

Point of View

Editorial

THE BOMB SCARES

Dear Editor:

As a member of the American Muslim Mission (AMM) I am very concerned about the court case in which our money, the general funds of the AMM, were taken from the general membership and given to the heirs of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

These funds represent the hard-earned money of the honest law-abiding citizens (poor people), who donated large sums of money to the Nation of Islam (NOI), now called the American Muslim Mission. We, the members, donated freely, understanding that we were contributing to the building of an organization that was owned by all its members.

Now Judge Henry Budzinski has ruled that our general funds (i.e., charitable contributions) did not belong to the organization's general membership, but was the personal money of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

In light of this ruling, efforts are now being made to take all of our general assets and properties through the probate courts.

Now some of the former top officials of the NOI are committing perjury concerning our funds. The same officials were very instrumental in pressuring the poor members for money that these officials said was being used for the building of an organization owned by its members. These officials have sided with the courts in saying our general funds and assets belonged to one man, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

Yet, in a similar case involving the Rev. Sun Myung Moon of the Unification Church, the court ruled that that organization's money belonged to its general membership and was not the personal property of the Rev. Moon.

In Chicago when the late Cardinal John Cody allegedly misused funds belonging to the Archdiocese, the CHICAGO SUN-TIMES newspaper showed great concern in protecting the general monies of Chicago's Catholic population, charging that Cardinal Cody was using funds improperly.

Yet, neither of the above religious leaders showed the kind of concern for an organization owned by its members as did the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. So, for the courts to take our money and say it was his is a shame and a disgrace.

In talking with the Muslim attorney representing the AMM and learning of the numerous lawsuits being filed against us, I am convinced that there is a conspiracy to take our property. I am further convinced that this conspiracy is spearheaded by the FBI.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, certain FBI documents were released which stated that after the death of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the FBI would seek to destroy the Nation of Islam through the probate courts.

So, the current proceedings convince me that

During the past several weeks, our community has been bombarded by telephone calls indicating that bombs have been placed in certain buildings and have been set to go off at certain times.

Several live bombs have been found, indicating that there is one or more persons in our city bent on destruction and murder. However, due to the difficulty involved in tracing these telephone calls, the police have been severely hampered in their investigation.

Usually the caller does not ask for money in return for the calls, but seems to enjoy the helter-skelter he/she causes.

First we must consider the type of person(s) who would plant a bomb in our city. These persons are obviously mentally ill with destructive personalities. They also seem to think of themselves as heroes for having made the calls and "saved" the people. This kind of desire for heroism is the lowest form of attention-getting mechanism imaginable.

The placing of bombs in the hotels and casinos which are our major industries represent a threat to our entire economy. Not many people will continue to come to Las Vegas if they feel that they may be killed by bombs strategically placed in one or more of the casinos.

How can these dastardly deeds be stopped before our entire economy is ruined? More police added to the force cannot do it alone. The citizenry of our great city and state must join in an all-out effort to report any suspicious looking characters carrying suspicious looking packages.

Once the person or persons responsible for the bombs is found and apprehended, he/she must be punished to the limit of the law.

No one wants to see our citizenry take the law into its own hands, but each law-abiding citizen must do his or her part to see that these incidents are brought to an immediate screeching halt.

this plan is presently in operation. Considering the developments under this new leadership, any American would be against a plan which treats this community as criminal or subversive. We must protest with hopes that this plan to bankrupt the American Muslim Mission will be rejected.

Our leader, Imam W. Deen Muhammad, is working hard with the general membership to help us keep our possessions, our rightfully owned property, but he needs help. It is my sincere request as the local Imam (leader and/or teacher) of the Las Vegas AMM Center that you use your high office to aid us in our quest to prevent the courts from unjustly taking our funds and our property.

Respectfully,
Muhammad J. Abdullah
Resident Imam

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Weather forecasting has always been taken for granted. It is a service which Americans expect to receive on the morning and evening news. But if Mr. Reagan has his way, the American public would have to pay for this service.

President Reagan has proposed that the National Weather Service satellite be sold to private industry. The American people have shelled out billions of dollars to perfect this national weather system and Mr. Reagan wants to give it away to some private enterprise for a third of what the system cost the public.

If private industry is allowed to invade this area which is considered by many to be the province of government, the impact will be great. Many who depend upon the services for a variety of reasons will find that they will have to pay for it.

The farmer who has always been a prime user of the National Weather Service will find that if such a proposal as has been presented by Mr. Reagan is passed, he would have to pay for this service. These farmers are already faced with a decrease in profit because of low demand for farm products.

What about the coastal residents, who depend upon the National Weather Service to warn them of approaching hurricanes or tornadoes; would these people have to pay for this service in order to be warned? The answer is probably "yes" if such a proposal as mentioned above is carried out.

The people on the Pacific Coast in areas such as Los Angeles and San Francisco really appreciate having had the weather service for the last couple of weeks. They were able to anticipate the storms which ravaged that coastal region.

It is bad public policy to sell this weather satellite to a private concern, when it has such a national scope and means so much to the safety of the citizens of this nation.

We should never attempt to have the private nationalization of natural forces such as the weather. This should always be left in the domain of the national government.

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

DISCRIMINATING AGAINST BLACK ATHLETES

By John E. Jacob



John E. Jacob

The National Collegiate Athletic Association's recent adoption of a new rule on athletic eligibility has provoked a storm of protest, including threats of a walkout by predominantly black colleges.

Reacting to the exploitation of college athletes, the NCAA proposes stiff new academic standards to determine participation

in freshman athletics. Not only must the student have a minimum grade average in a core curriculum, but he must also achieve minimum scores on standardized college entrance exams.

Few would argue with the stipulation regarding passing grades in "real," not makeshift, easy courses. Too many col-

lege athletes have been allowed to help fill stadiums and then unceremoniously dumped without the college degree so necessary for future success.

But the imposition of artificial college entrance score test results as a condition for competing in athletics is wrong. It is against the interests of the athletes and will operate to

exclude blacks from both college education and from athletic competition.

Most blacks who take the S.A.T. score below the NCAA's minimum of 700, including the great majority attending predominantly black colleges and who go on to succeed in their studies.

Tests like the S.A.T. are just another indi-

cator of a student's possible future school performance, useless, unless considered among other, usually more accurate predictors such as classroom grades and personal commitment.

Lower black test scores are a function of inadequate lower school education and are based, with scores See JACOB, Page 14