

# Point of View

## PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



### A LOOK AT THE WORLD TODAY

All news accounts say it is the "Day of the Jackel." The meaning, of course, alludes to the alleged team of assassins which is supposed to be in the United States to kill top officials of this government. It is said that this "hit team" was ordered to this country by the Libyan dictator Moammar Khadafy. He denied this on David Brinkley's News Week program on Sunday and called President Reagan a liar.

John Q. Public's senses are dulled by all of this, because it seems like a plot from a "B" rated movie. We keep reading and listening to the press and so far we have not seen any pictures nor heard any names. This is what John Q Public wants to see. If there are any assassins in this country and their prime motive is to kill or injure top officials of this government, let's hope that they are apprehended quickly.

Those of us who have been introduced to Machiavelli's THE PRINCE tend to see some similarity in the publicity about the assassins. Machiavelli's Prince would ferment discord in order to achieve his private objectives. The public needs to know if this is the case in the present situation, because in the midst of the publicity about the team of assassins, Mr Reagan signed an Executive Order permitting the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to spy on citizens of this country. This same type of directive had led to abuse under the Nixon Administration. It makes one wonder how we are going to be critical of Russia's KGB, when we permit our CIA to accomplish the same thing.

It was very noticeable when the word got out that Mr. Reagan had signed the Executive Order permitting domestic sp-ying by the CIA, that not much was heard from the National press. The Las Vegas SUN headlined the story and wrote an editorial. This silence by the National press would have been loved by Machiavelli's Prince.

This past Saturday I marched in the North Las Vegas Christmas Parade with the "Ministers for Jobs and Justice." The parade was little over a

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## To Be Equal

# THE BRITISH RIOTS

By Vernon Jordan

The July rioting that swept through British cities provoked a lot of soulsearching, both here and abroad. In some ways, the response to the riots were more interesting than the fact of the riots themselves.

That is not to underestimate the importance of the breakdown of social order in what is generally regarded as the most orderly of nations. Rather, it is because the responses to the riots tell so much about today's social climate.

The initial response on the part of the authorities was to give the police more authority and weapons. Officials were more concerned with putting out the fire than with seeking the cause of the blaze.

One Cabinet minister, noting that the rioters were unemployed young people of all races, called for guaranteed jobs and training positions for all young people.

That proposal was quickly shot down by Britain's conservative government, which stuck to the monetary and economic policies that have resulted in the highest levels of unemployment since the Depression.

Finally, the government, managed to bend its rigid principles just enough to announce a modest plan to subsidize private employers that hire young people at below market-level wage rates. It plans other measures too, to expand youth job and training programs.

Such steps amount to fire prevention — doing just enough to keep some semblance of social peace but not enough to end the problems that result in social explosions.

But even those limited steps make more sense

than some of the comments from this side of the ocean. American editorialists warned against such compromises with the rioters. Many suggested



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that a hard-line law and order approach was the only one that should be taken.

Almost all American commentators appeared sensitive to the similarities between Britain's angry youth

and the effects of the Administration's economic program on our inner-city poor.

The particular mix of ingredients that led to Britain's explosions are peculiar to that country, including race. The attacks of neo-facist white hoodlums on Asians and

controls break down? Britain's unemployment rate is about eleven percent, or about what America's was during the deep recession of the mid-seventies.

But youth unemployment ranges around the fifty percent mark, similar to minority youth

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the police harassment of British blacks are part of a complex form of racism that has its roots in Britain's history and social structure.

But the riots were not race riots; they brought white, black and Asian young people into the streets in an integrated display of anger and alienation.

How bad do things have to get before social

jobless rates in our cities. And that may be more relevant factor, one that has to make American officials uneasy.

But unemployment and other forms of economic hardship rarely burst into riots such as both America and Britain have experienced if poor people still feel themselves part

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