

Point of View

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Lately O'Callaghan and I have not had much to agree on. But I find myself in agreement with O'Callaghan's column on Monday concerning the arrest of persons for purchasing Food Stamps and allowing Food Stamps to be used to purchase things other than food items.

We have in the past agreed with the FBI Sting Operation to catch Nevada politicians engaging in corrupt activity mainly because this operation compels the action of an individual being stung. Also, political corruption is an activity which is not so visible to the public eye. Food Stamp trafficking is another matter. The arrests the other day were done by the use of cogent persons who went on the street with approximately \$126,000 in Food Stamps to offer the sale of such to willing buyers at bargain prices.

In these times of high unemployment, you can always find someone who would be willing to purchase Food Stamps or any other items at a bargain price. We are taught to do this. It is the reason my wife will get up early in order to be at a sale at one of the major chain stores at 7 a.m. It is not a criminal nature which leads one to select a good bargain.

Most of the individuals who were caught up in the Food Stamp sting last week were innocent persons whose only crime was trying to help someone, or who thought they were doing someone a favor. Some saw the purchase of the stamps as money being paid out for an item which could be redeemed later at a higher value.

Most of these individuals arrested were not aware that their acts were illegal.

It would seem to me after reading the Law, that
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To Be Equal CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT

By JOHN E. JACOB

It was quite a thrill to take part in the White House ceremony highlighted by President Reagan's signing the extension of the Voting Rights Act into law.

In spite of a concerted drive to weaken the measure, decent legislators of both political parties combined in a genuine bipartisan effort to get a strong bill through the Congress.

And despite months of ambiguity and public reservations about the bill's key feature, President Reagan demonstrated great wisdom and flexibility by signing the

agencies exhibiting resistance to tough enforcement, the Administration is in danger of appearing to weaken the national commitment to the constitutional protection of civil rights.

The Justice Department's opposition to



John E. Jacob

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

bill into law.

Unfortunately, one of the biggest obstacles to swift passage of the bill was the Justice Department, which should have spearheaded the fight for a strong law. With the Justice Department consistently working to undermine enforcement of other civil rights measures, and with other

school desegregation is just one example of that stance. It is incredible for the official in charge of civil rights to say, as the Assistant Attorney General was quoted: "We are not going to compel children who don't choose to have an integrated education to have one."

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THE SOVIET EMPIRE AND THE THIRD WORLD

By Bayard Rustin

For many years the Soviet Union has carefully worked to project an image of a world power opposed to racism and committed to national liberation. The USSR has aligned itself with numerous national liberation movements which maintain an anti-American stance. It has also attempted to create an impression of a state committed to providing economic assistance to struggling African and other Third World countries.

the power of the "big lie." In recent years, the true nature of Soviet attitudes toward national liberation and colonialism has become



Bayard Rustin

standing of the nature of Soviet aid. For, in point of fact, virtually all Soviet assistance to the Third World today is given in the form of military aid which is used to prop up exploitative dictatorships that seek to

ruble for the refugee relief work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The USSR's brutal military occupation of Afghanistan and its attempts to deny self-determination to the

Bayard Rustin is President Emeritus of the A. Philip Randolph Institute and one of the founders of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

hold power in the face of widespread opposition by building a repressive police state patterned on the Soviet model. The Soviets provide virtually no economic assistance to African or other Third World countries. Moreover, the USSR contributes not a single

Afghani people have further served to diminish Soviet influence in the Third World. Soviet conduct in Afghanistan likewise, has re-emphasized the true nature of the Soviet state.

Although at the United Nations the
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Alice Key

"... the United States Criminal Justice System has been used to control minorities and suppress their opposition to white racism." This was the conclusion of a report released in October, 1980 by the federally funded National Minority Advisory Council on Criminal Justice, a 15-member panel set up to provide advice to the Justice Department's LEEA (Law Enforcement Assistance Administration).

The Council conducted 33 public hearings over a 4-year period before releasing its report, which verified charges the NAACP has been making for years. The report also pointed out that although minorities make up only 35 million of the 226 million Americans, they are over-represented among officials who administer the police, the Courts, and the prisons.

The fact that minorities make up only 4 percent of the nation's law enforcement personnel, but 50 percent of its prison inmates, is viewed by NAACP executive director, Rev. Benjamin L. Hooks, as "nothing less than catastrophic to the NAACP."

The current issue of "The Crisis," official organ of the NAACP, in marking the 10th Anniversary of the NAACP Prison Program, provides an in-depth, thoughtful, and provocative insight into "the appalling inequities in the monolithic apparatus of the Criminal Justice Systems." There is an array of information, enlightening and even encouraging articles ranging from a history of the NAACP Prison Program, which author Leon Uris, Chairman of the NAACP Prison Program Advisory Council, describes as "A Case for Human Dignity," to the danger to minorities in general and to blacks in particular, inherent in the interest of the Reagan Administration in providing jails and prisons on unused military bases to state and local governments. Equally alarming, warns Leroy Mobley, director of the National NAACP Prison Program, are the "strident cries and appeals for billions of dollars for new prisons."

The Crisis also contains an ethnic breakdown of the prison population — totals and percentages — by states and regions (federal and state institutions).

An eye-opener is the article entitled "Police Response to Ethnic Harassment: The Atlantic Approach" by Lee P. Brown, former Public Safety Commissioner of Atlanta, Georgia. Also, Attorney Martha Fleetwood, director of the NAACP Police-Citizen Violence Project, in her contribution, reviews the action-oriented Project which has been working in selected communities "to develop an expertise at the local level to respond both to individual incidents of police violence and to identify the administrative changes necessary to prevent the recurrence of such incidents."

Attorney Fleetwood points out that the communities involved in the project "without waiting for a violence occurrence, are identifying the laws, policies and rules that govern local police behavior." "They are," she observed, "seeking to learn how their police departments function."

The NAACP Police-Citizen Violence Project,
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