

Point of View

Editorial

Last week Mrs. Mary Futrell, a Black, was elected to the presidency of the largest educational association in the world, the National Educational Association.

Blacks are proving over and over again that they are capable of leading large organizations and/or governmental entities. We have seen Black mayors elected in Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit, Cleveland, and several other major cities.

Present indications are that a Black man, William H. Murphy Jr., has an excellent chance of being elected mayor of Baltimore. His election is partially dependent upon the registration and voting of some 30,000 unregistered new Black voters.

Will Las Vegas ever have a Black mayor? It's possible. However, our Black citizens will have to face their civic responsibility and register and vote.

Our Black leaders will have to find a way to bring about a quality of cohesiveness that will put a stop to that political maneuvering: Voter fragmentation.

These two accomplishments, voter registration and cohesiveness, will cause the Black voters to be taken more seriously by all politicians and may result in a finer quality of services for our Black taxpayers.

Yes, Las Vegas may someday have a Black mayor. As we progress in our attempts to work together, and as we strive to develop less voter fragmentation, we may see more positive political activity among our Black citizens.

JOE NEAL ANSWERS

REV. ALLEN

We frequently hear the name NAACP. Many of us seem to have forgotten the meaning of these letters. The letters mean the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The action word is 'advancement'. If one cannot advance the lives of colored people, one should not seek to or be the head of this organization.

The word 'retrogression' seems to have replaced the word 'advancement' in the name of the NAACP with the present head of the local organization. I am forced to arrive at the conclusion that the Rev. James Allen, who is presently the President of the local chapter of the NAACP, seems not to have the wherewithal to properly manage the offices of the Branch or to provide the leadership to make real the word 'advancement' in the NAACP.

Rev. Allen's idea of leadership is not to harness the joint efforts of the members of the local branch of the NAACP, but to dictate the direction he wants us to go. Maybe such could be the case with an Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran, but in this community we would like to have some say in the direction we would like for our Branch to take us. Whatever the Rev. Allen had in mind for the Branch, he should have consulted with the membership to allow them to give input. This was not done and his efforts are being challenged by some strong individuals of the Branch.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



The individuals who are opposed to Rev. Allen's method of handling the Branch business, have written to the National Office requesting his removal.

Even though the membership of the Branch has legal authority under the National Constitution of the NAACP to seek removal of any member of the Branch including the President, when it feels he has violated his charge of office, the Rev. Allen's method of addressing himself to the members' action was to accuse them of selling out the community, among other things.

This writer was not one of those persons who petitioned the National Office for the removal of the Reverend, but some how, became the brunt of the charge of being one among others, who was selling the "souls" of the Black community. Rev. Allen's exact quote was, "If this community don't move Joe Neal and Lonie Chaney and stop Bennett, this community will forever be sold for the prices of a dollar and every soul in this community are being sold by these people." Realizing that such a statement is subject to a law suit for libel on my behalf, it is doubtful whether the Rev. Allen has enough to be sued for. What could one get in a suit, a green late model automobile lowered in the back, with tinted windows, two antennas and a coon tail hanging from the rear view mirror?

I am not at all surprised by the slanderous remarks of the Rev. Allen, because Allen's attitude seems to be emanating from an immature mind, which does not recognize slanderous statements when made. We usually expect persons who are mature in mind to be responsible for their actions.

I recently obtained a copy of the local NAACP letterhead. On the letterhead were listed six white gentlemen as the Board. Two names were im- See NEAL, Page 5

helps defeat more comprehensive and realistic efforts to hire youth.

So a carefully monitored, limited pilot program designed to determine the effect of the minimum wage on youth employment is in order. Instead of broad changes in the minimum wage law, a targeted experiment that answers some of the important unanswered questions makes a lot more sense.



John E. Jacob

Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice has moved its offices to a new location at 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas,

To Be Equal

A SUB-MINIMUM WAGE FOR YOUTH?

by John E. Jacob

Yet another study has been published, concluding that the reason for high black youth unemployment is lack of available jobs.

The Manpower Development Research Corporation guaranteed jobs for 76,000 disadvantaged youngsters on condition they stay in school. The program was most successful among blacks, who joined the program, stayed on the job longer and stayed in school more consistently than whites.

That suggests subsidized jobs, linking work and school, and government involvement are key to solving the crushing level of black youth unemployment.

But many think the answer lies in cutting the minimum wage for teenagers. That's always been the panacea for those with a blind faith in the workings of the free market.

In fact, a subminimum wage has long been in existence—the law clearly allows some employers including the most likely to hire inexperienced young people, such as small retail establishments, to pay below the minimum wage.

Despite this, black youth unemployment is at record levels.

Opponents of a youth sub-minimum have always based their position on, among other reasons, the fear that employers would "fire the father to hire the son."

Those fears are realistic, since the bulk of workers employed at or below (often illegally) the minimum, are adults. Unemployment would simply be moved along to older age groups, especially the vulnerable 21-24 year-olds, whose unemployment rates are second only to teenage unemployment rates.

It's also important to identify what teenagers one is talking about. Most who work at the minimum wage are white youngsters living in higher income families, while most of the adults likely to be displaced are black adults living in low income

families.

Advocates of the subminimum should also note that time and inflation have already done their job for them. The minimum wage in 1967 was \$1.40 per hour. In 1983 the minimum wage, in 1967 dollars, is only \$1.29.

So in real terms, the minimum is lower than it's been in sixteen years, yet there hasn't been any rush by employers to stock up on low-wage workers.

I find it troubling that the advocates of a youth subminimum claim so much with so little evidence. Estimates of the number of youth jobs that might be created vary so wildly they really amount to guesses. And the side effects are also unknown. How many adult jobs would be lost? What would be the impact on black communities most vulnerable to labor market changes?

Nor does the subminimum address the basic question of the lack of available jobs at any wage.

And it is silent on the issue of employer discrimination, despite considerable evidence that indicates many potential employers are locked into stereotyped attitudes toward young blacks and would not hire them at any wage.

Despite all this uncertainty, Congress is con-

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sidering cutting the minimum wage for teenagers during the summer months. The intention is to encourage private sector job creation, but it would be a mistake to rush into a change in laws protecting wages and jobs for all workers.

However, it may be time for an experimental program that finally lays the issue of a subminimum to rest. The issue itself has become a barrier to solutions to the problem of youth unemployment, since the debate over the minimum wage

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