

Point of View

Editorial

The Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce is rapidly coming of age.

There have been a few years of growing pains, trial and error, and a long hard period of rallying a dependable group of able, interested, qualified leaders to formulate and organize the Chamber. Patience and desire prevailed. Now the community and the State have a viable, well-organized entity which is able to provide the leadership and guidance generally structured for such organizations.

We have seen them at work. They are dedicated and sincere. In their infancy, they are leaving no stone unturned.

An excellent example of their successes was the breakfast meeting held last Friday morning at Love's Cocktail Lounge with Luther Mack, a recent Governor Bryan appointee to the Economic Development Commission, and a successful Northern Nevada businessman who owns three MacDonald franchises. Mack was introduced to the

economic development arm of the Chamber headed by Assemblyman Lonie Chaney and ably assisted by the chamber's president Sarann Knight Preddy, Clark County Commissioner Woodrow Wilson, Chamber vice president James Toler, Rev. Sam Roberson, John Edmond, Ruby Amie, Elmo Smith, Dorothy Love and the Chamber's executive secretary Gwen Coleman.

There was an air of full cooperation, an eagerness to learn and a concerted effort to develop a close rapport with Luther Mack. There existed an excellent exchange of ideas and a warmth and closeness which generated a better field of understanding of each function. There was full participation and this was considered by many to be one of the best meetings held to date.

The Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce is coming of age. Watch them grow. They are strongly making a mark and are taking their place next to the giants. They are now being heard.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



"How the time flies" is a phrase we hear most often when time passes without notice. My daily perusal of the office calender has made me acutely aware that the day when this article goes on the street will be my birthday.

Looking at the date July 28, 1983 makes me reminisce about where the time has gone since my age matched the date on the calender. Yes, it has been a long time!

When one reaches my age and the status of a senior citizen seems much closer than the young man you once knew, there is a tendency to look back across the fields one has travelled to recollect the memories of a fleeting youth which seems to grow in distance by the passing years. My thoughts would not be of what I could have done in the last forty-eight, but to be grateful that there were the forty-eight.

It has been a long time in reaching this point in my life - just two years from the half century mark. It is not that I have any fears of reaching such a mark. It is the next half century which bothers me. It is a distance on the age track where there are not too many who complete the run.

The thoughts of how long one will live does enter one's mind when the aging process of life lifts him into the view of becoming a senior citizen. We try to fight off these thoughts. But it is the process of life that one should think such. After all, life itself is a terminal disease.

It will not be mine to try and look young by wearing the Jerry Curfs, or place this old body under the constraints of tight pants trying to present a figure which is pleasing to the ladies. It will not be mine to take the early morning runs, as some of my neighbors do, in an attempt to out-distance the advancing years. I will accept life's process with patience and not pretend that I am able to do things I used to do.

My Brothers at the Elks Lodge No. 1508 on Owens Street will give me a party. I am not sure what all this means. I know we have many brothers in the Lodge who have surpassed me in the forty-eight category. It is almost as if they are saying "if we can see you making birthdays, it is evidence that we are still here." To my other friends, if you have the time, stop by the Elks' so that we all can appreciate what growing old looks like.

I must warn my readers at this point not to let my lamenting about old age fool you. Yes, I am approaching the big forty-eight, but I am not giving up on life. There are many parts of this old body which are subject to a lot of entertaining. I am not ready to run down to the corner drug store to purchase the youth drug Gerovitol H-3 to enhance my defenses of a turgid state against the flaccidness of old age. Do you get my drift?

Ironically, as the study's conclusions hit the press, Labor Department officials were considering new revised regulations that would loosen affirmative action requirements. In light of the facts, new rules weakening affirmative action should be scrapped and enforcement of existing rules should be toughened.

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

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION WORKS

by John E. Jacob

Affirmative action is one of the most controversial issues in America, thanks in part to the Administration's unrelenting attacks on it. But a new study commissioned by the Administration itself documents the unassailable fact that affirmative action works -

Instead, the results show that affirmative action is an indispensable tool in bringing minorities and women into the mainstream, something that anyone with a bit of common sense could have figured out for themselves.

But it's good to have documentation. The study looked at hiring

Between 1974 and 1980 minority employment grew by over 20 percent at firms with federal contracts and subject to affirmative action regulations, but only 12 percent at companies

firms.

Those numbers are significant, but they are even more important when we consider that total employment at companies with federal contracts grew by only three percent during the period covered by the study. That was almost a third of the increase in total employment in firms not covered by the affirmative action requirement.

The sum up -- companies covered by federal regulations on affirmative action had a smaller total work force growth but hired significantly more minorities and women, had more minority and women managers and a smaller proportion of minorities in lower paying jobs than companies not covered by those rules.

Affirmative action works. Its goal is to eliminate the discrimination that keeps minorities and women from equal employment opportunities. That goal cannot be met by reliance on anti-discrimination laws and on the good will of employers. Even where employers want to do right they need the helping hand of firm action programs with hiring goals and deadlines.



John E. Jacob

that did not have such contracts and were subject only to the standard anti-discrimination laws.

Women fared even better. Their employment grew by 15 percent at companies with affirmative action programs and only two percent at other companies.

Job and status upgrading were dramatic. Companies with affirmative action programs increased their black officials and managers by 96 percent, double the rate for other companies. The ranks of women managers grew by 73 percent in the affirmative action companies; again, double the increase in the other

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

It is a powerful force for creating equal opportunity for blacks and women.

The study was initiated in 1981 by the Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance, a unit of the Labor Department.

Federal affirmative action regulations have been in effect since 1961 when President Kennedy required such programs of federal contractors. But there had been no solid studies of the results of such programs.

I suspect the officials who commissioned the study expected it to show that those programs are not very effective in expanding opportunities for minorities, since the standard conservative line has been that they don't work.

practices in over 77,000 businesses with more than 20 million employees. It compared minority and female employment in companies that were federal contractors with companies that were free from mandatory affirmative action programs.

Those federal standards required written affirmative action plans and numerical guidelines for expanding the minority workforce. They are not, however, as though as they are made out to be. The agency monitoring compliance has been consistently underfunded.

But the existence of regulations, an enforcement agency, and the threat of losing federal contracts for noncompliance led to minority job gains among federal contractors.