

Point of View

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, promote the general welfare, provide for the common defense, insure domestic tranquility and secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity, Do ordain and establish this constitution of the United States."

The above is the preamble to the Constitution of the United States. It is supposed to represent the purpose of government. Under the constitution, government has six basic objectives: one, to form a more perfect union; two, to establish justice; three, to promote the general welfare; four, to provide for the common defense; five, to insure domestic tranquility; and six, to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

One may ask the question: Is government meeting its objectives or purpose? For those who have been able to use government for their personal benefit, the answer would be "yes" to most of the above objectives. But those who have difficulty in having government listen to their needs and problems would find a certain hollowness in the words of the preamble.

The exception lies with the privileged few, who exercise power through the assumption on the part of officials, who view them as the pillar of the community and therefore, feel that their needs must be catered to in such a manner as not to incur their wrath.

We have seen this group operate in this community. They are made up of the building industry, gaming, newspaper ownership, television and other interests which are not so available to public view.

When the above privileged few become involved with the machinery of government, their concerns are not what the preamble would call for, but what they have decided is good for themselves. Government must be manipulated to meet their own purpose.

An example as to how government can be twisted to private purpose is the public housing,

See NEAL, Page 9



CARL ROWAN

What We Must Do To Stop Violence In The Public Schools

By Carl T. Rowan
WASHINGTON - None of us wants to throw our children into school situations where the threats of assault, robbery and rape exist.

Most of us have been convinced that these threats are more common than the risk of rainstorms for youngsters who attend the public schools of the land.

And that is why public education is in peril.

It is also why I read with uncommon concern the April-May issue of Today's Education, the magazine of the National Education Association. In that issue, Francis A.J. Ianni and Elizabeth Reuss-Ianni report on the NEA's Safe School Study of 1978, and they present a stereotype-shattering analysis of why our schools are beset by violence.

The overriding stereotype in America for years has been that violence is the result of letting poor blacks into the schools of middle-class whites. The Ianni report that a small, hard-core group "produces most of the violence and disruption in schools" and that members of this hard core "do not seem to come from any specific racial, ethnic, or socio-economic background. School staff commonly describe them as students who have difficulty academically, are frequently in trouble in the community, and come from troubled homes."

Not that race is not a major factor in the conflict. The Ianni conclude from the NEA study that "crime and disruption are reduced in schools where students say they can identify with the teachers

and have access to them and where ethnic and racial harmony are great."

Safe School Study showed that such harmony is not great in most schools, although the racial factor in school violence is not as overwhelming, as some Americans assume -- or want you and me to believe.

The Ianni report that, "Most offenses in schools involve victims and offenders of the same race (58 percent). But the fact that 42 percent of the offenses are interracial indicates that interracial conflict is a serious problem. The smaller the size of a minority group in a school, the greater the likelihood that members of other racial groups will commit offenses against the minority."

If the woes of public

schools don't flow primarily from racial conflict, from enforced desegregation, from busing, as some would have us believe, what other explanations exist?

According to the Safe School Study, these factors are important:

- * Crowding. "Schools which had major disruptions in the late '60s and early '70s often had many more students than they were designed to serve."

- * The shift from local schools to huge emporia of education. "Large schools have a higher incidence of and more serious crime and disruption than smaller schools. School spirit is difficult if not impossible to develop in large, urban secondary schools which have 4,000 to 5,000 students."

- * Victims of attack and

See SCHOOLS, Page 14

To Be Equal

RICH NATIONS AND POOR NATIONS

By Vernon Jordan

There may be few issues of greater importance than helping the poor half of the world achieve economic independence and a measure of prosperity.

Resolution of that issue directly affects the terrible problem of mass hunger, malnutrition, and even starvation in many parts of the world. It affects the continued prosperity of the West. And it even has implications for the dangerous threat of nuclear warfare.

For years, the world's leaders have been groping with the issue. This month's North-South summit meeting at Cancun, Mexico, is another step on the road toward reaching a

reasonable solution of the vital economic questions dividing the rich and poor nations.

A lot is riding on the



VERNON JORDAN

outcome of the Cancun meeting, especially for the poorest of the poor nations — some 31 countries with a total population nearing 300 million people.

Worldwide, the World

Bank estimates that 800 million people live in "absolute poverty." That means pervasive hunger, illiteracy, disease and mortality rates virtually unimaginable for the average American.

Those countries have

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

few resources and big problems, especially the high cost of imported oil that makes it next to impossible for them to develop their economies.

Similar problems plague other poor countries, some of which have borrowed heavily to buy food and oil or to initiate development projects, and now find it

hard to pay off their creditors.

Many of the poor nations have agitated for a new world economic order, largely consisting of huge transfers of cash and technology from rich nations to poor nations. Since this has often

been accompanied by harsh words against the West, those demands have run into a blank wall.

Now however, there are fresh voices in the West calling for steps to help develop the economies of the poor nations.

Respected European elder statesman Willy

See RICH, Page 14

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Tel: 384-9907
"2450 Industrial Road"



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