

Point of View

To Be Equal

AIDING THE THIRD WORLD

By John E. Jacob

American strategy toward the Third World is in need of repair. Over the past several years we've drifted into an adversary stance toward the world's poorer and darker peoples, with serious long-range consequences for America's well-being.

Perhaps the overriding fault of current pol-

Russian rivals in pressing for ideological conformity and by opting out of cooperative world economic development efforts.

For example, the budget deficit was used as an excuse for the U.S. to cut its expected contribution to the International Development Association, the interest-free lending arm of the World

Bank. That means poor nations will have less resources available for development projects that could make them self-sufficient and better trading partners of our industries. One result of this will be an increase in the amount of suffering in the world, and especially in areas where deprivation is common on a scale unimaginable even to poor Americans.

Another result will be to further damage American industry and workers, since much of IDA's aid comes back to



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point that aid isn't a giveaway to foreign countries; it comes back in new markets and new orders that result in new jobs. The World Bank says that the U.S. investment of \$1.2 billion over the past 39 years led to a total of \$7.5 billion in World Bank-derived contracts for U.S. firms.

Apart from the lack of interest in supporting IDA's assistance to the world's poorest nations, there is a troubling new trend toward pulling out of international agencies charge with the mission of alleviating world poverty and aiding economic and cultural development.

While the Administration may have a case for pulling out of UNESCO, at least temporarily, it is disturbing to find it considering withdrawal from the International Fund for Agricultural Development, an agency that aids small farmers and landless workers in the poorest countries. The argument for the pullout is familiar — the U.S. budget deficit. But the agency is small and the funds would barely impact on our budget.

This is all in the context of rising levels of world hunger and starvation levels that are incredible. Africa, for example, is beset by

drought that spread devastation through 36 nations. Even in a year in which rainfall patterns and harvests are normal, malnutrition and hunger are common.

With drought and ruined crops, the toll will be far higher. Experts say that some 150 million Africans are chronically hungry, and the United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization — another agency we're said to be considering withdrawing from — says 22 nations may face famine on the level of the drought-induced famine of the 1970s.

The Administration warns that the current drought could claim an additional five million lives, and it is proposing to triple U.S. food aid to Africa. That's a commendable first step, although still far short of the amount estimated to prevent mass starvation.

But alongside humanitarian considerations, there should be an awareness of the importance of providing aid and development know-how to the poorer nations. Many of them are strategically located and whatever their apparent ideology, they are strongly nationalistic. An American that is seen as a friend helping to develop their feeble economies will be an America that wins allies.

And the economic fate of the U.S. and the industrialized West depends in large measure on the ability of those countries to develop to the point where they provide markets for our goods. To buy the products made by U.S. workers, they'll have to make products of their own to sell us — and that won't happen if they remain impoverished, hungry and permanently underdeveloped.

The world is growing smaller and more interdependent, and our foreign policy must better reflect that reality.

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



I was asked a couple of months ago what I thought about Governor Bryan's handling of the Renee Hamen-Guild matter. My answer was "wait and see how it comes out." My bet is now, as then, that Richard Bryan will emerge victoriously in this affair.

We have never had a governor of this state who was as tasteful in dealing with people as Richard Bryan and displays such artfulness in the discipline of political science. This governor knows and understands the intricacies of politics. And he has the uncanny ability of knowing his source of opposition before his opponent knows that he is going to be opposing him on an issue.

Governor Bryan started out with what seems to many as a simple request of Renee Hamen-Guild that she resign because she had a conflict of interest which made her "inefficient" in carrying out her duties as a Public Service Commissioner. Hamen-Guild's refusal to heed the Governor's request for her resignation is well-documented.

The fact that the Governor had asked for Hamen-Guild's resignation brought on much speculation by the press and many others as to why the Governor would appoint such a person, knowing that she had a conflict of interest. The Governor's answer to all of this was that he made a mistake. You cannot argue with someone who admits that he made a mistake.

Many fail to recognize, including the Lt. Governor, Bob Cashell, and the State Attorney General, Bryan McKay, that after Governor Bryan admitted he had made a mistake, he was no longer hampered by the act of appointing Hamen-Guild to the Public Service Commission. The Governor was free to take the necessary steps to remove Hamen-Guild from her post.

From the comments which have been made by Lt. Governor Bob Cashell and State Attorney Brian McKay, one is lead to believe that only the infallible should run and be elected governor. It is a proposition which, surely, would make the above two gentlemen unworthy of being governor.

I would much rather deal with a man who can recognize his fallibility than with one who tends to think that such does not exist. Bryan is an honest man and he goes that extra step to be fair. It is such a person that we need and have as governor. Sometimes the Governor's cautiousness in making a fair decision is interpreted by his distractors as hesitation or lack of ability to make the hard decision. Those who would arrive at such a conclusion have not studied the man and don't know him as well as some of us. Bryan will do his job. He will manage the Hamen-Guild affair and it will be done according to the rules available to him as governor. This is the Governor Bryan we know.

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John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

icies is the way issues involving Third World nations are reduced to elements of superpower confrontation. Whether it is Central American revolutions or African economic development, the tendency has been to force those issues into the iron grid of superpower rivalry.

In the process, we're losing the ability to influence events and to preserve the democratic image that is our strongest selling point to the Third World. In fact, some critics say we are becoming more like our

Editorial

During this week, we have celebrated St. Valentine's Day, a day when we seek ways of expressing our feelings to our loved ones.

Many of us expressed our feelings through cards, flowers, candies, telephone calls or in other ways. All of these ways are noble and great. But we must ask ourselves if any of us were willing to express our feeling to those outside of our immediate family of loved ones.

The list of some valuable St. Valentine Day's, or any day's activities for that matter, could read something like this: call someone who is lonely and say, "I'm thinking of you"; run some errands for an elderly neighbor; visit someone in a nursing home or a prison; say a prayer for someone who is depressed or in need; donate some blood; quit smoking; listen to your teenager; tell your parents that you think they are great; forgive an enemy; hug a child, listen to a bore.

St. Valentine's Day, a day for lovers, must extend far beyond February 14. If we are to survive on this earth much longer, love for our family and for our fellowman must become the order of the day.

Recent events on the world scene — the bombings of Lebanon, the death of the Russian leader, and the political crises in South America — have served to point up the need for love for our fellowman. Unless we all learn to express love every day of our lives, our world may be deprived of many useful entities even within our lifetime.