

# Point of View

## Letter To The Editor

### PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Christmas is over. The New Year has been celebrated. There are three more weekends left in the Football season and the word out of Washington is that Samuel H. Pierce, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, wants to use food stamps as income, for the purpose of reducing the rent subsidy to the poor.

Mr. Pierce seems to be of the opinion that if someone gives him food, it should be considered income; therefore, the equivalent amount should be added to the cost one has to pay for government housing. This simply means that for those individuals who pay twenty-five percent of their disposable income for public housing under the Brook's amendment will now have that amount increased upward to about forty percent or more depending upon the amount of food stamps they received.

Those individuals with large families could least afford this increase in rent subsidy by the

use of Food Stamps as income. The reason is that it would cut into their disposable income which would be needed to buy clothing, shoes and other necessary items.

The proposal Mr. Pierce is placing before the public in the name of "balancing the budget", would not permit the utilization of food stamps themselves to be used for rent subsidy. He is, in effect, saying that the additional increases in rent must come from the poor. The poor must make up the difference in decreased subsidy from the disposable cash they have.

The other problem we have with the proposal of food stamps becoming income is that it subjects the food stamps to an income tax, which in time would add to a further drain of the poor's disposable income.

It was interesting to note that in all the insanity about "budget balancing" and making it hard for the poor, there are some sane people who are beginning to recoil from these positions. William V. Roth, (R. Del) who is the Roth in the Kemp-Roth tax proposal which started all this in early 1981, is now getting off Mr. Reagan's band wagon. He stated last Sunday that he would not agree with any more cuts in social programs and that further cuts would show a lack of compassion. So much for Mr. Roth. I wish he could have come to this conclusion earlier; nevertheless, if he has come to the rail to be baptized against any further social cuts, we should not turn him away because he was not there earlier.

Let me conclude by saying this. We all should register to vote and just maybe we will be able to convert more Roths during this political year.

Dear Editor:

First, we would like to say Happy New Year to one and all. People say that we Black Ministers are argumentive trouble makers. Some even say we are rip-off artists because we dress in suits and drive decent automobiles. Some say we put our nose into others business, but we say this; Before we were preachers, we were men in the world. We were hard working intelligent people with few vices. We took a lot of pride in ourselves, we wore nice clothes and drove nice cars. As for argumentive trouble makers, put yourself in our shoes for just a few minutes.

We, the Ministers in the world, are the last ones to get the problems. We know what the last resort looks like. When a person gets into trouble, first he seeks a lawyer. When a person gets sick, first he seeks a doctor, and on down the line. When all avenues are exhausted they come to the Minister, their last stop. What do we do? We go through the same channels they have already gone through. Along the way we Ministers compare notes. After a while we know what organization or governing body is functioning properly. When one empathizes enough, he becomes the Sexton,

caretaker of the community.

A six year old child doesn't understand prayer when his parents are out of work and he is hungry. When we speak out, when we march downtown, it's because we know what's going on. We are hurting along with you because we are a part of you. We know how it should be and how it could be. We stood by and allowed the community leaders to lead and the politicians to politic. We attend meetings and we open and close them with a prayer, and what goes on in-between, we kept our noses out. People of strong values, such as the Ministers of the world, can sit idly by for just so long.

When we became politically involved with the community and because of our high moral standards, it couldn't be said that we were bought or paid off, so we were labeled argumentive trouble making preachers. You be the judge of what you have read. If we are trouble makers, we are making trouble for jobs and justice. If that doesn't satisfy you, ask yourself this, "What do the Black Ministers of the West side have to gain?" ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

Las Vegas Black Ministers Alliance

### To Be Equal

## VOTING RIGHTS FACES UPHILL FIGHT

By Vernon Jordan

Effective Jan. 1, 1982, John E. Jacob becomes the National Urban League's new President replacing Vernon Jordan, Jr. Mr. Jacob's column is to begin shortly after the holidays. In the meantime, we are printing one of the recent articles by Mr. Jordan but not as yet reported by the Las Vegas Sentinel.

President Reagan's tempting to infringe on lukewarm endorsement citizens' voting rights of extending the Voting to "bail out" from the Rights Act of 1965 is a big roadblock in the uphill fight for voting rights against entrenched opposition in the Senate.

The House of Representatives has already passed extension of the Act, keeping its protections firmly in place. It also allows the local governments that have records of not at-

routine. Federal lawyers go over the proposed changes to see if they would have a negative effect on citizens' rights. Then they either allow the change or disallow it, in which case the local government may appeal to a federal court.



VERNON JORDAN

Virtually all proposed changes are approved by the Justice department. The procedure does not place any

special burdens on local governments — no mountains of documents have to be submitted nor months of hearings prepared for.

Despite the routine nature of pre-clearance, many say that as a matter of fairness covered states and localities should be allowed to escape this procedure after a "good conduct" period. That's why the

House passed a bailout feature. But the President took no note of the House action; he clearly wants a much looser bailout amendment along the lines favored by Senators opposed to extending the Voting

Rights Act. The real meaning of any easy bailout would be to gut the Act. Provide an escape hatch for some of the governments that traditionally discriminated See FIGHT, Page 13

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