

# Point of View

## Editorial

A recent press report has disclosed that many homeowners are being foreclosed today because of the lagging economy, and are being overcharged by the foreclosure companies who split their high profits with lending institutions.

Several San Francisco homeowners are among those who have been overcharged, and are now suing for damages.

We have not heard of any behavior of this sort in the Las Vegas area. However, we must keep ever on the alert for those unscrupulous human beings who represent themselves as agents for an institution which is trying to foreclose on our homes.

If such should happen to any of our readers, we suggest that a lawyer be called immediately, and the agent told that all transactions must be handled through your attorney.

Many money-hungry companies, and even some fairly reputable lending institutions may become involved in a scheme to split profits by overcharging.

If in doubt about any business proposition from a stranger, don't. See a lawyer first.

## A BLACK PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY?

by Bayard Rustin



questions might appear to be yes. Yet a closer examination of the issue provides a more complicated and less clear-cut picture.

Clearly, a black Presidential candidate would be in a position to raise issues of concern to black Americans. Yet a candidate who entered the Democratic primaries on the basis of a black candidacy and black agenda would deal a substantial setback to black community interests. The issues of greatest concern to black Americans, after all, are not exclusively black issues. The issues of jobs, unemployment, plant closings, education, crime, and poverty are part of the national agenda; they are problems which concern all Americans and must be posed in the broadest possible manner if we are to elect a candidate sensitive to the needs of blacks and all working people. A candidate who runs for President on a black platform, therefore, runs the risk of making such issues appear linked to more narrow special interests.

Clearly, a black Presidential candidacy  
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Recent weeks have seen the emergence of a spirited discussion about a possible black candidate in the Democratic presidential race. Clearly, no black or civil rights leader would have reason to quarrel with the entry of a qualified black politician into the Presidential sweepstakes. After all, wouldn't the entry of a popular black candidate raise certain issues of vital concern to the black agenda? Would not a black Presidential candidate serve to galvanize black electoral involvement in the electoral process? Wouldn't a black candidacy increase the number of black delegates to the Democratic Party Convention?

At first glance, the answer to all these

A few Saturdays ago, I appeared at the Ministerial Alliance meeting. I was told during this meeting that the black community did not have a bank. Of course, this was something that many of us knew from the very fact that we lived in the black community. Knowing that the black community did not have a bank, this remark struck me as being odd in some way, a way that was not discernible at the time it was made.

As the days passed, the remark of the black community not having a bank continued to be a recurring thought in my mind and therefore, became a target of my examination. There are two areas of concern which bothered me about that statement. First is, that a bank has a general parallel to that of a tax investment area in that each supposedly takes the monetary resources from an area and redirects it back into the area for the benefit of the people. Secondly, a bank requires a certain amount of capitalization in order to get it started.

As to similarities of a bank to a tax investment area, the Ministerial Alliance has had some difficulty in understanding what all this really means and that a bank as another means of housing the community financial resources increases the difficulty in understanding its mode of operation. This is especially true, now that the banks are becoming more technical in their operation.

Capitalization of a bank for any community requires a great deal of trust in combination with people who have the money to purchase stock in such. We have not exemplified the kind of trust in one another which could foster the creation of the kind of financial institution which the Ministerial Alliance suggests that they would like to have. This trust is needed before any financial arrangement such as the creation of a bank can be instituted.

The churches are an excellent starting point for the creation of a bank for this area. The churches have demonstrated that they are builders as well as handlers of money. Many dollars flow through the church coffers on Sunday mornings. It would seem that what is needed is a central place in the com-

## To Be Equal

# FOCUS ON THE SCHOOLS

by John E. Jacob

There has been a blizzard of recent reports sounding the alarm about our schools' failure to educate our students for the more complex world of the future.

The National Commission on Excellence in Education weighed in first with a report warning that "the educational foundations of our society are presently being eroded by a rising tide of mediocrity that threatens our very future as a nation and as a people."

It recommended longer school hours, a longer school year, more homework, upgraded

curriculum and tighter standards, among other reforms.

Hard on the heels of that report came several others, each making the same basic points - that the quality of American education is declining to the point where it threatens our economic competitiveness in the world.

Those reports were signed by the leading lights of the Establishment - business leaders, governors, educators. The blue-ribbon backing for school reform sent a clear signal that a broad section of America's leadership wants a major, national effort to improve education.

## PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



munity to deposit this money. Such a depository for church funds is a call for unity, which I believe would be a difficult task to achieve at best. But, does it have to be? I think not.

What is needed to create a bank in the West Las Vegas area is a commitment on the part of the Ministerial Alliance. They could become the core church organization which could pool their funds to get such an institution as a bank started.

How can they do this? First, we can take a look at what we already have in the community. We have two credit unions. Secondly, if we do not want to put up the hard money for the capitalization of a bank, we can proceed by merging the two credit unions into one viable financial community resource.

Sarah Allen and the Westside Credit Unions have something to offer the community. The Sarah Allen Credit Union has a geographical base which is not limited by organizational membership and it has a paid staff which does function on a daily basis. The Westside Credit Union has a long standing tradition and it has a better financial base. With the merger of the Sarah Allen geographical area and the Westside financial base, a viable financial entity within the black community becomes a reality. This is what we all would like to see.

Admittedly, in order to accomplish this, some of the old hands may have to be retired. But it is something worth trying and it has vast potentials for our community.



John E. Jacob

in the months ahead for passage of tuition tax credits, vouchers, educational savings accounts, voluntary school prayer and abolishing the Department of Education."

That's some agenda! Every single item in it would drive another stake into the heart of public education.

Tuition tax credits and vouchers can only encourage a move away from public schools, the savings accounts can only give tax breaks to

That clearly implies increased federal leadership. Not that anyone wants local schools run by Washington. But sharply increased federal funding and national goals seem to be the minimum necessary for a truly national effort to improve all our schools.

Unfortunately, the Administration's response was to welcome the reports but to stick to its intention to further cut the federal government's role.

The President said: "We'll continue to work

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