23, 1981 in the Las Vegas SUN by Hank Greenspun in his column "Where I Stand" relative to Israel's bombing of Iraq.

Greenspun seems to be bent upon painting the United Nations into an anti-Israeli corner. But somehow his expressed bias has allowed the facts to escape his mind, that the principle functions of the United Nations is to uphold the meaning that nations must live together. In fact, the common thread of existence for the United Nations can be best expressed in the words of the Englishman John Dunn: "No man is an island to himself alone; each man is a part of a continent, a piece of the main."

This quotation has greater meaning now when nuclear weapons are found on almost

every continent.

In order for Israel to have peace and security, Israel must recognize the peace and security of other nations. Her destructive forces must not be triggered everytime someone says he does not like the Jewish people, or on the pretense that her "enemy" is making a bomb to destroy her.

It has been said that a nation may become so obsessed with external forces which are classified as the enemy, that the nation takes on its character, in short, becoming the very thing it dislikes. So it seems to be with Israel and her supporters.

The United Nations consists mostly of third world countries. Many such countries come from the continent of Africa. Therefore, when Hank Greenspun cites Menachem Begin, "Appeal to France and Italy to stop furnishing Iraq with nuclear tools to annihilate Israel," he fails to mention that the African countries have made such an appeal to Israel to stop furnishing South Africa with

See NEAL, page 15.

## To Be Equal

### REAGAN SHOULD RESIST BENIGN NEGLECT

By Vernon Jordan

Given the enormous problems facing the nation, President Reagan may be strongly tempted to let the plight of minorities and the poor take a back seat to revving up the stagnant economy and shoring up our international position.

In effect, that would be a revival of the old "benign neglect" approach of the early Nixon years. That approach was based on the supposition that blacks had made great progress and no longer needed special governmental efforts.

A new benign neglect approach would probably be based on a different belief -- that by solving the nation's economic dilemmas the Administration would at the same time solve the economic problems of blacks. Therefore, no special efforts need to be considered.

The new benign neglect approach would be as mistaken as the

old. In both instances, the neglect would not have a benign effect at all. Rather, it would inevitably lead to a deterioration of conditions for poor people while impeding solutions to problems of inflation and unemployment.

One reason for this is that the free-market approach favored by the Administration would -- even if it turns the economy around in the long run -- have serious negative short-term effects on the poor.

Low income families, for example, feel the brunt of inflation in sharply rising food and energy costs that take a greater part of their budgets than better-off households, which spend greater parts of their income on non-essentials.

That means the poor depend on government props like food stamps, minimum wages, and unemployment benefits. Few of the poor actually get such assistance, just as few actually get

welfare. But their availability is important for many low income families.

If such income support programs were cut sharply or even, as some advocate, abandoned, those families would be in desperate straits. Even if, in the name of

share in the revived economy. Without federally assisted job training and job creation programs, millions of people will not be absorbed into the mainstream of our economy.

Now that is not something people want to hear right now, in the

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

fighting inflation, eligibility standards are stiffened or public jobs programs cut, many inner city families would be shoved over the brink.

Theorists may claim that ultimately the lower federal spending and other measures will pay off in private sector job creation and lower inflation, but the reality is that the poor will suffer terribly until that happy day arrives.

Further, there is little reason to believe that many poor people, who lack skills and other credentials sought by private employers, will

headly flush of a new team in Washington spreading a new gospel. But it is a fact the new team must learn early in the game. It is all too easy to say government spending is out of control. See EQUAL, Page 13



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## THE NEW BLACK CONSERVATIVES

By Norman Hill

In mid-December newspapers devoted front-page coverage to a conference of blacks in San Francisco. However, what made the conference noteworthy was not its size--there were about 100 participants--nor the range of organizations which were represented--few of the participants could be said to represent significant black constituencies. What was special about the meeting, what made it news, was the fact that it was a gathering of black conservatives.

Of equal importance was the fact that the conference was sponsored by a conservative foundation which Ronald Reagan helped found in the early 1970s. In 1980 Ronald Reagan failed to attract a significant portion of the black vote. The overwhelming

majority of black community and political leaders endorsed President Carter in his unsuccessful bid for reelection. Yet despite little black enthusiasm for Ronald Reagan, a number of black intellectuals and professionals have begun to embrace Reagan's conservative economic positions.

To some extent there is evidence to suggest that there is a small constituency for conservative political ideas in the black community. However, despite the growth of a black upper middle class of professionals and businessmen who might be drawn to the conservative siren song of tax cuts, the overwhelming majority of blacks are workers and the poor. For them the appeal of black conservatism will ring hollow, and for this See HILL, Page 13.

## Rebuilding The Democratic Party

By Bayard Rustin

The aftermath of the Presidential inauguration, with its overt demonstration of upper class grandeur and hollow pageantry, suggests that the Reagan Administration will be one



Bayard Rustin

which places much emphasis on style at the expense of substance. And although the specifics of the Reagan program have not yet been spelled out, even the

most casual observer is capable of sensing the orientation of Reagan's economic program.

In the face of a gloomy assortment of symbols, programs, and personalities, it seems entirely appropriate for those who are committed to the principles of social and economic justice to begin thinking about constructing a viable alternative to the conservatism of the Republican Party.

Perhaps more than anything else, the 1980 election revealed that the Democratic Party lost a large portion of its traditional constituency largely because it failed to articulate a cohesive and inspiring vision of American society. This lack of vision led to the inevitable factionalism which typified the Democratic Convention. The party's lack of vision See PARTY, Page 13