

Point of View



Alice Key

Congratulations are in order for the staff of the local national Youth Sports Program currently taking place at UNLV this summer. A NYSP evaluation team was in Las Vegas this week to evaluate the local program which merited an enviable 154 rating — a 180 rating is tops for a local program.

Participating in the summer program are 300 boys and girls who are bussed to UNLV Monday through Friday from selected bus stops at various elementary schools throughout a designated target area.

The program provides a variety of sports, recreational games, and a daily cultural enrichment session. Supervisory staff members Wayne Nunnely, Project Administrator; Donald Pittman, Activities Director; and Rene Brown, Liaison Officer, are especially grateful to Operation Life executive director Ruby Duncan who threw out the life line when the Program seemed doomed by a lack of funds to provide mandatory physical examinations for the youngsters to qualify for the Program (Budget cuts had eliminated examination costs).

Duncan, as always, when hearing the cry of the poor, responded with an immediate solution to the problem. She offered the facilities and services of the Operation Life Medical Clinic and physician at a rock-bottom fee for all 300 participants. Senator Howard Cannon picked up the part of the tab requested of him and others, informed of the situation, have committed to help defray costs of the physicals.

The National Youth Sports Program is an exceptional summer program for disadvantaged youngsters and deserves whole-hearted and unstinting community support. Conscious of the distinct possibility of further budget cuts, perhaps our community can begin now to prepare for supportive efforts towards the local NYSP '83.

Program instructors, this year, are Trimona Brandon, Patricia Bublrow, Jackie Yancey, Tim Jefferies, Tod Marrs, Barbara Rockwood and Gary Gordon.

Counselors serving with local NYSP at UNLV are Tommy Burse, Troy Brown, Shellye Warner, Sonia Lykes, Vernon Carter, Mark Brown, McArthur Butler, Jackie Brown and Walter Jones. Program nurse is Sandra Gordon.

From this corner, we salute the National Youth Sports Program staff at UNLV, one and all, for a job well done in making 300 young people happy. Our felicitations also to Ruby Duncan and the staff of Operation Life Medical Clinic for proving again that they care.

Not yet cause for alarm, but certainly a cause for grave concern is the unabashed "BIG LIE" tactics of NCPAC (National Conservative Political Action Committee).

The concept that if you tell the same lie often enough, in time everyone will begin to accept it as truth was first introduced and fiendishly demonstrated by Joseph Goebbels, Adolph Hitler's propaganda minister. Later, it was effectively used with devastating results by the late U.S. Senator, Joseph McCarthy.

NCPAC's director, in a television interview, blatantly stated they could elect Mickey Mouse utilizing their tactics — and they stand unashamed.

It is inconceivable that a candidate for public of-

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To Be Equal

REFORMING THE TAX SYSTEM

By JOHN E. JACOB

Every few months some hot new idea surfaces in Washington. This time it's the flat rate tax and it has attracted interest from liberals and conservatives alike.

The basic idea is simple: wipe out all tax loopholes and then tax all income from all sources at a flat rate. Since the tax base would be larger than it is under the present loophole-ridden system, the government could collect as much revenue with lower rates.

Like all simple ideas, this one has some ap-

The other bad thing about those loopholes is that they distort the economy, since investment decisions are not necessarily made because they are wise or productive, but because they shelter income from the tax man.



John E. Jacob

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peal. But it is a good idea to examine this piece of goods very carefully before buying it. Given the fact that the same people who helped blow holes in the present tax code so enthusiastically embrace the flat tax, we ought to be suspicious.

And a good ground for suspicion is the fact that a flat tax would replace what is — in theory, at least — a progressive tax system with higher rates for those who earn more.

That makes sense, even if a high White House aide has called the progressive income tax "immoral." But tax progressivity is a sound corrective for adjusting gross disparities in income; those in the highest brackets have the greatest stake in society and so can and should do more to support it.

But all that is theory. In practice, the affluent take advantage of a broad variety of tax shelters and tax-free investments.

Such special tax benefits, called tax expenditures, cost the government about \$250 billion a year through lost revenues from individuals and businesses.

So why not move to a flat tax? For one thing, the flat tax system would immediately become encumbered by fresh loopholes.

You can be sure that present modest tax breaks for low and moderate income people such as deductions for charitable contributions or exclusion of social security benefits would go by the boards. But old loopholes for the affluent would worm their way back into the tax code.

And the principle of progressivity is important; it should be kept in any reformed tax system. Even if all rates are reduced by ending loopholes, it is unfair to tax a \$10,000 earner at the same rate as a \$100,000 earner.

Most plans for a flat tax rate would cut tax rates for high income families and raise them for everyone else. That kind of "reform" would be disastrous.

The only way a flat tax rate system would be palatable is if it is part of an income maintenance plan that transfers funds directly to people who don't make enough to pay taxes.

In one form or another, such a "credit in-

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PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



A letter to Lamond Mills U.S. Attorney Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Mr. Mills:

The other night when you and others appeared on local TV to inform the public that your office had participated with local law enforcement agencies for a period of about three months in an undercover operation which led to the arrest of many persons allegedly "trafficking in Food Stamps," your beard could not hide the fact that you appeared to be gloating over the fact that you had participated in the arrest of so many poor people. Listening to the press conference called by you, one is led to believe that the arrest of those in the Food Stamps "Caper" were the worst criminals in the country, when, in fact, they appear to be pawns in the hands of a U.S. Attorney who has done himself proud in the eyes of some by allowing such arrests.

As I watched with amazement how proud you were as you approached the microphone at your press conference to announce the arrest of the "Food Stamps Violators" in such a gloating manner, the question did occur to me as to how a three months' investigation of this sort could lead to an immediate arrest of numerous individuals while an eight months' investigation by the F.B.I. of "political corruption" in Nevada has not led to anything.

It seems strange to me, Mr. Mills, that people who were not known to be involved in the "trafficking of Food Stamps" have now been arraigned before a federal magistrate and trial dates have been set, and those who were caught in the "YOBO" net have not appeared before the Grand Jury or had charges filed against them.

Judging from a lack of effort on your part, Mr. Mills, to push the "political corruption" cases with the same speed as the Food Stamps cases, we are led to believe that the Food Stamps "caper" is being used to take the heat off the "political corruption" cases. Can we judge by this action, that the local U.S. Attorney will always provide speedy justice for the poor, even when it means that certain "political corruption" cases have to be placed on the back burner?

I am further troubled that you, the U.S. Attorney, seem to lack any priority in handling certain cases. I am told that you, Mr. Mills, as the U.S. Attorney for Nevada, assign cases before the Grand Jury. The question is, how could the Food Stamps cases have been assigned such high priority with a Grand Jury which was, only a few weeks ago, considering "political corruption" cases? It appears that poor people become expendable when it comes to protecting the rich and powerful.

I knew, after hearing of the Food Stamps arrests, that the F.B.I. would not be involved in this, because that agency would not have allowed its manpower to be utilized in such a derogatory manner.

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