

Point of View

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



White Press Attacks Unfair To Superintendent Perkins

This past week, or so, we have been witnessing concerted attacks upon our superintendent of schools. These attacks have been orchestrated by the local "white press," which seems to feel that, because the district is having a difficult time in negotiating a contract with the teachers, the blame for such difficulty must be laid somewhere.

In the Clark County School District there are many more teachers than there are administrators or superintendents. If a paper or television station is concerned about ratings or readership, as the "white press" seems to be, then the target for blame, of economic necessity, must be the lesser of the negotiating parties — the superintendent of schools.

These attacks upon Dr. Claude Perkins by the "white press," supposedly emanating from a concern that the public should be informed whenever something affects its interest, only point out how destructive the "white press" can become when it lacks fairness and is only motivated by a competitiveness to maintain ratings and readership.

No matter how well a job is being done, the one who does it will sometimes attract enemies. There will always be fault finders, the iconoclasts of modern day society. When the iconoclasts become the "white press" and use their instruments of communication to ferment distrust and fear of a person, without taking the time to examine the good that that person has done, they in essence become the generators of a concentrated controversy in the minds of the public and leave it without a balanced view to make a proper judgement.

As the "white press" very well knows, it is controversy that excites and motivates. It is this proneness for controversy, which makes the "white press" slant its news to the bad side of an issue to project the negative. It is the negative side of issues which sells papers and gets the public to listen to the radio and television news and editorials. This is a condition which has been bred into journalism news through a process emulation of sensational headlines and, recently, television editorials.

There is no question in my mind that a free press See NEAL, page 15

A Letter

To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I am a prisoner, who is presently incarcerated in the Northern Nevada Correctional Center in Carson City, Nevada.

I think it's time the Black Community be made aware that the violence in Nevada prisons is not limited only to white prisoners.

Many of us Black and Latin prisoners who have accepted our sentences and are attempting to rehabilitate ourselves are also victims of gang stabbings and gang pressure.

I think much of the blame for what's going on in the prisons can be credited to Attorney General Bryan, who has offered only talk and Director Charles Wolff, who continues to hurdle the problems plaguing the prisons, hiding from the responsibility he has to provide for the care, treatment and welfare of inmates as well as prison staff.

Respectfully,

Gary W. Collura
N.N.C.C.

SOCIAL INSECURITY

By Bayard Rustin

Insensitivity and lack of compassion increasingly are becoming the hallmarks of the Reagan Administration's domestic program. As the consequences of the Administration's budget cuts are becoming apparent, more and more Americans are turning against Ronald Reagan's policies.

No policy, however,



Bayard Rustin

has met with stiffer opposition that the President's proposals to change the Social Security system. These proposals, which are without precedent, center on a number of sharp reductions. If the

Reagan plan were enacted, the maximum benefit for a 62-year-old retiree would fall below the official poverty level. There would be a one-third overall reduction in the disability program which protects those who are too ill to work. Cuts in future benefits would total approximately 10 percent.

The total reductions add up to an astonishing \$82 billion even though the Social Security fund anticipates temporary

cuts as "a campaign of political terrorism."

Yet despite widespread criticism and a rebuke from the Senate, which has voiced its unanimous opposition to the Reagan proposals, the Administration has insisted on carrying forward its attack on Social Security. The President has announced that he seeks to eliminate what is referred to as the minimum benefit. The minimum benefit is the

Bayard Rustin is President Emeritus of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and one of the founders of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

shortages of only \$10 billion in the next five years. Moreover, these shortages can be met with a loan of reserve funds from other components in the Social Security system.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who has emerged as a leader in the fight to preserve the Social Security system has referred to the Administration's proposed

amount (currently \$122 per month) which is paid to any one who has worked for 40 quarters in employment covered by Social Security. This means that this minimum is extended to any worker who has paid into the Social Security system for at least ten years. The President proposes paying only the amount individuals

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To Be Equal

REAGAN'S RADICAL EXPERIMENT

By Vernon Jordan

President Reagan got almost everything he wanted from a compliant Congress — the Administration steamroller squashed a feeble opposition and rammed a budget bill through a Congress that never even knew what it was voting for.

The differences between the Senate and House versions will be ironed out in committee and hopefully some damaging features in each will be modified.

But regardless of the minor changes that will take place, this country is now launched on a radical experiment whose true nature has been obscured by the sweeping nature of the budget cuts.

Since everyone was focusing on some program or programs slated for cutting, few people understand that

the cuts as a whole, along with the Administration's tax proposals and other actions, amount to a fundamental change in the direction of our society.



Vernon Jordan

Taken together, we see the beginnings of a grand design of substituting charity for entitlements; local tyranny for federal protection, and an unbridled, law of the jungle capitalism for balanced cooperation between the public and private sectors.

By attacking basic safety net programs

such as Food Stamps, Medicaid, welfare and social security, the Administration attacks the concept of entitlement — that people eligible to participate in a program can do so. It's the beginning of a shift back to the old idea that private

authorities the powers and responsibility that should be exercised by the federal government. Given the well-documented callousness of local governments and their control by local elites, that virtually ensures the neglect of the

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

charity should take care of the poor, not the government.

Charity, of course, can never cope with such widespread poverty. Nor can it ever replace government as a source of programs that get at the roots of poverty.

By stressing block grants and taking a wait and see attitude on voting rights, the Administration is implementing the policy of ceding to state and local

poor and their problems. And by attacking regulatory procedures that protect workers, the environment, health and safety standards, and the like, the Administration removes government as a balancing force to private power.

The tax cuts, heavily tilted to corporations and the wealthy, symbolize that drift to a smaller, less influential government.

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Tel: 384-9907
"2450 Industrial Road"

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