

Point of View

Editorial

IS DOOLITTLE DOING TOO LITTLE?

Doolittle Community Center, a million dollar plus facility located in the approximate center of the West Las Vegas community, purports to offer a complete recreation and community center program for adults and children of all ages.

A glance at the calendar of events for the summer of 1983 reveals that the center offers little or no programs for the intellectual and/or cultural advancement of the West Las Vegas community. Class activities listed include only such things as a table tennis tournament, a pool shooting tournament, various basketball activities, and a drama presentation.

Our question is: Why are no tutoring classes, music classes, and/or cooking classes listed for those members of the community who are not necessarily athletically inclined? Tutoring classes are needed to help our Black students continue to upgrade their skills in math, reading, writing, and general language usage in order to be able to keep up when school opens this fall.

The center staff would do the community a great service if it were allowed to provide facilities and manpower for the establishment of such activities.

This is not meant to imply that the physical development of our young citizens is not important, but to bring to the attention of our readers that the program should be expanded to include much more than is now being offered. Not every Black person can profit from the vigorous physical activities presently offered by the center, while each of us may profit from such activities as tutoring, music, cooking, computer science, etc. Neither is this meant to imply that the director, Clyde Dawson, is not doing his job, but to bring to the attention of Dawson and the other employees of the City Recreation Department center that it is not being used to the advantage of the entire community.

Perhaps even at this late date, a tutoring program could be established making use of volunteers until such time as funds could be secured for paid workers. This could help our Black students keep up in their studies when school begins in less than two months. This may be worth a try.

Is Doolittle doing too little? The answer to this question must come from our readers.

Any questions about the program at the Doolittle Community Center should be directed to Clyde Dawson, 1900 W. Lake Mead and "J" Street. The phone number is 386-6374. We are sure he would appreciate your views.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Tomorrow is the day that the tough Drunk Driving Law takes effect. We are already hearing words of anticipation from the courts and lawyers alike as to the difficulty of enforcing this law.

A B-167 grew out of the emotional concerns of many who had killed or witnessed the killing or maiming of a close friend or relative by a drunk driver. The law as passed will take effect in an air of vengeance, something which should never be the mode of law making.

The DUI Law would make first time offenders subject to two days in jail or two days in community service. This is the option which a judge would be allowed to impose. Also, if the offender of the DUI Law is sentenced, he or she would have to wear "distinctive garb" identifying the person or persons as DUI offenders.

The first time offenders would also be subject to a \$200 to \$1000 fine, to 6 months in jail, a 90 day suspension of his or her Drivers License and mandatory attendance at an alcohol or drug instruction course for which the cost must be borne by the offenders.

The bill also requires an administrative revocation by the police of the offender's license if he fails to pass the blood alcohol test. There is a provision in the law for the issuance of a temporary license if revocation should occur.

On the other hand, if a person fails to submit to a breath test, his or her license must be "seized" by the officer. The officer is obligated to arrest the person and take him to a place where a reasonably evidencing test can be made.

To be considered legally drunk under this Drunk Driving Law, one must have at least 0.10 alcohol content in his blood stream. This usually means for the average sized person approximately six beers or six ounces of 86 proof whiskey.

If you should happen to have a second or third offense within a seven year period, you can expect to get sentenced to not less than 10 days nor more than 6 months and a fine of \$500 to \$1,000, or not less than one year in the state prison nor more than 6 years and fined not less than \$2,000 nor more than \$5,000.

A B-167 has many problems which in my judgement are unconstitutional. But until such is declared by a court of law to be so, we must abide by the law.

To Be Equal

THE WAR AGAINST AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

by John E. Jacob

When the President fired half the members of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, he replaced them with people strongly opposed to affirmative action programs. Because that

being seen as another indication that the campaign against affirmative action is moving into high gear.

The Assistant Attorney General, William Bradford Ryenolds, recently made a highly publicized speech again

unleashed a firestone of protest, and for good reason. The Administration's position is untenable. Refusing to



John E. Jacob

follow group remedies for group-based discrimination amounts to perpetuating

discriminatory effects.

Individual blacks are not discriminated against because of their individual attributes, but because of their group status as blacks.

This has been recognized in countless court decisions requiring that institutions remedy past discrimination by future hiring and promotion goals that increase black representation.

Sure, individuals who suffer discrimination should have personal redress where possible. But some of those cases take so long to wend

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issue is so important to minority progress, the Commission's ability to act as the nation's civil rights conscience may be compromised.

Whatever the politics of the appointments process, the firings are

attacking affirmative action as "morally wrong." He said group remedies for discrimination will be opposed, and that the Administration supports "racial neutrality and colorblindness."

The speech

BLACKS AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

by Norman Hill

Of late the nation's news media have been reporting a steady burst of what would appear to be good economic news. Almost daily we read reports of gains in industrial production, better-than-expected sales, new housing starts, and the like.

Yet a closer examination of the 1983 "recovery" leads to far more gloomy and

pessimistic conclusions. The rebound in industrial activity has not yet made up even half the losses suffered during the long recession. Moreover, housing construction slipped 8.4 percent in April, after an 8.8 percent decline in March. Already, some economists are suggesting that the recovery may begin to run out of steam by the end of the summer, particularly if huge federal

deficits lead to higher interest rates. In any case, the consensus of most experts is that this economic upturn will leave us with a national unemployment rate of some 9 percent, with 18 percent unemployment for black Americans. This disturbing news has led AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland to speak of an entire "lost generation" of young people who will be locked out of meaningful

employment in the years ahead.

Such a grim future for blacks and other workers has raised anew the question of government's proper role in the economy. As a consequence of the Administration's failed economic policies, there has emerged within the Democratic Party and the labor movement a discussion of a rational approach to government intervention aimed at

stimulating economic growth and making our nation's industries more competitive worldwide. This discussion revolves around what is referred to as "industrial policy." Industrial policy is a strategy of cooperation between government, business, and labor which seeks actively to

promote selected growth sectors of the economy and to ease society's adjustment to structural changes in the economy. Such proponents of an industrial policy as Robert Reich, Lester Thurow, Barry Bluestone, and Felix Rohatyn argue that

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