

Point of View



Alice Key

ALICE KEY's column will be resumed next week. She has returned from California where there had been illness in the family. We are happy to share her many keen insights on what is happening today.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



The past week the Labor Department released new unemployment figures. The unemployment rate for the nation is now at 9.4 percent, which represents 10.4 million people unemployed. This is the highest unemployment in this country in forty years. The country will find it difficult to recover from this devastation of the human spirit.

How difficult it is for many of the unemployed to tell their children that they will only have one meal a day or no meals at all, instead of two or three. The supply-side economics, which is being practiced by the Reagan administration lacks the compassion to see what these policies are doing to families and especially to children. This lack of compassion becomes a prescription for turmoil.

In just a few weeks we will have millions of students from the colleges and high schools looking for summer jobs. These new job seekers will cause an increase in the agitation which exists in the job area.

The sweltering heat of summer will soon be

upon us. Many young people will find that there are no jobs and that there is nothing to do. As their anger builds, the old phrase of "a long, hot summer" will become more of a destructive consequence than it was in the years of 1965 and 1968. Simply because, the young and poor people, in general, are more keenly aware of the ever widening gulf which exists between the rich and the poor. They are also aware that through the apparatus of the Federal Government controlled by the Reagan Administration, this gulf is continuing to widen.

The President, who has preached shame into many of the nation's people for accepting aid and relief from the government, has not been so ready to do the same for big business and other wealthy industrialists. Without a doubt, almost every American who has been affected by the Reagan economic policies is now saying, "Mr. Reagan is for the rich," as against the poor.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMICS

By Norman Hill

For decades the civil rights and labor movements have argued for greater social justice and for safeguards which could better protect workers from the recessions which recur in any free enterprise economy. Such arguments have been based upon a humanitarian impulse, upon the view that all human beings are entitled to an adequate standard of living and to the right to lead a dignified life.

Today, a mountain of evidence appears to suggest that greater social justice, increased social spending by government, job security, and greater protections for workers, not only are morally laudable, but are good for economic growth. Such is the evidence contained in a critically important new book, *Minding America's Business* (Harcourt Brace Jovano-

vich, 1982), co-authored by Robert Reich, of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and Ira Magaziner, a consultant to business and labor.

In essence, the book makes a persuasive argument for adopting much of the agenda favored by organized

quickly approaching us and significantly outpacing us in productivity increases and economic growth.

What, ask Reich and Magaziner, do these countries have in common? What policies have their governments and industries adopted to achieve economic

insurance. Workers in these countries receive on the average 4 to 5 weeks annual paid vacation (while U.S. workers average 2.5 weeks time off). In each of these countries there are substantial government — and industry-financed health insurance programs.

Job security also is one of the cornerstones of industrial productivity. As Reich and Magaziner suggest: "It is difficult to gain workers' commitment to a company if they know that the company is not ultimately committed to developing their careers." They assert, on the basis of evidence from such countries as Sweden and Japan, that "it is in a company's best interest to be concerned about the career development of all employees, not just the few at the top." In this regard, the authors argue, See SOCIAL, Page 5

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labor and the civil rights movement. Through imaginative and concise use of charts and statistics the authors document the decline of the U.S. economy. In 1960, the U.S. was first in the world in terms of standard of living. Today, we are no better than tenth, behind such countries as France, Holland, Denmark, West Germany, Norway, and Belgium, with Japan

growth?

The evidence shows that those Western democracies which outperform our economy have a higher, not lower, degree of government spending on social expenditures than does the U.S. In each of these countries there is a higher degree of *per capita* social spending for such programs as social security and unemployment in-

To Be Equal

THE ENTERPRISE ZONE

By John E. Jacob

Congress is considering a new experiment whose supporters say holds the promise of revitalizing the urban economy and creating jobs for the poor.

The Urban Jobs and Enterprise Zone Act, better known as the Kemp-Garcia bill after its prime sponsors, is one of several proposals, including an Administration bill, that would offer tax breaks to companies that locate in impacted areas.

The basic idea is to use the tax system to entice prospective employers into the inner-city and stimulate job-creating business activity there.

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As Congress confronts this important proposal, it will have to carefully consider all aspects of the plan. A final



John E. Jacob

version that is carefully tailored to urban realities could well bring new job opportunities to people now locked out of the job market.

But if Congress falls

into any one of several pitfalls, it could wind up creating a costly program that fails to make a dent in urban unemployment.

One basic question Congress must decide

jobs. But if the final version of the plan tilts towards labor-intensive companies and small businesses, then it could cut urban unemployment.

Virtually all jobs

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is whether the enterprise zone plan is a business assistance measure or a job creation effort.

Obviously, there are elements of both in the package. But if the plan is to create enough jobs then its business assistance components must be targeted at job-creating incentives.

For example, a final bill that induces capital-intensive industries that are highly automated to move into a zone will not end up creating many

created in our economy are created by small businesses. While big corporations have all- See ZONE, Page 5



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