

# NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE OUR STAND

By Roosevelt Fitzgerald

After two years of this, I'm beginning to wonder if you're getting tired of reading what I write or not.

I feel that on the subject of Las Vegas, you must surely be exhausted. I think, for the next couple of weeks or so, and even after that, on an on and off basis, I will try a different approach. I want to share with you some of my observations of America, maybe Nevada and people in gen-

eral. I don't really know what directions this might take. I'm just going to play it by ear and see what happens. Here goes.

"You can't change the world overnight. It takes time." It's a good thing that the "Founding Fathers" did not fall for that line of reasoning. Had they done so, the year 1776 would not have whatever significance it has for us today. We would not have had a "BI-

centennial" had they waited for the next generation. Independence would not have come about until the nineteenth century. A bicentennial would not occur until after the year 2000. The country would not have been in existence, probably, and therefore not in a position to purchase the Louisiana Territory in 1803. Can you imagine Independence Day being on something like August 17th or a history text not having been the father of the country nor the country's first President because he would have been too old even if he had lived to see the turn of the century. He died in 1799 at the age of 87.

So many things would have been different had they waited in 1776. Perhaps it is good that they did not. Or, just maybe, it is not so good that they went ahead. I guess it depends on whether you're permitted to be actively involved in that "great undertaking" that they got underway in

1776. If you're truly a citizen then it is a good thing. If you're still having your citizenship debased and questioned and debated then you're not. Which are you?

They were supposed to establish a democratic republic. Simultaneously, they were actively involved in slavery. Quite a dichotomy don't you think? Well, I do.

Anyway, their "holy experiment" did not and has not quite worked. We

doctor's office or just pace back and forth? Will freedom come of its own volition and knock on our doors, each in turn, and say: "Have a freedom special delivery for the Jackson family"? Do we sign a receipt, give a tip and become free? No. Freedom does not work that way.

I don't want to alarm anyone or anything like that, but just in case you missed yesterday's news — we are not free. Sure,

through four levels of consciousness and unconsciousness. Our final unconscious thought is one of happiness — happiness that the tormenting has ceased. The only problem with that is the cessation is only temporary. Within the next moment, day, week, month, year — sooner or later, it all starts over again.

We think more of our country than our country thinks of us. Our feelings should not diminish towards our country. No. Not by a long shot. What we must do is make our country's feeling toward us increase to a like level. We must make the country as responsive to our needs as we are to the needs of the country. There has not been reciprocity in the relationship between ourselves and our country.

We're rolling around to another election year. The airways are filled with commercials and paid political advertisements. Everybody is running for something. Some are even running for cover. Are they running for us? That is the question. Those "big time" offices, where the big decisions are made, are all up for grabs. People are going to be seeking our votes to get into office. They'll be springing up like wildflowers and they'll tell us what all they're going to do for us, if elected, in the future. They won't have a thing to say about what they have done for us in the past. You know the reason why, I'm sure.

How many times do they expect us to fall for that line? We vote those people into office and each time something comes up which might improve our quality of life, they vote against it or are off somewhere making speeches and money. We have to almost get down on our knees and beg for street lights, traffic lights, jobs, business opportunities and all of those other goodies which go automatically to other parts of town. They treat us like they're doing us a favor by letting us vote for them. The only thing we get from them while on our knees is either arthritis or a swift kick and a dash of humiliation.

Look at those paid political advertisements.



Professor Fitzgerald is director of ethnic studies at University of Nevada-Las Vegas

yet find that in this great we make a few bucks, run country there are still down to L.A. every now bates as to whether or and then, go out and not we, as a nation, disco from time to time should live up to the standards agreed upon over two hundred years ago.

Some of those same people are debating whether to blow up the world or not. Now I'm no fountain of knowledge or world renowned philosopher, nor am I all that good at being logical. However, even to me, there is something wrong with considering or preparing to blow the world up.

They did what they did and they did not wait. How does one wait for freedom? How long does it take? Finally they do should one respectively something which is bad, wait? What does one do something which we are while waiting for freedom? Read the back of our issues of the Saturday Evening Post like in a

we make a few bucks, run down to L.A. every now bates as to whether or and then, go out and not we, as a nation, disco from time to time should live up to the standards agreed upon over two hundred years ago.

I don't fully understand it. We have been so conditioned that we follow a certain predictable pattern. Consider this scenario. Someone does something which is not to our best interest or downright detrimental to us. Our reaction is instant and furious. They respond by doing something which is merely terrible. Our reaction is slower in coming and devoid of freedom? How long does it take? Finally they do should one respectively something which is bad, wait? What does one do something which we are while waiting for freedom? Read the back of our issues of the Saturday Evening Post like in a

The above procedure would have debased us

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## CANNON ANSWERS NCPAC CHARGES

LAS VEGAS — Sen. Howard Cannon's record during 24 years in the Senate reflects clear, unswerving opposition to pay raises for members of Congress, his campaign manager said today.

"Despite twisted interpretations of selected votes by the media, NCPAC and others with little regard for the truth, Sen. Cannon's record is clear — he does not believe members of Congress should vote for their own pay raises and has never done so," Jim Joyce said.

Joyce produced a fact sheet listing all pay raises approved for Congress since Cannon's term began in 1959. The Senator was recorded in opposition to each of them.

Joyce took particular exception to an article printed in a Las Vegas newspaper concerning a vote on pay increases in 1974. In that instance, Cannon supported a move to lessen the impact of a pay raise recommended by a federal commission that would have brought raises of 7.5% for members of Congress in 1974, 1975 and 1976. Cannon supported a measure to limit that to a 5.5% raise in 1974 only, on grounds that it was an improvement over the commission's recommendation. When the Senate later voted to disapprove the raise completely, Cannon supported the resolution of disapproval and the pay raise did not take effect.

Shifting the emphasis to dealing with individual complaints is a time-consuming process that inevitably means increased backlogs and inaction that will cause people to lose faith in their government's promises of pro-

tion worldwide. Pagama Productions, via Startrak Production Funds, Ltd., will produce a carefully researched and budgeted package, and has signed a 10-year distribution agreement with Cinaco Television of Los Angeles.

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## JACOB

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A statement like that not only defies logic, it defies the constitutional rights of all school children. It also means, despite the Constitution and an abundance of court rulings, that children who have the right to an integrated education will be denied it.

Administration spokesmen assert that the federal government is still committed to protecting individual rights. But the focus on individuals and not on groups and discriminatory systems most ultimately mean less protection for the individual.

Enforcing the law against discrimination in employment is a good example. There aren't enough lawyers in Washington to effectively monitor all job discrimination in an economy as huge as ours. So enforcement efforts focused on large employers and on key industries. Sophisticated techniques were devised to deal with systemic abuses.

The systemic approach aims at winning relief for large numbers of people affected by system-wide discriminatory practices.

Shifting the emphasis to dealing with individual complaints is a time-consuming process that inevitably means increased backlogs and inaction that will cause people to lose faith in their government's promises of pro-

tection. Instead of efficient wholesale rights protection, we're getting inefficient dime-store treatment.

Enforcement agencies have also been hit by the budget cuts. Especially when adjusted for inflation, their budgets will be sharply reduced from previous levels.

That means less staff, less data collection and analysis, and less effective rights protection, as pointed out in an important recent report by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The report condemns what it calls "this retrogressive trend" and says that as a result of budget cuts and changes in operations, enforcement agencies "have cut back on activities that more effectively prevent and resolve major civil rights violations."

The rollback in enforcement sends a message to the nation that the government is not taking its responsibility to protect constitutional rights seriously, something that can only increase the

alienation of minorities suffering from social service program cuts and the general Depression in the economy.

And it sends a message to employers too, a green light to backslide on their legal obligation to maintain equal opportunity in employment. Fortunately, that message has been ignored by most major companies where affirmative action is firmly embedded in corporate practice.

But in other areas, where compliance has been grudging and halting, prolonged government indifference to enforcement could result in serious violations of the law.

So signing the extension of the Voting Rights Act should be the first step of a new civil rights stance by the government, a stance that should include responsible enforcement of the laws of the land and the rights of minority Americans.

## BENEFIT RAFFLE FOR UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND PLANNED

Game Phi Delta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Rho Chapter, will raffle off several baskets filled with bottles of booze for the benefit of the United Negro College Fund, Sunday, July 25, 1982, 5 p.m., at PEOPLE'S CHOICE, 805 W. Owens.

Tickets will be sold at the PEOPLE'S CHOICE the day of the affair.

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