

Point of View

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



SAMMY SURVIVES ON SOLID GROUND

There were a lot of people at the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet honoring Sammy Davis, Jr. as the Man of the Year.

It was a wonderful idea to honor a man like Sammy, who has contributed so much to the growth of Las Vegas. Sammy saw Las Vegas at its worst. These were the times when black talent was exploited solely for the gratification of white audiences.

It was not fashionable for black entertainers to live where they worked. Sammy survived that era and has become one of the top entertainers in the world. His footing is solid now and he can reach back and extend a hand to his brothers. In the short talk to the NAACP audience about his experience in Las Vegas, Sammy mentioned how important it is to not forget your roots. He said, "If you do, there is some brother out there who will remind you."

It seems that everyone had their own special way of honoring Sammy. There were those entertainers who are up and coming and wanted to show off their talent. And there was the artist, who wanted recognition of his work by having it mentioned on the program. And there were many who wanted the program to proceed to their satisfaction. These things can be expected when you have celebrities present as it was in the case of this affair.

Yvonne Burke, who was the keynote speaker for the Freedom Fund Banquet, spoke most eloquently about the problems we face now and in the future. Ms Burke mainly addressed issues dealing with the Reagan Administration. She spoke about the rolling back of the affirmative action programs which have led to many jobs for the black and the poor. With the increasing insensitivity of the government towards its role in aiding the black and the poor, the need for such an organization as the NAACP is greatly enhanced. We can only deal with national issues through collective national strength. The NAACP and other national organizations serve this purpose. These are some

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To Be Equal

MR. REAGAN'S CREDIBILITY GAP

By Vernon Jordan

Budget Director David Stockman landed himself in a world of trouble when a national magazine published taped interviews with him that featured embarrassing revelations.

Mr. Stockman's off-the-cuff remarks made in the heat of last spring and summer's budget battles confirm what the Administration's critics were saying about the economic recovery program's shortcomings.

The highly touted "supply side economics" turns out, in Mr. Stockman's private comments, to be nothing more than a fancy dress version of the old, discredited "trickle down economics" that said if you give more money to the rich it will trickle down to the poor.

That never happened before, and it is not happening now. The whole supply-side flim-flam was a ruse to disguise the real intent of cutting

the tax rates on the highest income brackets.

Meanwhile, the effective tax on poor people was raised through cuts in



VERNON JORDAN

programs that transferred cash or cash equivalents such as welfare benefits and food stamps. That exposes the moral bankruptcy of a policy that pushes the poor against the wall while showering further benefits on the affluent.

During the debate over the tax bill the special interests had a field day, eventually winning additional concessions

unopposed by the Administration. Now we learn that many of those who wrapped themselves in the flag and pleaded the need for "incentives to save and invest" were actually acting out of pure greed.

"Do you realize the greed that came to the forefront," Mr Stockman

budget that virtually gave the Pentagon a blank check, its Budget Director was privately saying that the defense budget was "a kind of swamp of \$10 to \$20 to \$30 billion worth of waste that can be ferreted out if you really push hard." But to this day, no one is pushing.

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

is quoted as saying "The hogs were really feeding. The greed level, the level of opportunism, just got out of control."

Meanwhile impoverished mothers on welfare were made public enemies by the Administration spokesmen who talked of out-of-control social spending. But what was really out of control was the raid on the public treasury by already rich special interests.

And while the Administration was urging an arms buildup in a

The real expose in the story is that the Administration's economic policy is based on deliberate falsehoods, wishful thinking, and economic theories that, rather than being new, are actually recycled versions of proven failures.

The real scandal is not that the press is publishing material never intended for publication, but that it swallowed the Administration's line during the budget

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Blacks And The Reagan Program

By Bayard Rustin and Norman Hill

Washington - Already Reagan is being put down as an ogre on human rights, someone who will rush to embrace any tin-pot tyrant who claims to be manning the anti-communist ramparts. His disdain for the moralistic, up-front, sock-'em approach identified with Jimmy Carter is being portrayed as his last word on the subject. Especially is this said to be so in respect to Latin America, whose geographical and political proximity and whose tippiness on the democratic-authoritarian seesaw make it a region where American policy really counts.

I am not one, however, who feels that Reagan, as distinguished from some of his more

smaller-bore advisers, needs to be lectured right off on human rights. This is not simply because I expect Reagan to drop his criticism of



Bayard Rustin

the Carter line now that he's won power Reagan's anti-communism appears to me to be value-oriented as well as

balance-of-power-oriented. He has already warned South Korea not to execute the particular opposition figure the regime has it in for. At this point he should be considered open to human rights approaches that work.

In that spirit, may I present, and salute, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, an arm of the Organization of American States.

Argentina has been the litmus test. Its war against terrorism produced heinous abuses of personal rights by the junta that took power in 1976. Carter took out directly after the abuses, which included torture and thousands of disappearances. In the most

important sense - helping people who were being hurt - his policy succeeded: it made a measurable difference in individual cases, and not just those of VIPs, and it helped move the internal Argentine debate. But it exacerbated relations, and it never gained the political or bureaucratic support it needed to be sustained.

Along with many Argentine citizens, the junta in Buenos Aires was angered and baffled to find in Jimmy Carter, and particularly in Patricia Derian, the point of his human rights lance, so little reflection of its own certainty that in the terrorism it was facing a threat to the very integrity of the nation. Thus the junta

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