

Point of View

Editorial

It gets to be a sad commentary, in view of strides made in recent years, when you hear comments with racial overtones that were alleged to have been made by Frances Turk, mother of Tommy who was slain recently during a holdup at a bar in the Las Vegas area.

"Enough is enough," Frances Turk said. "If I go into a supermarket and one of them is bagging groceries in my checkout line, I'll move to another line."

The news report continued: "Only one black had come in to the bar the day after the robbery and murder. He felt the cold stares and left as soon as he'd bought what he ordered to go."

It never ceases to happen. All blacks, are made to pay the piper for the wrong committed by one of our race. Blacks are seen collectively as a community whether it is on the street, campus, town, state, country or world level. What one black person does, whoever that person is and whatever that person happens to be, is a reflection on every black person who has ever or will ever live. Such a burden to bear.

Frances Turk needs to do some soul searching and come to grips with reality. Many a man in war and peace has been rescued by a black. When one's life is at stake, a color of a man does not enter the picture. One becomes grateful to be "rescued by anyone of any race." The men who have been through the wars can attest to this fact.

We do not condone the actions of the individual(s) who murdered Tommy. The perpetrators should be punished to the full extent of the law. What we do not condone is for those individuals to blame all blacks for the actions of a few. We deserve our place in society and to be allowed to enjoy the fruits of our labors...and not to be punished just because we are "proudly" black.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



It has been a few weeks since the Professional Air Traffic Controllers (PATCO) walked out on strike leaving the flying public without the where with all to determine whether it is safe or unsafe to fly. The government says that it is safe to fly and PATCO says it is not. As one who, in the last ten years or so, has flown in and out of many cities in this nation, I'll have to place my confidence and belief with PATCO.

For more than ten years PATCO has been trying to change the working conditions in the towers of our nation's airports. The members of PATCO have had to endure long hours on the job working to ensure safe landings and takeoffs of the nation's airplanes. A large amount of this time is spent watching the scopes to avoid air craft collisions. The work on these scopes is most tedious and creates the greatest amount of stress.

It is the stress of the job that causes many of the controllers to quit their positions before their retirement. It takes less than ten years to burn out a controller under the present working conditions. This could be true in a very literal sense. The work station of the air traffic controller is the tower. Because of our modern communications systems, the tower becomes the focal point of micro-wave

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To Be Equal

BUDGET VICTIMS ARE THE POOR

By Vernon Jordan

The Administration's budget proposals, loaded with cuts in social programs, have been roundly condemned as harming poor people. Those charges have been denied by officials pointing to the "safety net" programs left intact, primarily benefiting the non-poor, programs like social security, Medicare, veterans benefits and others.

Now, the Congressional Budget Office, in an analysis of the budget cuts, concludes that the poor will indeed lose out in this budget; and in the most direct possible way — through real reductions in income.

The CBO estimates a minimum of 20 to 25 million people, most of them below the poverty line and the rest barely above it, would have their incomes cut by losing welfare benefits, food stamps, school lunches, and public service jobs.

Those were the only program areas covered by the CBO study. But Medicaid is slated to be

capped, and the people knocked off the eligibility list will come from the ranks of the poor. The same holds for cuts in housing aid.

Energy assistance to help poor people cope with escalating home heating costs will be combined in a block grant with other



Vernon Jordan

assistance programs. That step too, would deprive many low-income families of important income assistance.

So the CBO figure of 20 to 25 million victims of the budget cuts has to be taken as a rock bottom, minimal estimate. The real body count is far higher.

Again, destroying the myth of that supposed safety net, the study

says that the worst hit would be the worst-off — children in families headed by nonwhite women. Also hit hard would be the working poor, people whose earnings are so low they need some welfare or food stamps aid to get by.

The CBO report also says that the majority of the poorest families in the nation would lose

to much, part of that strange philosophy that assumes well-off people need incentives to work harder while low and moderate income people do not.

The underlying assumption behind the budget cuts in social programs and the tax cuts that favor the better-off is that lower federal spending and incentives to save and in-

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some income. Their definition of "poorest" is income fifty percent of the poverty line. At about 4,000 a year for a family of four that's not poverty, it's destitution.

Partisans of the Administration's plan like to say that its proposed tax cut will help balance things out. But the tax cut won't affect poor people at all. And most working families will find that the rise in their social security taxes more than offsets any tax cut they get.

Only at the upper levels of income groups will the tax cuts amount

vest will stimulate the economy and result in non-inflationary growth. The payoff would be jobs in the private sector for today's jobless.

That's a neat theory, simple and direct. As an example of wishful thinking it is peerless, but in the real world I fear the outcome will be somewhat different.

By tilting tax breaks to the affluent, leisure rather than more investing would be encouraged. By cutting federal spending, still greater pressures will be placed on state and local

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By Norman Hill

REAGAN AND RACE: The Politics Of Failure

In the six months he has been President, Ronald Reagan has failed to articulate anything approaching a coherent policy on matters of racial inequality and poverty. Aside from generalities concerning the need to combat discrimination and to bolster productivity, the Administration shows no sign of having given serious thought to the plight of what has come to be called the black underclass.

This underclass has been a persistent fact in the life of American society for many decades and its ranks continue to swell. The typical Reagan Administration response to the problem of black poverty and unemployment has been to assert that only the

private sector can resolve the problems faced by blacks and others who are poor. Help business and industry, the Reagan argument goes, and you

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will help poor blacks and all poor Americans improve their lot. However, a glance at the recent history of black unemployment and impoverishment gives little indication that the Reagan approach will work.

Since World War II, the rate of black unemployment has stood at roughly twice that of white unemployment. This ratio has remained constant in times of

economic prosperity and through periods of economic decline; through periods of inflation and periods of price stability. No matter how the economy has

been doing, blacks seem to disproportionately shoulder the burden of unemployment. What improvement has been made by blacks in the last 35 years can be attributed to increased education. Blacks who have received adequate training and education have made tremendous strides economically. Black women college graduates, for example, today earn slightly more than their white coun-

terparts. But the Reagan Administration has implemented massive cuts in federal aid to education and has drastically cut funding for a number of training and employment programs which seek to prepare minorities and the poor for meaningful private sector employment — precisely the initiatives one would

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Published every Thursday by Galaxy Composition, Inc., 2450 Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89102. Betty Brown, Publisher.

Subscription Rate by Mail: Annually Only \$25.00. All mail subscriptions must be paid in advance. No refunds.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Las Vegas Sentinel, 2450 Industrial Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102.