

Point of View

SENTINEL EDITORIAL

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL, in its February 18, 1982 issue, featured on the front page a dynamic expressive picture of Mable Hoggard. It was symbolic that Mrs. Hoggard was so recognized by the SENTINEL as she made her mark in history. The issue covered the 4th week of Black History Month (February) and it was felt that it would be appropriate to have her adorn our cover page for this important period in our history. She became the first black teacher in the State of Nevada during September 1945.

Mable Hoggard spent the next 25 years teaching in the Las Vegas School District. She was a great humanitarian who lighted a path for all Nevadans to walk in.

During 1975 she was honored by having the Bonanza Elementary School renamed to the Mabel Hoggard School.

Now seven years later the community is at the crossroads of trying to change the black community's last educational stronghold by redesignating this elementary school to a Sixth Grade Center. How traumatic!

There's more to the situation than just busing or restructuring the school system. What is attempted is tearing at the very root of the black community. We agree with School Trustee Virginia Brooks Brewster, that there needs to be more time given to the study of this problem. The voting on the proposal should be set aside for a year to reassess the value of the Mabel Hoggard Elementary School and what it stands for in the black community. Let's not destroy what has been recognized as one of the important cogs of black civilization and culture in this community.

MABLE HOGGARD MUST STAND!

To Be Equal

SAVING MINORITY THRIFT INSTITUTIONS

By John E. Jacob

Recessions are getting to be a bad habit — we're currently in our seventh post-war recession. And they are both more severe and more frequent than they used to be.

rose by over fifty percent over the 1980 total, and the figures for the past two months indicate a similar rise is in store for 1982.

Small businesses are the source of almost all new job growth in the

they are hurting because of federally mandated policies which forced them to lend



John E. Jacob

cheap mortgage money long term while buying expensive short-term deposits.

This has led to a number of proposals designed to help the thrift industry survive. But while those proposals are being debated some

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The last recession was in 1980, and instead of an extended recovery period, we sank into another one a year later. Despite optimistic Administration projections of an upturn by mid-year, many economists are talking about a prolonged downturn.

One indication of the burgeoning economic crisis is the rising level of bankruptcies. Last year business failures

economy, so their health is necessary to stem the rising tide of joblessness. That is especially true for black businesses, which operate under disadvantages that require special help to see them through this period of economic hard times.

And priority should be given to helping the struggling black savings and loans. Like the rest of their industry,

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT IN THE NORTH

By Rev. Jesse Jackson

Not too long ago the House passed a strong, but fair extension (until 1992) of the 1965 Voting Rights Act by a vote of 389 to 24. On Oct. 2, Attorney General William



French Smith sent his recommendations on the bill to the president. In essence, his recommen-

dations were to weaken most of the key provisions of the bill passed by the House. In January, Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., reluctantly began to hold hearings on the bill in the Senate. Senator Thurmond has made clear his views on the bill and is determined to weaken it if at all possible.

One of his principal ar-

Rev. Jesse Jackson is President, Operation Push

guments is that the Voting Rights Act, as presently constituted, singles out the South and places an unfair burden on it when, in fact, the bill should be applied to all 50 states. Apart from the historic reasons why certain sections of the act do — and should — primarily apply to the South, the basic deception in such an argument is the implication that the bill does not now apply nationally. In fact, it already does.

Both Section 2 and Section 3 of the Voting Rights Act have nationwide provisions. Section 2 paraphrases the 15th Amendment to the Constitution, which prohibits discrimination in voting throughout the nation. Section 2 applies to All Voter discrimination cases and to voting procedures that were in existence before 1965, as well as to changes that took place after 1965. It is designed to make clear that any voter can sue in federal court if his or her right to vote is abridged or denied on account of, among other things, race.

The Supreme Court decision in the Mobile vs. Bolden case in Alabama clouded congressional intent when it suggested an impossible legal standard, one that would require direct evidence of intentional discrimina-

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PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



If you have been reading this column, you will know that I have written a couple of times on the question of South Africa. You may ask, "Why write about South Africa, when there are similar things to write about in this country?" Well, not exactly.

You see, we as black people have been able to achieve a fair degree of freedom in this country. We can vote. Access to public accommodations has been guaranteed throughout the country. These are things many blacks, especially the young, now take for granted.

In South Africa, however, the above rights are non-existent for the millions of blacks who live in that country. Herein lies the reason for my frequent engagement of this question of freedom for South African Blacks.

It is a belief of mine, which is shared with many others throughout this land of ours, that as long as one black person is subjected to brutality and enslavement because of his blackness, no black person is free. Therefore, the issue of freedom for the Black South Africans should be a major concern of ours.

We do not have any control over how we are born into this world. To relegate a nation of people to a state of servants and non-citizenship because of this, is something which should be detestable to most freedom loving people. But this is not the case with the present administration.

The Reagan administration has increased significantly the technology needed to keep the South African nation of apartheid afloat in a modern world. This technology is taken in the classification of "non-military." But it is important to note that a fair amount of this technology goes to the South African police.

With the increasing number of black people in the United States, the actions of the Reagan administration should be of great concern to us. It

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Alice Key

ALICE KEY'S column will not appear this week. She is in California due to illness within the family. The column will resume upon her return.

The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists or authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the Sentinel editorial represents this publication.