

Point of View

Editorial

The bell has been sounded and the full results are tabulated for the General election. In the eyes of many it was a death knell. The black community has been served a terrible setback. Dr. William U. Pearson was nipped in the Las Vegas Commission race against Bob Nolen by only 117 votes. The figures reveal a sad commentary.

The cry in the black community is for opportunities to serve in State, County and City governments as well as playing important roles in all civic affairs. There are many who fully qualify and have the desire to share their abilities to make this a better way of life. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1983 history will show that we lost a very capable and able leader. The black community had every opportunity to keep Dr. Pearson in office.

LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS. Dr. William U. Pearson, 63, a dentist, became the first black in the 77-year-history of Las Vegas to serve on the Las Vegas City Commission. Last year he was appointed by members of the Commission to fill the post vacated by Roy Woofter who chose to become the City Attorney for North Las Vegas. Pearson proved to be a hard, dedicated worker and was praised by his fellow commissioners. Before the election, the message was clear. Tuesday night, following the election, the results were very disappointing.

The fight for this great opportunity was waged in Ward 3 where there are approximately 2,700 black registered voters. The votes tabulated showed Nolen receiving 2,097 votes while Pearson captured only 1,980 votes. The black votes alone could have propelled Pearson into the Commission seat.

The message is very clear. Ward 3 and the black community has been delivered a terrible loss.

COMPLACENCY AND PROCRASTINATION will get us nowhere. It will be a long long time before we get another opportunity to place another able black leader to serve on the Las Vegas City Commission.

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

THE HUNGER PROBLEM

by John E. Jacob

It's about time the issue of hunger - here and abroad - moved to the front and center stage of national debate.

Food policy is in chaos while hunger is mounting at home and famine threatens dozens of millions of people abroad.

The argument in Washington centers on the Administration's desire to impose further deep cuts in food and nutrition programs and Congress' resistance to making those cuts.

But where are the

voices demanding a comprehensive food policy that ensures an adequate diet for all?

Over forty million Americans exist below or a little above the artificial line we call the poverty level. Virtually all of them need some form of assistance to enable access to balanced diets.

Food stamps have proven an effective method of enabling the poor to avoid hunger, but only about half of those in need qualify for the stamps. And policymakers want to force some of them off

the rolls instead of expanding eligibility requirements to allow more people in need to get aid.

The irony here is that stockpiles of surplus food are bulging to the point where the government is giving it away to farmers to sell in lieu of growing still more food crops.

The existence of food stamps helped to largely end malnutrition, according to Field Foundation studies - one made in 1967 showing the existence of widespread undernourishment among the poor and

357 Magnum Not NAACP Arsenal Words Are the Weapons

The 1983 Legislative Session is now history and everyone who participated is now at home. But coming home for me meant facing other problems, which had been generated in my absence.

We had an election of new leadership in the local branch of the NAACP while I was away and a new group of individuals came to power, or should I say, were elected to head the branch. The talk that I have heard since being back has indicated that sometimes the election process does not tell us all about how an individual may carry out his charge of office.

It is for the above reason that the founders of the NAACP decreed in early 1900 that Nevada and other states would have only branches and would not be allowed to be independent organizations. They had the foresight to discern what could happen to a local branch of the NAACP.

The founders of the NAACP were very much aware that just because one became the chief elected official of a branch, that did not make him king. It is for this reason that they required in their constitution that each branch check with the national office before it engages in any precipitous action.

The founders of the NAACP set the course that it would be the NAACP's method to fight with words either across the negotiating table or in a Court of Law and it is not its method to display a willingness to settle a dispute with a 357 Magnum. The founders knew that this was not a proper course to take, because when the fire arms makers made the 357 Magnum, they did not stop making them. In fact, I'm told that this may be the standard weapon for the Metropolitan Police Department. Nevertheless, this is not the image we need presented to our children as a means of terminating a dispute or starting one.

If we are going to be successful in fighting racial discrimination in the future, we must have leaders who understand that racial discrimination is no longer shouted from the roof tops. It comes in forms that are subtle and in many cases, where one must prove the "element of intent." This proof requirement is good to know in case you have to go to court. Corporate America understands this and will fight you all the way to the Supreme Court. We

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



must understand that we are no longer fighting Bilbo, Maddox, J.B. Stoner or George Wallace, who stood in the school house door to block the entry of Blacks.

Corporate America is much younger now. Most of these corporate giants have had some type of integrated experience. In other words, they are not afraid of Black people, not even those who want to threaten them with a boycott. Corporate America's sophistication in handling cases of discrimination has risen in the past ten years. Therefore, many of the strategies of the sixties are no longer relevant for the hard times of the eighties.

The eighties demand new strategies in heightening the progress of Black people. Such strategies should include a new effort in coalition politics, such as we have seen in Chicago and Philadelphia. It is a strategy which means seeking the controls of government, an instrument which can be used to create a better society for all. With the increasing number of whites showing a willingness to vote Blacks into major offices, it is an obtainable goal.

It is the leader who can articulate these concerns of a better society, who will have the greater success in the eighties. Those so-called leaders who are elected heads of prestigious organizations and who may suffer from a megamania complex and lack the skills to articulate the concerns of Black people and society as a whole, become a threat to the progress and development of Blacks and society in general. Unless our leaders can see a vision of an America to be, they will in essence become a retarding influence upon the goals and aspirations of the very people they seek to represent.

It is not a good strategy to tell Corporate America that the wolves are going to be put upon it, unless it responds to your request, and in the same breath, ask it for a donation. It is not the donations that Black Americans need. Black America needs to have a responsible place in Corporate America, where the development of skills in the ways of Corporate America can be enhanced for the betterment of society.

The dogmas of the sixties are not the solutions to Black progress in the eighties. The demands are much greater in the eighties. We are in a different world than the turbulent period of the sixties, when many of us witnessed by television the assassination of an American President and his brother and one of our great Black leaders, Dr. Martin Luther King. Our minds were focused inward on the problems of this country in the sixties. But, in the eighties, there is a more global aspect to our problems. That is to say, that in order to understand what is happening in the United States, we must have a global view of the world, a world which speaks in terms of Hi-Tech, computer enhancement of television, MX, Cruise Missiles, Noutron Bombs and yes, last, but not least, peaceful coexistence. All this makes it difficult at times to identify the "castle guards."

My friend Donald Clark said to me once that "in order to get to the king in the castle, you must know where the castle guards are. It is the castle guards who will keep the king in the castle."

Before going gunning for the king, check out the castle guards. They may be able to help you or they may harm you. It will depend upon your approach to the castle.



John E. Jacob

another ten years later showing that food stamps helped change the situation.

A study today would undoubtedly find a sharp rise in hunger, since the numbers of poor have risen, the numbers getting food stamps and nutrition assistance have been cut, and the income available to the poor and near-poor has been reduced by cuts in a wide array of federal social service programs.

As if domestic hunger were not bad enough, See JACOB, Page 4