

Point of View

SENTINEL EDITORIAL

The Spirit Of Christmas

Esther Baldwin York once wrote, "And so we come again to Christmas with all its color and joy, its magic and wonder, its spirit of good will and warmth. But how do we come to Christmas? What it means to us depends on what we bring to it, not in gifts and outer display, but in the inner offerings of love and faith that abide in the heart."

These words seem especially appropriate for Christmas 1980. Many people are without jobs and most all of us are feeling the strains of inflation. The gifts under the tree will be fewer and smaller for many this year and this time of festive get-togethers will find many family members and friends absent from the gatherings. For many it may seem hard to feel the Christmas spirit this year and we will be remembering the happier times of Christmases past.

However, times like these can have special meaning for all of us. And it is perhaps

necessary for us to face such times of hardship and uncertainty in order to refocus our hearts and our thoughts on the "true" meaning of Christmas.

As the angels sang on that first Christmas morn, this is a time for "peace on earth, good will towards men."



Though the feasting may not be as sumptuous nor the gifts as splendid, we still can feel the joy of the TRUE spirit of Christmas. We can spread the Christmas spirit by showing our love and concern for each other, and by sharing — unselfishly — what ever we

have with those who are less fortunate than we. We can spread the spirit of Christmas with a cheerful greeting, a friendly word or a sincere smile.

But most of all, Christmas is a time of hope. "Joy to the world, the Lord has come; let earth receive its King," the angels sang. "Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing."

So, let us all focus on the most important meaning of Christmas — the birth of Christ and its promise of peace and good will. Let us enjoy and share this spirit with one another. Let us all give the most important gifts of all to all we meet — the gifts of our heart and our love.

Agnes M. Pharo put it this way: "What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path See SPIRIT, Page 15

Superintendent Selection Under Close Scrutiny—Tactical Move Observed

This past September the question was asked, "Why terminate Dr. Perkins as superintendent of schools in the beginning of the school year?" At the time, I told the school board that their action was irresponsible, because of the disruption it may cause in the district. We were aware that the board had in mind getting a local person, but what we did not know was how it would be done. Now, we know.

We believe that it was never the intention of the majority of the school board to go outside and look for a superintendent of schools. N.R.S. 391.110 prohibits the giving of contracts for more than one in the first two years in which a superintendent is hired from outside of the district. This means that if a superintendent is found in Tonapah, he can not be issued a contract for more than one year of the first two

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



years in the district.

On the other hand, if the person being employed has worked in the district as an administrator for two or more years, he can get a four year contract. This law has been on the books since 1956.

It seems to us that the school board would have knowledge of this when, in an impromptu manner, they forced Dr. Claude Perkins to resign his position. We believe this to be the case. How else were they able to remove a superintendent who had done an excellent job, other than the board just wanting another person, probably white, to be their superintendent?

It is presumed that the hiring of a consultant to recruit nation-wide for a superintendent is a "sham" used to add creditability to future ac-

tions in acquiring a local guy for the job.

I'm not personally opposed to a local. But, if this round-about way is being used for a Mormon take over of the school district, I can see some problems developing with it. We are aware that the Mormon Church has acquired land near all the high schools for the purpose of building religious centers, designed to allow for "release time" for their students to attend religious services.

It is the achievement of this "release time" that is most disturbing to many other churches and religions in this community. If this is the objective of the board, we can expect one "hellava" fight and this will not be beneficial to the Mormon Church.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, Y'All.

To Be Equal

SEASON OF JOY: SEASON OF FAREWELL

By vernon Jordan

This is Vernon Jordan's last To Be Equal column. Mr. Jordan leaves his position as President of the National Urban League on Dec. 31, 1981. Effective Jan. 1, 1982 his successor as President of the National Urban League and as author of the To Be Equal column will be John E. Jacob.

Mr. Jacob's first To Be Equal column will commence shortly after the holidays.

Everybody loves the ideas of human Christmas, the season of good tidings to all. This season celebrates the ideas of human dignity, brotherhood and compassion, ideas in short supply in an un-

caring world.

All the more reason then, why we should seize on this Holiday



VERNON JORDAN

season to give new life to those ideas, and to

rededicate ourselves to the struggle to attain them.

Christmas is a time when all of us have to reject racism in all of its forms, loudly and clearly. For nothing

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could be further from the Christmas spirit than the ugly notion that race is reason enough to make some people dominate others; to make some people reap the rewards of our society over

others, to make some people think they are better than others.

Unfortunately, racism is still strong, although many of us don't recognize it unless confronted by its ugliest for-

ms such as Klan or Nazi goons. The three-piece-suit variety though, is even more dangerous.

Take the recent story about opposition to the sale of a Park Avenue cooperative apartment to

the New York Public Library, which wants it as a residence for its president, a white male.

The sale was fought by a director of the See JOY, Page 15



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