

# Point of View

## To Be Equal

# TARGETING THE ELDERLY FOR CUTS

By John E. Jacob

A neglected aspect of the Administration's proposed budget cuts is the effect they will have on older Americans, especially those in the low-income brackets.

Some of those cuts represent the worst kind

of nickel-and-diming. For example, the Administration wants to change the rules that now allow a recipient of supplemental security income (SSI) to exclude \$20 per month of unearned income in determining benefits and eligibility.

Ending the disregard will save the government about \$15 million next year. But it will mean a loss of \$240 per year to some 135,000 aged recipients. And if you don't think \$240 a year amounts to much, it comes to 15 percent of the average benefit for an aged recipient.

Another measure hard to justify is the plan to round off SSI benefit payments to the nearest lowest dollar. So if someone is entitled to a check of, let's say \$108.99, they'll get \$108. That amounts to robbing recipients of 99 cents every check.

If someone steals 99 cents from an older person, it is a crime. But when government does it, it's called revenue enhancement. That little bit of sleight-of-hand will save the government about \$3 million in 1982, barely enough to buy one tank, at a cost

energy assistance programs. The Administration wants to lump all its energy aid programs into one package, funded at more than 30 percent less than existing programs. The aged poor



John E. Jacob

are the most vulnerable to excessive heating costs and would be the big losers if this plan goes through.

Other changes in regulations would also impose fresh burdens on older Americans, especially the elderly poor. Planned changes

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of damaging its reputation for fairness and honesty.

Cuts in food stamps will also hit the elderly poor. It is estimated that an elderly couple living on \$5,100 of social security income would have their food stamp benefits cut by more than half, \$120 a year from \$312.

The proposal to eliminate the minimum food stamp benefit of \$10 per month would affect the elderly poor disproportionately. Again, a small amount that means a lot to people in poverty would be cut.

Nationally, one out of four households with an older person will lose benefits.

Bigger losses would come from cuts in

## PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Nobody asked me, but this Falklands Crisis is about to get out of hand.

In case you have not heard of the Falkland Islands by now, they are located at the southern most tip of the world called the Southern Hemisphere. They are in close proximity to the country called Argentina.

Historical records seem to indicate that these islands called the Falklands were discovered in 1592 by a British merchant captain whose name was John Davis. But these islands were not initially settled by the British. The first settlement of the Falklands was instituted by French sheep farmers in 1764. Two years later, Britain sent in its own sheep farmers to maintain its claim.

Sometime between 1764 and 1771 the French decided to leave the Falklands. In order to recuperate from some of their losses, the French sold their interests on the Falklands to Spain. We might say that this is where the trouble over the Falklands began. Because of the French sale, Britain almost went to war with Spain.

In 1771 the Spanish government recognized Britain's right to share the islands. Three years later, Britain withdrew from the Falklands but maintained their claim.

It was forty-one years later before any further problems developed over the Falklands. These problems came when Buenos Aires, now Argentina, took over the Spanish claim after winning its independence in 1816. Buenos Aires impacted the British claim by establishing a colony on the Falkland Islands in 1828. The British went to war with the Argentines and removed them from the islands.

As you probably know, within the last month the Argentines invaded the Falklands and re-established what they felt was their claim to the islands. This was an invasion which the British have not taken lightly.

After three hundred and ninety-nine years since the discovery of the Falkland Islands by the British sea captain John Davis, the world today is faced with the ominous consequences of having a nuclear war being fought over these islands. Now as the British ships are poised for battle around the Falklands, discussions as well as speculations are taking place along the lines of what would happen if the Argentines should get the best of Britain. Would Britain reach into her nuclear arsenal to defend herself from a defeat by the Argentines?

Let's hope that we will never find out the answer.

Assuming that Britain retakes the Falklands without the use of her nuclear arsenal, the relationship of the United States with Latin American

See NEAL, Page 12

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.



## 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.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

In my opinion this is some of the things that should have been said long ago by someone, but was never said. We have heard a great deal of noise from Senator Joe Neal over a number of years and that's been all "just noise." The bottom line of all this is, what has he accomplished? We cannot point to any one single thing in West Las Vegas and say Senator Joe Neal accomplished this for himself or the community.

Let's take a look at some of the other elected officials and see what their records show: Rev. M.D. Bennett has considerable holding in property; a very elaborate church he built for the community; a day care center operated weekly, that employs some people; The Marion Bennett Youth Program that again produces some jobs. Mr. Chaney has a sizeable business, Westside Charter Service, that again employs a number of people, who would either be looking for employment or employed by someone.

Mr. Neal's brother has been unemployed for a considerable length of time and he does not have enough clout to pick up the phone and get his brother a job after serving in the upper house a great many years. We all know the realities of politics. There is not one elected official in other parts of this town who cannot deliver something.

Senator Neal is a tremendous liability to this community and until we realize this, we will always be traveling the road that has no ending for ourselves and our children.

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