

Point of View

Editorial

THE LAS VEGAS STRIKE SITUATION

It is not the intent of this newspaper to take sides in the dispute between labor and management in the casino industry or in the grocery store concerns. It is only an attempt to analyze the economic repercussions that are taking place in our already depressed economy.

At this time hundreds of grocery store and casino workers are without an adequate income to meet their monthly and/or weekly expenses. The taxes realized from their not being able to meet these expenses will mean a further shortfall in the amount of monies received by the state of Nevada. If the state does not receive these monies, more people will be out of work. Thus the possibility of a quick economic recovery within our state will be hampered.

Each week that the strike continues, many union workers who would normally visit the Las Vegas area will refuse to come to have fun. They will not cross picket lines. Thus, a loss of more revenue to our city, county, and state. This will create more problems for our casino-dependent economy, and may well serve as a springboard for other nearby states to develop their own casino industry with further losses to our great state.

We think that both sides should get together as soon as possible to work out their differences in order that further economic problems can be prevented.

To Be Equal

RACE AND POLITICS

By John E. Jacob

Harold Washington's election as mayor of Chicago was a stunning victory, bringing an exhilarating feeling of pride and power to black people. It also says a lot about the volatile mixture of race and politics in this America of 1983.

As the designated candidate of the Democratic Party and the winner of its primary, Washington should have won easily; the Democratic nomination has meant landslide victory on Election Day for the past fifty years.

Yet the election was a close one, with most whites defecting to the

Republican candidate. Apologists can offer lots of reasons but none of them hold water. If Washington had been white he would have had the general election locked up on Primary

large a majority of white voters could not bring themselves to vote for a black candidate of their own party. Some didn't even know the name of the candidate they did vote for, telling reporters

The most ridiculous explanation of this phenomenon that I have heard is that there's



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Day.

There is no getting around the fact that race was the only real issue in the campaign. And that resulted in one of the ugliest election campaigns in memory, even for Chicago, a city where politics is almost a blood sport.

It is tragic that so

they intended to "vote for the white guy."

Even more deeply tragic was the way their racist poison infected even small children. I saw schoolkids interviewed by television reporters saying they were for Washington's opponent "because he's white."

nothing wrong with voting for a white candidate since blacks were almost unanimous in their support for Washington.

But there's a big difference. When blacks vote for a black candidate it is a positive act of pride; a positive step toward affirming their group's inclusion in the decision-making that affects their lives. We saw a very similar effect back in 1960 when Irish Americans turned out to vote for John F. Kennedy for the same reasons of pride and at last getting one of their own into the power structure.

But when whites vote against a black candidate because of his race, it is a negative act; a refusal to acknowledge black competence and the black right to share power.

Chicago's blacks were the mainstay of the Party machine. Year after year they faithfully turned out to vote for their Party's candidate, although they never shared equally in the rewards of office. Was it so unreasonable that blacks should now expect white Democrats to vote for the Party's black candidate just this one time?

Obviously, merely voting against a black does not denote racism. There are all sorts of reasons to vote against a

THE ADVANTAGES OF A BLACK PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

This is the first of two parts of an article written by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, National President of Operation Push, on the need for a black presidential candidate in 1984.

By The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson

The fundamental relationship between blacks and the Democratic Party must be renegotiated. Blacks and the Democratic Party must either reaffirm a covenant as in their mutual best interest or blacks must find new ways to determine their destiny. One indication of current black dissatisfaction is that all across the nation grassroots and top black political, church, business and community leaders are discussing the proposition of making the institutional -- as distinguished from merely a personal -- political move of running a black presidential candidate in the 1984 Democratic primary.

In part, this is in response to the Democratic Party taking the black vote for granted and the Republican Party writing it off. For Democrats, race is increasingly becoming a litmus test and the cen-

tral threat to the viability of the Party. Black Democrats have won primaries in South Carolina, North Carolina, Mississippi, California and Chicago, yet significant numbers of white Democratic leaders and voters are choosing to support white Republicans over black Democrats. If black people and their leaders support Democrats without regard to race, but others cannot reciprocate, then the character and viability of the Party must be called into question.

With regard to a black presidential candidacy, there are five critical questions to be considered. Why run? What would such a candidacy require? What would be the advantages? What are the arguments against such a candidacy? Who would be the candidate?

Why run? Blacks have their backs against the wall and are increasingly

distressed by the erosion of past gains and the rapidly deteriorating conditions within black and poor communities. As black leaders have attempted to remedy these problems through the Democratic Party -- to which black voters have been the most loyal and disciplined group -- too often they have been ignored or treated with disrespect. Mounting a serious presidential candidacy is one way of insisting that black leaders play significant roles and help to shape policy and program for the Party.

Secondly, given the coalitions that are possible, a black candidate could win the nomination and be elected. Currently, none of the announced or anticipated candidates is exciting to the black community, and Democrats need more than an anti-Reagan program to stimulate massive interest and broad-based participation. None of the current candidates is moving in ways that would bring about this kind of involvement, create a needed coalition and, thus,

provide the gains we need. In 1980, about 81 million Americans voted, but nearly 75 million "went fishing", as only 54 percent of the eligible electorate were inspired enough or felt the op-



Rev. Jesse Jackson

tions were viable enough even to participate. A black candidacy could use an 18 million eligible black voter base to put together a "Coalition of the rejected" (the real silent majority), including appealing to six million Hispanics, women, more than 500,000 Native Americans, 20 to 40 million poor whites, and an appeal to the moral decency and enlightened economic self-interest of millions

of rejected white moderates, liberals and others. It must be remembered that Hispanics, like blacks before 1965, were denied the right to vote because of poll taxes, property taxes, literacy tests and language barriers; and since 1965, again like blacks, they have been victimized by the new forms of denial -- gerrymandering, annexation, at-large elections and unenforced sections of the Voting Rights Act.

Thirdly, a black should run because many of the political issues that concern blacks and other unrepresented and rejected people have been determined by the current and major candidates to be unpolitical to discuss. In fact, the strategy advocated by Hamilton Jordan and Bert Lance is for Democratic candidates to minimize the concerns of blacks, Hispanics, women and peace activists and give highest priority to recruiting the

See JACKSON, Page 5

See JACOB, Page 15

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