

Point of View

To Be Equal

DECISIVE YEAR COMING UP

By John E. Jacob

Ever since George Orwell titled his bleak novel of a totalitarian future "1984," the coming of that year has been charged with special meaning.

The new year is not going to fulfill such

public policy and national choices.

Election years seem to be fairly good ones, since incumbent Administrations want a flourishing economy and at least the appearance that they are dealing constructively with na-

and targeted federal spending, that, taken together, create more jobs.

But the big question in the 1984 elections is



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what policies the nation will follow in 1985 and

beyond. If, as expected, the slow economic recovery turns into a real rebound from recession in 1984, the structural dislocations that have thrown millions out of jobs or rendered them unemployable, will remain.

So the election will have to turn on philosophical differences between the major candidates and their specific plans for the future, and less on the day-to-day economic statistics.

The black vote will be a

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John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

drastic visions of the future, but it will be decisive in a number of ways.

First, 1984 is a presidential election year, with all that implies for

tional problems.

This year should be no different. We can expect

an easing of overall economic policies, such as lower interest rates

Editorial

Sunday, January 15, is the birthdate of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Black leader of the non-violent movement in the United States during the 1960s.

Although Dr. King was slain by an assassin's bullet almost 16 years ago, he is still remembered as a man of God, a moral and spiritual leader, an organizer, a mover of mountains, an eloquent speaker, a man of many abilities, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, and for many other noble traits. He is remembered by young and old as one who loved and gave of himself for his fellowmen.

The Congress of the United States, during the last session, memorialized him by passing a bill making his birthday a national holiday beginning in 1985. This bill was signed into law almost immediately by President Reagan. On the day the bill was signed into law, our Black population considered the law as a most important milestone in our nation's history, for never before had any Black person, and for that matter, very few Whites, been so honored.

Blacks, sensitive Whites, Hispanics, Orientals, Indians, and several other ethnic groups are joining together all over the United States and in some foreign countries this Sunday to celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of this great man.

Las Vegas will not be left out in this celebration. Several events have been scheduled around the city, particularly in the Westside and North Las Vegas communities.

One television station, KVVU, Channel 5, an independent station will show a review of Dr. King's life. A noble gesture, except that this extremely important two-hour feature will be shown at 1 a.m. on Sunday morning. The viewing audience is sure to be very sparse.

Many Blacks are wondering why the station chose to show these excerpts from the life of this celebrated man at an hour when most people will be asleep. We think a more appropriate hour would be before 10 p.m. even if it were shown on Sunday night.

Perhaps if we, as Blacks and concerned others, would write or call the station and express our displeasure for them showing the picture at this inappropriate time, the management at the station might decide to change the time to a more acceptable

Letter To Editor

January 9, 1984

Governor Richard Bryan
State Mail Room Complex
Las Vegas, Nevada 89158

Dear Governor Bryan:

Due to the feeling and the planning of main events for the future of the State of Nevada, the 14th day of January is the Honorable Dr. Martin L. King's birthday. Half day Friday the 13th would be the ideal thing to do for such an affair with the state in such an economic depression.

This would make more revenue for the State of Nevada and it would take away the image of the Last Mississippi of the West from our beautiful State of Nevada. I refuse to work Friday the 13th; I am going fishing.

Sincerely,
Ollie Jones
Ret. A.F. D.A.V.
Volunteer Consumer Affairs Div.

hour next January. Our request is that the management be apprised of the fact that we, as Blacks, believe that our children and young people would benefit greatly by viewing this picture at a time that they would be wide awake to enjoy and appreciate seeing the life and works of this very important former United States citizen.

The State of Nevada will not have any official observance of Dr. King's birthday. Many states, cities, municipalities, churches, organizations and individuals across the land have set aside this day of observance. Here in Nevada, Governor Richard Bryan had an opportunity to use one of his two optional days of notable observances to recognize the work of the Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He chose to have this State remain impassive on that date. We consider his decision to be one of insensitivity and done without regard to the desires of the populace.

May we all remember and cherish the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



Whether he wins or loses, Jesse Jackson needs our support.

Jackson's entry into the presidential nomination has brought new thoughts to an arena which has been reserved for those who had shown themselves unwilling to tackle the hard issues of today's world.

This past weekend Jackson started his campaign for the democratic nomination in New Hampshire. His articulation on the subject of acid rain was one which had not been heard in the state of New Hampshire. He placed the fight of solving the acid rain problem in the same category which has been reserved for the conservatives in their fight against Communism.

Jackson's campaign is one which allows us to revisit our priorities and forces us to set new ones. You cannot tell a person, who is without a place to sleep at night or in a soup line for his one meal per day, that what is going on in El Salvador or Lebanon will keep him free in America because the system of democracy will be in tact. How can we expect this person to hear this proposition and appreciate it? Democracy has less meaning to those who find themselves in dire circumstances.

The old cliché about democracy is being stretched with Jackson's presence in the race. In Jackson's judgement, democracy does not mean the few who have already made it, but the many who have not. It is among this group that the true meaning of democracy will be found.

You cannot yell of the greatness of the country and then not use that greatness to lift the down-trodden from the wells of despair. You cannot yell of the greatness of industry and yet allow those industries to thrive without social responsibility. What is the purpose of industrial progress, if not for humanity? If it be for humanity, then humanity must not be threatened by the plants in our communities of this land which bring this progress.

Government has a role in Jackson's campaign for the democratic nomination.

Jackson's view is that government becomes a partner to citizens as an instrument of protection and change. So with Jackson, acid rain becomes a concern that requires government involvement. On the other hand, some democratic contenders see any move to curtail acid rain in the East as the loss of jobs in an already floundering economy. That the long-term environmental effects should not outweigh the short term gains of a job, seems to be the position of some of the democratic contenders.

The hard-hitting campaign of Jesse Jackson is unhampered by the win-lose syndrome that sometimes forces a candidate to choose words which are suitable to the audience he is addressing. This is not the case with Jackson. Whatever Jackson says, you can count on it that he believes it.

I think it is fitting that Jesse Jackson is amassing his greatest support for a run at the democratic nomination a few days before we celebrate the birthday of another famous black leader, Martin Luther King, Jr.

RUN, JESSE, RUN!