

Point of View

To Be Equal

We Need A Marshall Plan To Cure Massive Joblessness

By John E. Jacob

I welcome this opportunity to share some of my views about the state of the economy and the state of black and poor Americans.

These are hard times for America. A depression stalks the land. Unemployment is at an all-time high.

While we construct arsenals of war against the remote possibility of foreign aggression, our national security is threatened by the arsenals of despair built by the bitterness and

the broken hopes of millions of Americans.

While we follow the phantom of a return to a past that never was, we destroy the present and the future of our economy and its promise of jobs and freedom.

I don't believe I am overstating the seriousness of the situation. Thirty percent of our industrial capacity lies dormant. Ten million workers are jobless. Over seven million more are the hidden unem-

ployed—discouraged workers who have dropped out of the labor market and people who work part-time because they can't find full-time jobs. The numbers of the poor are expanding swiftly. Real



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income is down. The financial markets are shaky. Over 600 businesses close their doors each week. There are 38,000 non-business bankruptcy filings per month.

Just about every index of economic health shows an economically sick nation. And while that sickness has been growing for a long time, the policies we call Reaganomics have made it worse, especially for the poorest among us.

That is not a partisan statement. I see very little indication that the Democrats possess the imagination, the vision or the courage to deal with our problems. They have been a lot better at posturing over the plight of the poor than they have been about resisting policies that punish the poor. Both parties must share in the blame for our current problems.

If I dwell on the shortcomings of the administration's program, that is because it is this administration's policies that are in effect today.

It is this administration's policies that are proving inadequate to the dilemmas we face.

Holding the power means having to take the heat, and temperatures are rising

today for good reason. The thrust of the administration's program was to reduce the size and power of the Federal Government, to tilt the tax structure toward savings and investment, and to sharply increase our military capabilities.

The administration has been remarkably successful in implementing this agenda. It has accelerated the shift of programs to the states and loosened Federal oversight over those programs, often in clear violation of Congress' intent. For example, HUD recently proposed abandoning the rule that mandates cities to spend most of their community development funds on low-income families.

Taxes for business and high-income individuals have been cut sharply. The share of Federal revenues derived from corporations will be about half the 1980 levels by 1984. Defense spending will go from a fourth of the budget to a third by 1984.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the Promised Land of small government and a revived economy. The recession turned into a depression. New investments in plants declined instead of increasing. Scarce credit flowed not into job-producing ventures, but into the corporate takeover battles that have replaced pro football as the nation's top spectator sport.

And where industries have invested in the future, much of those resources have gone into the labor-saving technologies. I am sure that makes sense from the standpoint of competitiveness and productivity. But, it also signals the loss of millions of blue-collar jobs that won't be replaced.

And that will have a ripple effect, dragging

Editorial

REGISTER TO VOTE

Do you know that, according to the United State Census - Statistical Abstract, there were 46,268 Blacks in Clark County in 1981? There are probably about 50,000 Blacks in Clark County today. Of these 50,000 persons, approximately 25,000 Blacks are of voting age (18 years and older).

However, during the last election only about 11,000 of these persons elected to exercise their responsibility to vote.

This Black voter apathy may be the reason many politicians pay so little attention to the Black vote, and continue to do as they please as regards our Black population.

For many years, Black leaders have fought for the rights of all citizens to exercise their right and responsibility to vote. However in Clark County less than half of the Blacks of voting age take the time and make the effort to exercise this right and responsibility.

An effective voter education program is sorely needed in Clark County in order that this situation can be ameliorated.

There is a voter's league presently established in West Las Vegas, but reports seem to indicate that only a small portion of our Black population take the time to become aware of this service and become informed voters.

Presently several Blacks have filed for city offices. Because they live in the area, it would seem that one of our Black citizens would be better able to serve the people in the area. However, if we choose not to exercise our responsibility it is possible that a person we know very little about and who will not be particularly interested in representing us properly might be elected.

No matter how we feel about it, our elected representatives will listen to, work for, and be involved with us only to the extent that they feel that we represent the difference between their being elected or not in the next election.

the economy down still further, for robots don't buy autos. They don't buy homes and they don't drink beer. People do. And the fatal flaw in current policies is that they do not provide adequately for the nation's human needs.

when it comes to providing the work force with skills to compete in the new era of high technology, our government pleads poverty. Its policies can only give great aid and comfort to the Germans and the Japanese who

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The budget cuts have been concentrated on the poor and on the cities in which they live. There is no national policy for training the jobless or upgrading the skills of workers whose jobs are on the line. There is no policy of investment in our human resources.

We are pouring billions into bombs we don't need, tanks that break down in battle conditions and ships that can be blown up by cheap torpedoes. But

will inherit our markets.

If Reaganomics can be indicted for not working and for buying a slow-down inflation with a raging recession, it must also stand indicted for something far more serious: it has implemented its policies on the backs of the poor.

By doing so, it has violated traditional American concepts of fairness and compassion. It has sown

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What Happened to Reaganomics?

By Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr.
Chairman, Republican National Committee

An old *New Yorker* cartoon shows a mother passing a plate to her son, explaining that it's broccoli. "I say it's spinach," says the petulant youngster, "and I say to Hell with it!" Among politicians, economists and journalists, fortunately there's no such disagreement on economic recovery. America is clearly on the mend, and hardly anyone says otherwise.

Throughout the first three months of this year, the economy has grown at a steady 4 percent—a trend that many economists believe will continue throughout the year. Many predict 5 percent growth for 1984.

Those growth percentages are more than abstract numbers. What growth really means is a better life for all of us. Inflation, which hit a high of 13.2 percent, is now below 3.9 percent. Interest rates have been cut in half—from a high of 21.5 percent to 10.5 percent. The payments on an average federally-guaranteed home mortgage (\$50,000) today cost about \$2,400 a year less than the same mortgage of two years ago. That means more people can afford new homes and more people can afford new cars. Multiplied across 230 million Americans, that means jobs, and as you'd expect, the unemployment rate is falling.

Remember what people used to say about Reaganomics? That at best it was some sort of Republican superstition, and at worst some clever way to sock it to the

poor? Those critics are quiet for good reason. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, every time mortgage interest rates fall by one half of a percent, 800,000 more families can buy new homes. The 11 percent drop in interest rates means lots of new houses are on the way, and the steady increase in housing starts proves it.

In America's jobs market, General Motors, Chrysler and Whirlpool have all recalled thousands of previously laid-off workers. According to the Automotive Information Council, for every auto worker hired, related industries hire two people.

To be sure, what is an economic victory for America is a political victory for President Reagan, but it's really more than that. The victory of Reaganomics, which came about thanks to a strong-willed President who stuck to his guns against massive opposition, has shifted the political debate in America for years to come.

In the area of medicine, we don't hear much about the Salk vaccine because everybody is medically protected from polio, the vaccine works, and polio is largely a thing of the past. If you stop hearing the word "Reaganomics," it's probably for the same reasons—the cure works, everybody's doing it, and what was once considered by some to be an odd-ball theory is now established fact.