

Point of View

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



This past week I had an opportunity to appear on "Public Report," hosted by Lee Winston on Channel 10 TV, with Joseph Yoblonski, the number one "YOBO" of the Nevada Scam. You are probably aware that Yoblonski is the Special Agent in charge of the local FBI office.

As a legislator, my appearance on "Public Report" was the first public comment I have made on the YOBO operation in Nevada, which apparently has entangled many of our politicians in a web of political corruption. My position on this issue is and has been that if one is not predisposed to engaging in political corruption, one does not have anything to worry about. But on the other hand, if one is predisposed to such, the public has a right to know. Not only does the public have a right to know; it is also illegal to use one's public office for private gains. Just as the sheriff cannot collect rewards for the capture of the criminal, so the legislator cannot be paid extra for doing things he has been elected to do.

The legislator takes an oath of office to uphold the Constitution and laws of the state. The laws may be flaky at times, but the Constitution remains the primary source by which good and bad laws can be judged.

The Constitution is the main marble in the legislative game. It is the one thing the legislator can always go back to for direction. The national Constitution as well as the state Constitution embodies the primary concept of democracy. They speak to the importance of each individual and each has a dignity which must be upheld. To operate for one individual or just for your group in the legislative process is to do damage to the concept of democracy by limiting the access of others to you.

Admittedly, there are pressures which are placed upon the public official to engage in illegal activity. But in order to continue to be embraced by the public trust and assure that democracy works, the public official must be able to discard the illegitimate for the legitimate. In other words, he must be able to say "no" to political corruptive activity and report same to the proper authorities.

All public officials who do not subscribe to the above concept need to be investigated. I do not think it is wrong to employ the method of a "YOBO" operation to do this. While the action of the "YOBO" operation is pretending, the public official usually means business if he is accepting cash to do things which he is obligated to do by law. When this does occur, it is not a question of entrapment as some would have us believe. It can best be described as greed if you seek to enrich yourself by taking money "under the table" for engaging in an illegal purpose.

The only problem I would have with the "YOBO" operation in Nevada is that I feel it is wrong to draw those individuals into such a plan when they are only collaterally involved. Their names should not be leaked to the press. The necessary precautions should be taken in order that the public

To Be Equal

HELP WANTED: SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUTH

By John E. Jacob

With unemployment climbing well past the ten million mark, there is a danger that the urgent problem of finding summer jobs for disadvantaged young people will go by the boards.

With companies laying off long-time workers, little thought is being given to creating the temporary jobs that young people can fill until school starts again in the fall.

And the problem is compounded by deep cuts in federal summer youth job programs. Not only will there be far fewer subsidized summer jobs available this year, but the entire program is slated to be ended in the future, folded into block grants to the states where summer job programs will have to compete with other needs for scarce resources.

In city after city, mayors are worried about their ability to mobilize voluntary action by business to plug the gap, and about the results of the failure to do so.

That has led to dire warnings about the possibilities of increased youth crime and even "long, hot summers." I don't think that kind of speculation serves any useful purpose, for there are strong positive reasons to create work opportunities for young people; reasons that transcend the more sensational aspects of the problem.

criticism would be lessened.

The "YOBO" operation was legal and it served notice to all Nevada politicians that it is best to keep your hands in your own pockets.

Because of this operation, just maybe "ole" 19-1 will just become 19. This "YOBO" operation has the potential of creating a helluva power shift in the State Senate.

Work experience and work habits are essential if young people are to take their place in the economic mainstream.



John E. Jacob

Study after study shows that young people who work while in school or during their summer vacations go on to better jobs and higher pay as adults.

Short changing those kids now means they'll need to succeed. And the lack of jobs also endangers their chances of staying in school, for too many wonder why they should continue their education when there is so little chance for a decent job at the end of the line.

Long-term, this has deep implications for the economy. As it shifts to producing services and high technology products, it needs a work force that is more highly skilled and better educated than in the past.

If our government doesn't seem to understand this, I am hopeful the private sector will. In some cities business groups have come together to pledge

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Alice Key

"THE MORE THINGS CHANGE THE MORE THEY ARE THE SAME"

Let me answer the question that has kept my telephone ringing all day, and I will have no more to say on the subject — that is unless my button is pushed too hard.

No, I don't know why Dr. James McMillan, past president of the local NAACP branch, and former associate of mine, publicly announced his support of Congressman James Santini's candidacy for Senator Howard Cannon's seat in the United States Senate.

Yes, my speculation lies pretty much in the same groove as those voiced by callers. No, I was not surprised. Every since the evening of the "This Is Your Life" Tribute to Bob Bailey on June 5, Dr. McMillan has been offering unsolicited explanations for his squiring the Congressman around that evening, introducing him to those who didn't have a chance to duck.

Yes, Dr. McMillan lied about Senator Howard Cannon when he said the Senator kept silent on the Voting Rights Extension Act which passed the Senate last week despite a filibuster led by North Carolina's Republican Senator Jesse Helms who is a staunch supporter of Congressman Santini's campaign. Senator Cannon was a co-sponsor of the bill to extend the Voting Rights Act, and if Congressman Santini "vigorously" supported it, vigor has taken on a new meaning.

Senator Cannon just continued the kind of representation we have enjoyed during his tenure. His record speaks for itself. His position on the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1968 Fair Housing Bill, as was his support and vote last week on the Voting Rights Act extension — was everything Blacks could have asked for and for 24 years have known they can expect from Senator Howard Cannon.

Yes, Dr. McMillan knows the difference between Senator Cannon and Congressman Santini. Their respective congressional records are there for everyone to check. Also, when he was president of the NAACP, Dr. McMillan was highly vocal in his criticism of Congressman Santini's insensitivity to the needs of Blacks and of his voting record opposing issues lobbied by the 1500 NAACP branches.

Having worked very closely with Dr. McMillan when I served as the local NAACP Chapter's executive director, I can't help chuckling when I wonder how comfortable Mac can be in bed with Santini and Harriet Truedell, both of whom he always talked about in the most derogatory manner imaginable.

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