

Point of View



Alice Key

In an era of jet travel, fast food establishments for family dining out consumption, instant coffee, and flash news bulletins, it is little wonder that few people trouble to read newspapers. That is to be forever lamented.

What newspapers do better than any other media, aside from the obvious (in-depth reporting and providing features geared to appeal to every interest), is to reflect a focused point of view. This is the essence and character of a newspaper that differentiates one from the other, and from which stems the relative influence and power of individual newspapers.

Unquestionably, the stepchild of the media is Black press. Most Black newspapers are largely ignored by national advertisers despite the proven lucrative Black consumer market. There is also an erroneous premise often expressed that no longer is a need for Black newspapers inasmuch as the daily metropolitan press covers Black news stories and the activities of Blacks, and also, in some instances, afford Black reporters on staff.

There are two institutions which have been in the vanguard of American Blacks' struggle for equality of opportunity, freedom and justice. The Black press and the NAACP have done infinitely more toward the achievement of gains made by Blacks than any other factor, faction, or force. It is my unequivocal opinion that, without the Black press and the NAACP, there would still be full scale segregation in every aspect of American life. It bothers me to see complacent Blacks, presently enjoying the fruition of victories achieved by years of constantly battering the walls of bigotry, actually walking around smugly content that they hold the responsible, lucrative positions, or enjoy the spotlight of super-stardom that they do, because of their individual merits or talents.

Not so, self-deceived ones, all the talent and ability, even degrees, in the world were as naught in our home of the free until dogged, massive civil rebellion and legal battles that went all the way to the Supreme Court were tenaciously fought for the rights of Blacks and all minorities by the Black press and the NAACP.

There will always be a need for the NAACP and the Black press. It is to them that all present day Blacks owe their present stature, their living and, too often, even their very lives. Thank God, they are still in there pitching!

With Black newspapers the accent is on a different syllable than that of the metropolitan press. There is a constant need for the Black press to focus on issues, problems, and events on the local, national, and international scene from a different perspective. There is, regrettably, also the constant need to remind Blacks that only a few battles have been won—that the war is far from being over. There are more unemployed Blacks today than there were before the civil rights struggle of the '60's. This year (1982), there was a filibuster in the Senate against measures of protection for extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act (measures, I might add opposed by Nevada's Congressman who wants to be our Senator, but supported by Senator Howard Cannon who is clearly the best, most informed, knowledgeable, and caring representative Nevadans have). Only the Black press and the NAACP remain acutely

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE UNION STRUGGLE

By BAYARD RUSTIN

South Africa is a divided country. Through a dehumanizing and degrading system of racial



Bayard Rustin

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separatism and oppression, South Africa's white minority has sown the seeds of violence.

The unwillingness of the white South African

leadership to implement significant reforms has helped strengthen the hand of anti-democratic left-wing opposition movements. For those who are committed to the establishment of a non-racist and democratic South Africa, the growth in the left-wing radicalism is as disturbing as the parallel growth of right-wing extremism within the white Afrikaner community.

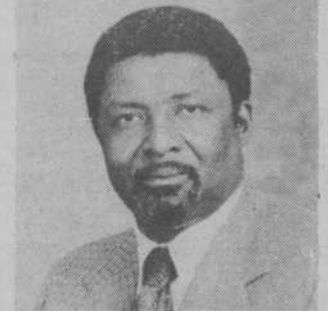
Riots and protests — a product of South Africa's denial of basic human rights and democratic freedoms to the vast majority of its

population — erupted with increasing frequency in the late seventies. Industrial unrest was on

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PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



We are beginning to hear more and more about the advantages of a "flat tax", a term which has been generated from the discussion of our progressive tax system.

Our present tax code was conceived on the notion that those who made more should pay more. This is why it is called a progressive tax. But with individuals not wanting to pay taxes at all or feeling that they were paying too much, these attitudes have been translated into political rhetoric by the politicians "to cut taxes" and as a result, many loopholes have been created in the present tax code to address these concerns.

The effect of creating the tax loopholes has allowed some wealthy people to escape paying taxes at all. Many perceive this action of not taxing the wealthy and high income individual as a deliberate act of the government and therefore, unfair to them. So the question is usually asked, "If the wealthy can get away with not paying taxes, why can't I?"

This burning question has led many to avoid the paying of their fair share of taxes, which is causing a short fall in revenue to operate the government. This short fall in revenue to the government is further enhanced by taxes not being paid on money made from illegal activity. This, added to the loopholes created for the wealthy, means

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To Be Equal

FORMULATING URBAN POLICY

By JOHN E. JACOB

The administration was mightily embarrassed a few weeks ago when a draft report on urban policy was leaked to the press. Prepared by staff members of the Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment, the leaked report drew such a storm of protest that the President himself had to publicly disassociate himself from it.

alarm anyone interested in the fate of the cities. The draft plainly stated that "the federal government cannot develop the flexible, broad range of policies and partnerships needed to rebuild and revitalize urban life."

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The protest was well-founded, for the staff proposals not only amounted to abandonment of troubled cities by their federal government, but also contained inflammatory statements calculated to

Why not? Isn't that what the federal government should in fact be doing? After all, the alternative is inflexible, narrow policies that impede urban revitalization.

The Administration has opted to cut back heavily on federal supports for urban systems, placing greater responsibilities on states. In keeping with the em-

phasis on "new federalism" and "voluntarism," the controversial draft report says:

"It will now be the



John E. Jacob

responsibility of local leadership, working closely with the private sector and the city's neighborhoods, to de-

velop a strategy for the survival and prosperity of the country's cities."

What that boils down to is: no policy at all.

It doesn't really matter that those words are drawn from a draft document never officially released and openly disavowed by the Administration, for its reflects the real attitudes of key policy-makers. It is consistent with what the Administration has said and done since it took office.

However appropriate reliance on individual effort and market mechanism may be in other sectors, they are

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