

Point of View

Editorial

"High Technology" seems to be the order of the day. The Nevada State Legislature, presently in its last days of this session, seem to be pouring heavy funding into any program that even hints of "high technology". The United States government is trying to get into the act.

There is no question in anyone's mind concerning the necessity for diversification of industry in Nevada. For too long we have depended almost entirely on the gaming industry for the major portion of the state's revenue. However, we believe that "high technology" is only one industry that might help diversify the Nevada economy. There are other industries that might lend themselves to the furthering of the Nevada economic climate. For example, comparatively very little farming is done in Nevada. The dry, desert climate and the vast areas of level and semi-level land could be easily converted to farmland if the United States would release its hold on the land it possesses within the state.

It would appear that with the low tax base more factories could be lured into our great state. The list could grow as one considers the vast empty areas of Nevada.

It is possible that the Nevada Economic Development Commission is overlooking some great possibilities in its intense pursuit to bring "high technology" industry to Nevada? Is it possible that our politicians have been duped by powers unknown into thinking that "high technology" industries are the only industries that can possibly help the economy?

It seems that our university system leaders have set their sights in one direction without stopping to look at ways that they may provide leadership in other areas.

Maybe the powers-that-be should look at other avenues for industrial diversification in addition to focusing entirely on "high technology" industries.

To Be Equal

WE STILL NEED A JOBS BILL

By John E. Jacob

The President has signed into law a new jobs bill. We still need a national job creation bill.

If that sounds contradictory, it is not. That's because the bill passed by Congress and signed by the President isn't really a jobs bill. It simply does not deserve that label.

I'm glad it passed. It certainly is an improvement over the lack of action in job creation and public works. And it does have some significant provisions that can be expanded upon. Most important is the inclusion of some limited public service job opportunities.

But the bulk of the \$4.6 billion will be for public works, so most of the bill's jobs will be in

construction and skilled trades. Public service jobs on the other hand, can be created almost overnight. They carry lower wage tags and demand lesser skills so



John E. Jacob

they can be more easily targeted to the hardest to employ, the people whose chances of finding a decent private sector job are slim.

The so-called jobs bill is supposed to create in

the neighborhood of 400,000 new jobs, but many think that is highly optimistic. Already estimates are being scaled down to 300,000 and they may sink lower before too long.

So passage of the jobs bill should be seen

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

as just a beginning, not as the conclusion to job creation efforts. It meets neither short-term job creation and public works needs, nor long-term planning for a changed economy. We still need a jobs bill.

It would be wrong to simply accept high unemployment as a permanent feature of the American economic landscape. And despite

all the talk about how the economy is improving and unemployment is trending down, the problem of joblessness will be with us.

Even if the economy takes off, unemployment will not come down suf-

ficiently. Many oldline industries will never again employ as many people as they did just a few years ago. Those jobs will be taken over by robots and other automated production machines.

And I have yet to see any suggestions that an economic boom will be accompanied by full black participation in the
See JACOB, Page 15

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Government Affairs Committee:

I appear before you today in an appeal for the passage of S.B. 266. S.B. 266 is a bill which would disallow investment of state money in banks and other organizations doing business with the South African Government.

You may ask the question, why should the State of Nevada be concerned with investment of its monies with the Government of South Africa? For those who are morally concerned with the human rights of others and have an understanding of how the South African Government operates, the answer is simple. Our state monies should not go to any government to enable it to maintain a system which rejects individuals based solely on the color of their skin. Our money should not go to any government which uses violence to maintain a system of apartheid, a system which would be illegal under our constitution. It should be morally wrong as well as legally wrong to give financial support to a government which does not extend a hand of welcome to all the citizens of this country, meaning of course, that the 30 million Blacks of this country would not be welcome in the Republic of South Africa.

We have found in our own country that we can no longer afford the luxury of having the country

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

This is to express our thanks and appreciation to Westside community Development Commission painting and landscaping crews for clean-up and painting our properties during the recent Clark County Clean-up Campaign.

The workers were all energetic, courteous, and dedicated.

When their work was completed, our homes looked like brand new. We are all Senior Citizens, on fixed income and there was no way we could have payed for these services.

We were also very happy to receive our Certificate of Achievement for having cleaned up our properties by the Westside Community Development Commission.

We think the Westside Community Development Commission is doing a tremendous job in helping the needy Senior Citizens in Clark County, and we hope this program continues for a long time.

Mrs. Genieve Valmore
Mrs. Jeanette Carr
Mrs. Cook

divided along racial lines. We have learned that a divided Black Society is costly when it requires a dual citizenship of its inhabitants.

The 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments of our constitution have long recognized the futility of such efforts and thereby provided the means for peaceful challenge against further institution of such a system divided along racial lines. This is not the case with the South African Constitution. Their constitution mandates the policy of apartheid. It has set in motion the use of violence to maintain such a policy; a policy which requires arrest of dissidents without trial and the systematic killing of those they can not control.

Just a few short weeks ago this legislature was reminded of Holocaust. It was a recognition, in my judgment, that this cruel loss of life under a system which required the extinction of a people, should never happen again. It is happening again, and this state is a contributor.

It is estimated that between 60 and 80 million dollars are invested by this state with companies which have direct investment in South Africa, by our retirement system. The CPA firm of Deloitte, Haskins, and Sells, which handles the state's retirement system, has an office in South Africa.

There are those who would tell you that to divest our funds from firms doing business in South Africa would hurt the retirement system. This argument seems to hinge on the fact that we can only invest with companies doing business with South Africa. This is not true! There can be responsible investments with firms who don't invest in South Africa. Smith/Barney makes their money the old-fashioned way; they earn it outside of South Africa, and Shearson/American Express, I am told, will rearrange portfolios as not to invest in South Africa. The problem is that the Nevada retirement system has not asked the question as to whether or not this can be done. If the Retirement System chose to ask the question, it would find that there can be a more responsible investment other than with companies or banks doing business with the South African Government. Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Michigan, all have made the decision to divest their funds from business investments in South Africa, and there are 24 bills such as this one pending in other states.

Some members of this committee may have received a package from the South African Consulate in Beverly Hills, California, in an attempt to make a case that divestment would hurt the Black workers by causing unemployment. "I guess the

See NEAL, Page 15

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.