

Point of View

Editorial

Easter, like Christmas, is, or should be a time of rejoicing. It is, for the Christian, a time to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. It is, for the Jew, a time for celebration of the Passover, a time when God promised to pass over all houses that had the blood of a lamb sprinkled on the doorpost. For one who does not subscribe to either, it is a time when spring seems to burst forth and life begins anew after a winter.

This season reminds one of life and death in that all winter clothing is put away at about this time, and spring clothing is brought out.

Many of the Las Vegas resorts are booked full for the holiday weekend. An 83.4 percent occupancy is expected.

An analysis of the average visitor to Las Vegas will usually indicate that each person will spend an average of \$120 per day while in Las Vegas. This will indeed help our economy.

Those of us who believe in the Christian meaning of Easter will stay at home, go to church, eat ham, and spend the day contemplating. The Jewish population will probably engage in those things befitting the Passover. We cannot help but wonder why so many persons will leave their homes and come to Las Vegas to try their luck at gambling. It would appear that this would be a time for family get-togethers and worship. It is a time for togetherness and a time to clean out all of those things from one's mind that would interfere with one's enjoyment of life.

No season of the year is more important than the Easter season. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. HAPPY EASTER!

To Be Equal

THE HIDDEN HEALTH EMERGENCY

By John E. Jacob

The deadly combination of high unemployment and federal cuts in social welfare programs has led to a hidden health emergency in America — hidden, because it has not received the attention it should.

While Congress is considering proposals to cut back on Washington's health subsidies and on programs that feed the poor, including pregnant women and infants, millions are left defenseless against crunching health care costs. And key statistics are turning up indications that a health crisis engulfs the poor.

Alice Rivlin, director of the Congressional Budget Office recently estimated that almost 11 million people lack health insurance because they lost their

jobs, while another 20 million aren't covered for other reasons.

Health insurance is closely tied to employ-



ment — coverage is an important fringe benefit for most workers. When a worker is laid off, as millions have been in this Depression, health insurance coverage usually ends within several weeks.

Since the great majority of those laid off are unemployed for more than five weeks,

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



One day after the calendar indicated it was the first day of spring, the dark cloud approached over the Sierra mountains from the west and dumped six inches of snow on Carson City.

Tuesday was one of those days where I found myself at the mercy of nature as the ground and everything else became covered with the whiteness of the thing we call snow. It demanded that life concentrate in places of warmth and the tulip, which opened its yellow flower in anticipation of spring, found itself withering in the unexpected winter cold. The soft white and red blossoms of the cherry trees' growth was terminated, as the snow flakes, whirling in the wind, became attached to the blossoms, delaying their spring debut for a few weeks longer.

Looking out of my window and noticing that the dark clouds, emitting flakes of snow, had masked the sunlight for the day, the thought did occur to me as to what it was like for those who lived in the Carson Valley over a hundred years ago when such snow storms did occur. What was it like for Ben Palmer, a black man who lived in Carson Valley over a hundred and thirty years ago, when he had to feed over fifteen hundred head of his cattle and horses on a day like Tuesday? What was it like for Isaac and Lorenzo Dow Barton, two brothers from Arkansas, who owned a ranch in Lincoln County between Panaro and Caliente, in the 1860's? What was it like in Virginia City on a day like Tuesday for William Bird in 1870 when he was the first black person to run for political office in the state of Nevada? What was it like for Joseph W. Tait, born in 1861, the first black baby on record in Nevada?

For the above people, it was probably cold as hell. The same for me now, and it has nothing to do with pigmentation, just the elements. The weather probably was their enemy and not prejudice, as we sometimes see today.

Life goes on in Carson City as it must have over a hundred years ago. The wheels of Commerce keep turning and others seek to make a profit out of what nature produces.

Heading for the ski slopes at the sight of the sun is the past time of many here in winter. Sliding down a mountain can be exciting, they tell me. It can also break your neck or an arm, for that matter. I'm not a fan of winter sports. When the roads are closed due to snow, the bars become the place of renewing friendships over a cup of Irish coffee or the good libation which seems to warm the body and at the same time, make you forget that the legislature is trying to pass a tougher drunk driving law.

they are not covered by health insurance any more.

Lawmakers who think the problem is not very serious because of the prevalence of two-earner families are mistaken. Less than half of all working

families are mistaken. Less than half of all working families fall into that category and only about a fourth of them have coverage that maintains a family's insurance if one wage-earner loses

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WAITING FOR THE RECOVERY

By Norman Hill

A January rise in the leading economic indicators, a decline in the world price of oil, and a lower rate of inflation resulted in a wave of euphoria among certain conservative economists and politicians. "At last, the Reagan program is taking hold," Administration spokesmen were trumpeting. "A strong recovery is on the way," they said.

Yet only weeks after the initial euphoria, Administration spokesmen have suddenly become more cautious. Martin Feldstein, the chairman of the President's Council of

The weakness of the recovery for which we are now waiting is a direct consequence of the fact that today millions fewer consumers hold jobs than when the President took office. Moreover, fewer paychecks mean that there are fewer workers who can spend their dollars. Therefore, it is not at all surprising that retail sales continue to decline.

America's labor leaders recently asserted this fact. At a recent Florida meeting of its Executive Council, the AFL-CIO called for an economic recovery program which would result in the creation of

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Economic Advisers, has asserted that the statistics for January had overstated the strength of the recovery. Paul Volcker, who, as Chairman of the Federal Reserve, has been a principle architect of the current recession, stated that there had been "a certain amount of wishful thinking in recent weeks" and that the economy confronts substantial difficulties.

Indeed, statistics from the Department of Commerce confirm this new-found pessimism. The Commerce Department's figures show a decline of nearly one percent in retail sales for the first two months of the year. Hardly the stuff from which a recovery is made.

In the past, critics of the Administration's economic program focused on its inequities: substantial tax reductions for the wealthy; meager tax savings for workers; and cutbacks in services and social spending on those most in need. However, there is another reason to be opposed to the Reaganomics program: no significant economic recovery is possible unless it is led by consumer spending.

2.7 million new federally-funded jobs. These jobs not only would train black and white youth and place them in jobs, assist displaced workers in training for new employment, rebuild the country's deteriorating system of roads and bridges, and construct and rehabilitate low-and-moderate-income housing, but the AFL-CIO jobs program would act as a catalyst in reinvigorating the entire economy.

Only through the intervention of the federal government, and through a partnership between business and labor can any expected recovery be a truly lasting one. The persistence of unemployment at rates of nine or ten percent and eighteen to twenty percent among black Americans not only is morally indefensible; it will not sustain a true and durable recovery. In the words of AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland, "Unemployment doesn't breed recovery, it breeds further unemployment."

Unless our country's leaders recognize this fact, blacks and all Americans will continue to wait for a recovery which may never come.