

Point of View

To Be Equal

COUNTING THE POOR

By John E. Jacob

The quickest, surest and fastest way to end poverty is by changing the definition of who is poor. At least that's the route taken by a recent Census Bureau report.

It is a swift, fool-proof way of cutting poverty by forty percent. The trick is to count the full value of federal benefits such as food stamps, housing assistance and Medicaid as income to their recipients. Do this

and, presto, poverty for millions of people just melts away. They are no



John E. Jacob

longer poor, according to the Bureau's report.

To be fair to the Bureau, it engaged in this meaningless exercise at the command of the

As my old math teacher used to say, you can do anything with numbers. The problem is if you accept the report's proposals the

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Congress, which instructed it to figure out how many people would be poor if federal benefit programs were counted as cash.

numbers might look better but the poor would remain poor and poverty would still be a major national problem.

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PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



The word "pig" has taken on new significance as Lowell Ponte the science writer for Readers Digest, tell us. All politicians, preachers, rock artists and mass mailing should take note.

It appears that the "pig" produces a small amount of androsterone in his sweat. It is used to send signals that it is time to mate. The androsterone, which produces the sex drive in "pigs" can also change social behavior in humans. We are told it makes you more jovial and happy.

I have been around a few pig styes in my life and don't recall ever finding one disgusting. Well, scientists are now saying that such a reaction is the natural occurrence due to the scent produced from androsterone, which makes an ugly thing look beautiful.

Can you imagine what would happen if politicians and preachers could spray this androsteronic mist over a crowd to which they were speaking? The old song which has the line in it that says "everything is beautiful" would have great meaning.

Under the control of a callous mind, we can understand and appreciate the consequences of the availability of such androsteronic mist. Of course, any mist which allows people to see the ugly as beautiful would be dangerous in a democratic society.

But on the other hand, if the androsteronic mist could be sprayed over the whole world at the same time, it might be useful; useful in terms of making the world a better place.

I'm a realist. I don't think that the above will happen. So we must be prepared for those who would attempt to utilize this androsteronic mist for selfish purposes. If it is a potent force in mind control as stated, then we should make certain that we have laws controlling it.

We only have two more years 'til 1984. We have already reached a point where George Orwell's book is revealing itself very rapidly. Who would have thought that mind control through dispersing androsteronic mist in the air would be a topic for discussion?

In George Orwell's 1984, he did not deal with the mist as a mind controlling agent, but nevertheless, stated the possibility of such.

One would get the impression that the Republicans who are voting for the Reagan budget are under the spell of this androsterone.

Greater The Votes, Greater The Power

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BLACK EMPOWERMENT

By Dr. Nathaniel Wright, Jr.
Human Rights Activist

BLACK SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

One of the seeming ironies of the struggle for women's rights is the fact that black Americans, both men and women, have often shied away from giving their fullest possible support.

Historically, blacks have played important, and sometimes crucial, roles in the women's rights movement. Phyllis Wheatley, the black poet and author who became the second woman published author in America, was a firm and often lonely advocate for freedom of opportunity for all people, including women.

Then there was Sojourner Truth who was one of America's most heroic roving prophets. When women's rights were raised feebly for women's dignity in the mid-19th Century, her voice was always heard with uniquely and superbly telling effect. Whenever this legendary figure—whose name will become increasingly known as our racial patterns in American history change—spoke at early rallies for women's rights, men who opposed women's rights trembled and they and their arguments were put to scorn.

There is no more illustrious male champion of women's rights in American history than Frederick Douglass. Douglass' life was devoted to

human freedom. In his own personal life, he rose from an enslaved man to a place of distinction in the U.S. diplomatic corps. Abraham Lincoln's widow esteemed him so highly that, after her husband's death, she presented Douglass with one of the late president's favorite canes, noting that Mr. Lincoln would have wanted Douglass to have something deeply personal which had belonged to him.

Douglass is credited with persuading women to demand, in their national deliberations, full equality including suffrage for the first time in American history. He was a true prophet, believing that prophets must be ahead of the popular clamor and belief; for in leading thought and action rather than in following thought and action was there alone, so he believed, true prophecy.

What, then, of the role of blacks in the struggle for women's rights today? Must they abandon the movement which owes to them an incalculable debt which, in many ways, can never be repaid? Why do blacks look with mixed feelings today on the struggle for women's rights? In replying directly to this last question, we may respond simultaneously to issues underlying the other two

questions.

—Blacks tend to resist and to resent the myth that women are a minority. Women are a majority in our country's population. If women are classed as a minority, then it is perfectly true that many job opportunities due on the basis of equity for black males will be earmarked for white women. Blacks, then, should commit their fullest weight to the Equal Rights Amendment and, at the same time, work to see that women have themselves declassified as a minority.

—Blacks tend to resent the myth that white women are poor. The majority of this nation's corporate wealth is owned by women. This stems chiefly from the fact that their husbands die younger and leave their estates to widows.

If white women wanted a simple and workable quick strategy for freedom for themselves and for all true minorities, they would only need to concentrate on getting a few leaders of white women's large-scale corporate wealth to organize. They could require—not just present—a "demand" that equitable opportunity be afforded women and those who are minorities forthwith! Otherwise, the white male corporate managers of white wom-

en's corporate wealth would be fired instantly.

Cruel? No. Simply a reasonable, just and effective strategy to set right what have been ancient wrongs which are long past due in terms of being righted.

—Blacks recognize that there is a danger in the myth of the basic necessity of a "second breadwinner" in the vast majority of white homes.

We must grant that many white homes need greater resources. It would still be both fair and pre-eminently necessary to make known the fact that the vast majority of "second breadwinners" in white American homes simply work to largely perpetuate America's wanton waste and greed regarding the world's resources. We use, as a nation, five times our fare share of the earth's food and fuel.



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