

Point of View

Editorial

Las Vegas is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the United States. In fact, the area is growing so fast that the city and county governments are hard pressed to keep up with the growth. Schools and other public institutions are becoming so crowded that something must be done very quickly to alleviate this over-crowding.

The Black community is also growing. More people are moving to Las Vegas, more families are being started, and more churches are being built.

However, we are not seeing the improvements being made in the Black community that would enable the community to keep pace with this growth. To be sure, there are small businesses cropping up in our community, but what about improvements in the public transportation system? The lighting system in some areas of our community is very poor, the streets are decaying at a very rapid rate. Yet our city fathers seem to look the other way when mention is made of needed improvements in the community. There seems to be a tendency to forget about our community until just before election time when our votes become very desirable.

In order to assure some attention to our community during the coming years, we feel that it would be wise for the community to get behind at least one candidate each for the city and county governmental seats that will be up for grabs this year. If too many candidates are fielded, the Black vote will be split and the chances of our electing a person to a position in government will be lessened.

There are several extremely qualified Blacks in our community. Let's get behind some of them and elect them to a position of power within the city and county governments.

However, we cannot vote our convictions unless we REGISTER TO VOTE and then VOTE.

To Be Equal

THE DEATH PENALTY SHOULD BE KILLED

By John E. Jacob

Death seems to be coming back into style—official, state-ordered executions. For a long time, thanks to the Supreme Court ruling, there was an unofficial moratorium on the death penalty.

But now, the pace of executions is increasing. The Supreme Court ruled that courts don't have to make special reviews of a death sentence to assure that it is proportional to sentences given others convicted of similar crimes in the state. And many Congressmen are supporting measures to increase the number of federal crimes carrying the death penalty.

That's all wrong. From a moral as well as a social standpoint, the state has no business killing any of

its citizens for any reason. The death penalty is a return to primitive vengeance and a rejection of civilized morality.

Part of the problem today is that the Supreme Court never went as far as it should have back in 1972 when it invalidated state death penalty laws then in existence.

Had it simply found what many believe to be

As a result, there are almost 1,300 people on Death Rows all across the country. And if anyone suggests that, having killed other human beings, they too deserve to meet the same fate, then they also ought to admit that at least some of those 1,300 are innocent of the crime for which they were sentenced.

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

true — that the death penalty is unconstitutionally "cruel and unusual punishment" — then states would now be out of the business of killing. Instead, most simply rewrote their laws to meet the Court's narrow objections.

The law of averages suggests that 1,300 juries and judges can't be right 100 percent of the time. Mistakes happen. But with the death penalty, mistakes can never be repaired.

Plenty of instances of miscarriages of justice

have been publicized in recent years. Two men were pardoned after someone else confessed to the crimes for which they were almost executed — and their repleves occurred due to



John E. Jacob

accidents. In one case a man survived hanging because the rope's knot slipped; in the other a technicality caused a delay in the execution.

Letter To Editor

Dear Editor:

The Reagan Administration was elected by only 26 percent of the eligible voters in the entire country. There are more than enough unregistered black voters to elect any candidate in the federal elections. The unregistered black voters, along with the registered black voters constitute a plurality that could elect any candidate.

The Reagan Administration, in defying the Supreme Court, is granting segregated private schools tax exemptions. This means that some of your tax money is supporting segregation. There are over 3,500 racially segregated schools that receive these tax deductions.

Here are some interesting facts developing around our dilemma:

—Black unemployment of adult males exceeds 18 percent — about 1 out of 5 is unemployed.

—Black unemployment of youths is estimated to be at 50 percent or 1 out of 2.

—The official policy of the Reagan (current) Administration is to DENY that poverty exists among blacks and other minorities. Most conscious social agencies disagree.

—Since the federal government can pay farmers NOT to grow food, why can't the government pay for a comprehensive job program?

—In Reagan's State of the Union message, there was no mention of Civil Rights.

—The Reagan Administration is taking away the economic gains made during the 1960's and 1970's, by halting Affirmative Action programs for blacks.

—Because of the lack of jobs, more blacks are joining the military and the Reagan Administration's posture will cause more deaths in Central America.

James Edmond Williams

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



March 13, 1984 will be the evening that delegates are going to the Democratic County Convention. These precinct meetings, as they are called, are the initial process in this state of electing to the National Democratic Convention, who will nominate the Democratic contender for the Presidency in San Francisco later this year. So if you want to help Jesse Jackson or any other candidate, you must be involved at the precinct level.

At the precinct meetings you will be electing a person to chair the meeting and a secretary to record the minutes.

The person who has the information about delegate selection is supposed to be your precinct captain. But if you have not heard of the person as precinct captain, more likely than not this is a person who has been assigned by the Party to bring the credentials to the meeting. He or she has no authority at the precinct meeting.

After you have organized the precinct meeting by electing a chairman and a secretary, you can proceed to elect delegates to the County Convention. You have the option of declaring yourself as a supporter of Jesse Jackson, Gary Hart, Walter Mondale, John Glenn or undecided.

The number of delegates to the County Convention are part of the package sent from the Party office. If the Party did not send the number of delegates to be elected, elect everyone in attendance, write the Party a letter to that effect, and everybody show up at the County Convention. Besides electing the number of delegates assigned to your precinct, you can also designate the persons you want nominated to the State Convention from your precinct.

Any rules, resolutions or laws you want enacted should be presented at the precinct level.

I hope to see you at the County Convention.

Occasional miscarriages of justice should be enough to invalidate such an extreme penalty, but there is considerable evidence that a general pattern of injustice applies to the death penalty.

Racial differentiations are an inescapable part of the use of the death penalty. In a society in which racism still is embedded in the minds and hearts of too many people, the death sentence reflects gross racial disparities.

A recent study of the imposition of the death sentence indicates that race is a strong factor.

The pattern in the eight states studied showed that murderers of white victims receive the death sentence more often than murderers of blacks.

In Georgia, for example, the study found in 773 cases involving the murder of whites, the death penalty was imposed 67 times, or 8.7 percent. But in the 1,345 murders of blacks, the death penalty was imposed only 12 times — less than one percent.

Few people are prepared to publicly defend

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