Point of

To Be Equal

TIME FOR A NEW MARSHALL PLAN

By John E. Jacob

History records that the wisest things America did in the past 35 years were also the most humane.

The first of those was the conscious move away from segregation to guaranteeing civil rights. It took long, hard years of street marching and protests before the country moved. But when It dld - through court decision, laws and executive orders - It advanced to a new plateau of societal decen-

cy.
In the process it liberated the energies of a talented people held down by unjust laws and customs and many were able to move into the mainstream, enrich-ing the nation in the pro-

The other wise and humane move came about 35 years ago when the U.S. launched the Marshall Plan. Most Americans don't remember what that meant to war-stricken Europe. Even Europeans could stand to be

reminded.

That now-prosperous continent was hungry, without fuel and with war-damaged housing that left millions inadequately shaltered and homeless. Its industries now exporting so



John E. Jacob

heavily to the U.S. were flat on their backs.

But the U.S. stepped in and for four years shipped a tremendous amount of goods overseas to help put Europe back on its feet. Dead factories were brought to life, homeless people were sheltered, and hungry people fed by a revived agricultural system.

It was a massive undertaking. Ten percent of the federal budget was earmarked for Marshall Plan aid. In its first year, that aid took almost three percent of our gross national product - the equivalent today would be about \$100 billion!

By the end of the four years Europe was on the road to prosperity. Today the nations of west-

That shows that sometimes the best self-interest lies in helping the other guy. Ten years after the Marshall Plan ended its work successfully, Whitney Young proposed a do-mestic Marshall Plan to do for America's own poverty-ridden areas what we did for foreigners.

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ern Europe, taken together, are as prosperous as we are. Some even have higher living standards today than we do.

The Marshall Plan was no act of charity. Policymakers of the time knew then an economically dormant Europe would not be able to buy our goods and that the way to avoid a return to the pre-war Depres-sion was through pumping up their economy so that Europe could be a trading partner and American factories could be running full blast.

Had a domestic Marshall Plan been adopted then we would have escaped many of the problems that afflict us today. Instead our cities declined still further untll today parts of the U.S. are as devastated as were bombed-out parts of Europe during the war. Pockets of abandoned buildings and deserted areas in big cities are an outrage, but so too is the tragic decline of America's Industrial heartland.

Abandoned plants that once offered pro-See PLAN, Page 12



Alice Key

Welcome, Links, to "The Best City of Them All." Links, perhaps the most prestigious service organization for black women in the nation, is holding its annual national convention here at the Hilton Hotel this week.

I take great pride in the Links - in the organization's growth and the change in its focus of concerns since it was organized 35 years ago by a group of Philadelphia socialites who decided to "link themselves together into a formal organization."

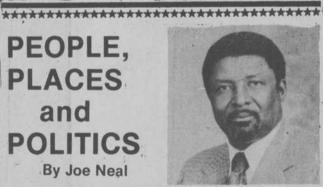
The Links official history notes that "for more than a quarter century, the organization has gathered momentum, continuously redefined its purpose, sharpened its focus and expanded program dimensions in order to make the name Links not only a chain of friendship, but also a chain of purpose.

And it is for this, essentially, that I salute the Links. I remember its beginnings, and have observed the organization's transformation from just another social group competing for status by giving the best party or making the greatest financial contribution to civil rights organizations to its present status as a multi-service organization by many chapters throughout the nation, determining the unattended needs of each locale, along with its national goals, and making its contribution to the individual communities in the context of an integrated society.

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PEOPLE, **PLACES** and **POLITICS**





The volunteer draft was instituted by the Nixon Administration in 1973, as a means of taking some of the steam out of the Vietnam War protest. But little did Nixon and others know that many white youths would refuse to join the service if they were not commanded to do so by a draft law. Many blacks did volunteer to serve in the Armed Services. It is this action which started in 1973, which is causing a problem with some of the NATO

Blacks now make up about 35 to 40 percent of the Armed Services. This increase seems to be causing this government a problem with its Euro-

pean allies, especially Germany.

Racial tension has been very high in Germany. This past week there were reports that a "Neo-Nazi" had shot two Gi's in a bar. Germany's method of handling this tension is not to teach tolerance among its people, but instead, to request the Pentagon to reduce the number of Black troops in that country.

This type of request coming at this time to the See NEAL, Page 4

A Commentary On "Entitlement" Programs

By William M. Agee Chairman and Chief Executive Officer The Bendix Corporation

There are those in our country who feel that as a nation we have arrived at our goal, equality or opportunity.

Well, I am sorry to say so, but they are wrong. Discrimination — albeit subtler than it used to be still exists.

Minorities are bound to encounter many problems and frustrations. But their interest is in building something. I would urge minorities to focus not on frustrations but on their causes. Anything else would be counter-productive to their interests and to the well-being of the society as a whole.

From my standpoint, progress is being made not as much as I would like, but progress nonetheless. There is a genuine commitment in many sectors of the corporate world to affirmative action.

At responsible, forward-looking companies, people are continuing to work very hard on affirmative action programs. Our policy at Bendix is to improve and enhance the recruitment, employment, development, and upward mobility opportunities for all employees regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, veteran status or handicap. I believe this can best be accomplished by placing the same degree of emphasis on affirmative action planning as we do on our other business activities. In short, our affirmative action program must be as aggressive, well-thought-out and results-oriented as our strategic and operating plans. We are striving to ensure the full development of our most important resource - PEOPLE.

The country's economic prospects at the moment are very, very dim.

I had been extremely hopeful that the momentum created by the election of President Reagan In 1980 would be enough to break the back of

many of our fundamental problems.

Even though the President has made some progress in reversing the cycle of overtaxing and overspending, the core problems remain.

Unfortunately, when spending cuts have been made, the axe has too often fallen on the wrong people — the poor — and on the wrong places — the cities. Domestic discretionary programs have been slashed on an average of 25 percent in the past 18 months. Cutting them has not solved our problems. Cutting them further will not solve our problems. In fact, we have already gone too far in some areas and selective restorations are badly needed.

The danger today comes from gigantic, unsustainable, and misdirected entitlement programs that threaten to bankrupt this nation. At a minimum, the result of inaction could be heightened tensions between races, classes, and genera-tions. At worst, the result could be a tacit economic guerrilla war pitting these groups against one another, or a return to economic Jim Crowism for Blacks and other minorities.

It is an expensive mistake to think that entitle-See BENDIX, Page 12

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