

# Point of View

## Letter To The Editor

Editor  
Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice  
1212 South Eastern  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104

Dear Editor:

Just a note to tell you how much we appreciated your media support at our recent Open House.

Our work for minority entrepreneurs, through the MBDA division of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is a task that will eventually benefit all who live in Clark County. Our goal to assist minority entrepreneurs in becoming productive and viable in the main stream of commerce, is a challenge that we proudly accept. Be assured that with your continued support we will successfully rise to the challenge.

If at any time we can be of service to you, please contact me.

Sincerely,  
William H. "Bob" Bailey  
Executive Director

Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice  
1212 S. Eastern Ave.  
Las Vegas, Nev. 89104

To the Editor:

This joyful holiday season, holy to both Christians and Jews, is perhaps an appropriate time to reflect upon our ability in this country to freely worship and practice our religion. This right, which we Americans most likely take for granted, is not so freely exercised in most parts of the world.

As Baha'is, our thoughts turn to Iran where our co-religionists are daily subject to a hostile and violent persecution. Scores have been killed, hundreds imprisoned and thousands made homeless. For the 300,000 members of the Baha'i Faith in Iran, the future is very dark.

But there are other peoples, other minorities, whose futures are equally dark and whose human rights are oppressed. Can each of us remember in our prayers the oppressed and persecuted peoples of the world? Certainly this season of light can illuminate some of the darkness of prejudice, oppression and persecution, for this is truly a time for hope and peace.

The Baha'i Community of  
North Las Vegas

## PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



These are the last days before this year becomes captivated by the euphemism of Father Time. It has been a year where my predictions of 1981 did come true.

We had started out this year with such dire predictions as, that the unemployment would reach over 10 percent and may have gone as high as 11 percent or above. We had said that some would not be able to bear the strain of being unemployed and that those who looked down upon welfare as something bad would increase the number of suicides. Many of these tragedies have come to pass and the end is not in sight.

We have a government that wishes to discard its social responsibility to the churches of the land. There are many corporations that do not see their role as extending a helping hand, even though they may be pretty responsible for the dire conditions in the first place.

It does not do me good to predict and have come true such dire consequences as we are experiencing in our lives at this juncture of our history. It is the resulting forces of a new administration which are impacting our lives for the moment. It does not take one with clairvoyant powers to know how things are going or probably will be in the future. You just have to be out of a job or know a relative or a friend who is, or you can watch the evening news and see the long lines of people waiting for food.

To make predictions is not going to change things. Nor will the evening news report, which saddens us with the increasing rise in unemployment. The people need to retain their human dignity.

For the next year let's put government and business on the spot to provide for the needy. After all, if we did not have people, we would not have business or government.

It is time that we shed as well as challenge the conservative rhetoric, which says that one cannot expect "a handout" from government. We should expect "a handout" from government if it is permitted to allow the corporations to wreak havoc with the lives of our citizens with their continued mobility of capital without considering what the movement of capital is doing to the citizens in these various communities.

In 1983, in the true spirit of the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States, which defines the purpose of government, let's make some demands upon the government. Let's say to government that if it cannot address the demands of many who are hungry and without jobs or housing, it will not for long be able to address the demands of the few who are rich and powerful. Because, in the true spirit of the Constitution, we are THE PEOPLE, too!

...dure be set in motion in time to meet Friday's deadline.

Our major concern is that something should be done very quickly to enhance the opportunities for people to become employed and to provide a better life for their families. We hope this issue does not become involved in political hogwash and cause a delay to Clark County's receipt of its fair share of the federal gasoline tax increase.

The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists or authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication.

## To Be Equal

# A HARD CHRISTMAS

By John E. Jacob

This Christmas season finds our nation and the world in a sorry state. Economic depression engulfs the globe. The threat of a nuclear holocaust just a pushbutton away creates a pall of gloom that's not removed by the President's renaming the MX missile the "Peacekeeper."

And the season of good will and brotherhood is defaced by the growing bitterness caused by the scramble to get a piece of the shrinking national pie, a bitterness that often descends to plain old meanness.

If there's a parable for this Christmas it might be in the story of the many thousands of Americans, perhaps hundreds of thousands, who have left their Depression-ridden home towns and hit the road in search of jobs in the growth areas of the nation.

From California to Florida, the new migrants find themselves cut off from family and friends, without work, without the basic survival services that would allow them to get by.

For many, stranded between long-term joblessness up north and the lack of expected job opportunities in the

Sunbelt, despair is deepened by hostility.

Sure, there are plenty who go out of their way to help, who are active



John E. Jacob

in church relief groups and other sources of aid for the destitute. But some people have forgotten the golden rule that says do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

For example, take this letter to the editor an Arizona newspaper complaining about the transients in town looking for work:

"If a stray dog is found wandering the streets, it is picked up and put to sleep. Unfortunately, we cannot put these 'human animals' to sleep but we surely should not support and encourage their way of life."

It is easy to pin the label of "sick" to anyone who holds such ugly sentiments. But those views, while not typical, are hardly rare

these days. That letter-writer demonstrates the meanness bred of fear that animates too many Americans.

And it is a mood of meanness that is encouraged by national policies that tear holes

Christmas season for it goes against the grain of what Christmas is all about. Christmas has always been a time when Americans reach out to the less fortunate and to those in need.

Meanness, selfish-

## John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

in the social safety net, that encourage racial and class divisions, that dismiss the plight of the jobless and the poor as secondary.

Such meanness has to be confronted in this

ness and hard-heartedness contradict everything Christmas stands for. Christmas celebrates life and the inner life of spiritual values and concerns. Social

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## Editorial

The Reagan administration has proposed to cut off monies from the 5¢ per gallon federal highway fund to counties within the United States that do not meet a Friday deadline to bring pollution in line with national health standards. Clark County has not previously been able to meet these standards, and county officials seem to be worried.

If Clark County does not receive its portion of the gasoline tax increase, no additional jobs for our unemployed who might be able to find work in highway construction and repair will be forthcoming.

Clark County, with its extremely high unemployment rate, must act quickly to remedy this situation in order to escape the loss of highway funds and to prevent a construction ban on new factories or additions to factories which would produce pollutants.

Clark County has an excess of ozone, particulates, and carbon monoxide.

Seemingly our county officials were given notice some time ago that they should clean up their act as regards to pollutants, and little, if anything was done about it. Now that the sanctions are upon the county the concern is how will the clean-up proce-