

Point of View

To Be Equal

COLLEGE CUTS FLUNK TEST

By John E. Jacob

The Administration's plan to take the hatchet to programs aiding college students gets an "F" for fairness and sound economic sense.

It flunks on economic grounds because all education aid amounts to a national investment in the future. Helping to expand the ranks of skilled, educated people pays off in increased productivity, technological strength, and higher future tax receipts.

You would think that devotees of "supply side economics" would recognize the supply side advantages of a better-educated population, but if these planned cuts are any indication, their version of supply side has no room for vital human investments.

The planned cuts also fail the all-important fairness test. They help move us toward what

NYU President John Brademas describes as a "two-tiered system... offering elite private education for the rich, and state and municipal



John E. Jacob colleges for everyone else."

Most of the fire aimed at the cuts is directed at proposals to limit guaranteed loan programs and to exclude students from middle income families from various aid programs.

The tremendous public outcry will make it tough for Congress to go along with the Administration's

program, especially in an election year.

But it would be premature to assume heavy cuts won't be made in student loan and aid programs. And if those cuts go through, they could be devastating to

provide quality education.

Aside from the attack on loan and general aid programs, the Administration has targeted cuts at programs aimed at the poor, such as the Educational Opportun-

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black students and the black colleges.

Some black college presidents point out virtually all their students are able to attend college only because of those programs. Eliminating or drastically cutting them would mean sharp declines in black college enrollment and endanger the existence of many schools.

College should ensure that low income youths get a fair chance to complete their education and that the schools serving them have the resources to

ity Centers program.

This program provides disadvantaged adults with information about continuing their education and helps them to apply to schools. Well over 100,000 people were helped in a program slated for elimination. This small program easily pays for itself by helping many move from the welfare rolls to college and then on to tax-producing jobs.

Another program the Administration wants to end is called Talent See College, Page 13



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.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Mabel Hoggard Elementary School has been in the news these past weeks. Not because the issue surrounding this school is of such major importance to the education of our children, but because some black politicians have chosen to grasp this controversy to catch our eye as the protectors of black rights.

The position which has been taken by Bennett, Chaney and Lovell Gaines lacks definition and long-term strategy in terms of where we may proceed in correcting problems of Mabel Hoggard School. One key element has been left out of their arguments and that is, what will happen to the education of the children. But instead, we are being propounded through the news media with the inequity of bussing without addressing whether or not the bussing is assuring our children a quality education.

The actions of Mr. Bennett, Mr. Chaney and Mr. Gaines begs the question as to whether or not they are concerned about quality education for our children or that they are generating this issue to resegregate the schools in the Westside. The logical extension of their argument would be to do just that.

Those of us who followed, on a continuing basis, the change of attitudes and the law relative to desegregation of the schools, are aware that the neighborhood school concept is nothing but a guise to resegregate the schools. It is this concept which Mr. Bennett, Mr. Chaney and Mr. Gaines are pushing. They have involved themselves in this without the consultation of our board member, Mrs. Virginia Brewster.

The more appropriate position was taken by Mrs. Brewster on the Mabel Hoggard issue. She said she may not vote to keep this school a neighborhood school. Mrs. Brewster's position was undoubtedly based upon facts she had gathered on the issue.

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EL SALVADOR'S ELECTIONS

By Bayard Rustin

No recent issue in foreign affairs has aroused as much heated controversy as the American role in El Salvador. A number of critics of the Administration's policy toward that tiny Central American country have argued that we have no business backing what they assert is a ruthless, murderous junta. Others have argued that the Salvadorean military is the only force capable of preventing the victory of anti-American Marxist-Leninist guerrillas who threaten the stability of the entire Central American region and our own national security.

In calling for such a policy the AFL-CIO has reflected the views of the leading peasants' and urban workers' trade unions, believing that they represent the

sentiments of the vast majority of El Salvador's working people.

When elections were called for late March many critics argued that they would be an unmiti-



Bayard Rustin

gated disaster. Opposition left-wing parties had urged a boycott of the elections and the Leninist guerrillas had boldly predicted that they would conduct a military offensive that would paralyze the country and make the elections impossible to

carry out. Some American newspaper pundits suggested that in a country as poor as El Salvador people are more interested in bread and land than in casting a vote which may not affect their lives in the slightest.

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Opinions on the voter turnout were offered from all circles. Some predicted that 15 percent of El Salvador's 1.5 million eligible voters would take part. The optimists predicted a turnout of no better than 35-40 percent. In the midst of a dangerous war, the argument went, most people would stay at home. There could be no legitimate election.

All of these opinions and analyses were made by outsiders. Regrettably no one had bothered to consult the Salvadoran people.

For on March 28th they delivered their own verdict on the electoral process. And that ver-

dict was for democracy and peaceful change.

I traveled to El Salvador to witness the elections as part of a non-governmental delegation organized by Freedom House, a highly respected U.S. human rights organization. I was able to witness the electoral process in numerous polling sites and to speak with many See Elections, Page 13