

# Point of View

## To Be Equal

# BLACK COMMUNITY ACTS ON FAMILY ISSUES

By John E. Jacob

At a major conference sponsored jointly by the National Urban League and the NAACP, major national black organizations came together to discuss what the black community can do to help strengthen the black family.

All agreed that the problems facing black families in part stem from the inequities in our society that discriminate against black parity in jobs, in housing, in health care, in education, and in a host of other key areas affecting family life.

But at the same time, it is important to strengthen individual self-discipline and community values. That suggests too, a greater emphasis

on male responsibility and the importance of the male role in family relationships.

While concentrating on the wrongs of discrimination and poverty, it is also important to do what we can about the family's problems our-



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selves. Government and private sector action is necessary, as are the services and the concern black organizations can provide.

About a fourth of all black births occur to a teenaged mother, and four-fifths of those occur outside marriage. That results in a disproportionate rate of female-headed households and one-earner families are more likely to be poor.

The birth of a baby often means the end of schooling for adolescent mothers. Forty percent of black female

a high school diploma. So it is not surprising that the majority of adolescent mothers are poor; the median income of households headed by young black women is under \$4,000.

But the shockingly high incidence of poverty among children is not simply caused by the growth in female-headed households. Those families are poor

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school dropouts leave school because of pregnancy. That's about 45,000 young women per year, or more than the number of black women who graduate from college each year.

About half of those young mothers never get

not because they are headed by women but because jobs and training opportunities for disadvantaged single mothers barely exist.

Racial discrimination is an important factor, too. Over two-thirds of See JACOB, Page 10

# THE REAGAN BUDGET: A RENEWED ATTACK ON BLACK AMERICA

By Norman Hill

In the last weeks of January Ronald Reagan dominated our newspapers and airwaves. In the course of two short weeks, the President delivered his State of the Union address, announced his candidacy for re-election as President, and unveiled his priorities for America in a proposed budget for the year beginning Oct. 1.

While each of the events — his distorted but inspirational State of the Union address, his announcement of readiness to run for a second term in office, and his budget proposal — was significant, it is his proposed budget which offers us the best insights into what another term of Reaganism will mean for black Ameri-

cans and all working people.

The Fiscal Year 1985 budget which the President has proposed seeks to make further cuts in social spending. The proposal seeks additional reductions in programs which have assisted workers, the elderly, the poor, and students. There are provisions for reduced spending on employment and training programs, and for a maintenance of the currently inadequate funding for occupational safety and health programs. Poor people would suffer from an erosion in Medicaid coverage under a plan which would introduce "cost-sharing" for those who can least afford to pay for medical care.

In the area of education, while the budget

calls for a slight increase in overall federal spending, it will result in requiring low income students to pay a larger share of their educational expenses than they have in the past. There is also a proposal for further cutbacks in community service programs and special assistance for the children and the elderly.

Despite these cutbacks which have eroded programs of great benefit to blacks and working and poor people, the budget still projects a huge federal deficit of some \$180 billion dollars. The net effect of such a budget deficit will be to drive interest rates even higher and thus threaten economic recovery. Coming on top of the already significant reduc-

tions in federal spending in the Reagan Administration's first three years, the President's election year budget amounts to nothing short of a further attack on the interests of blacks and all working people.

The budget makes no attempt to deal with the sad reality of unconscionably high unemployment rates. It contains no necessary initiative to attack the growth in poverty which has been the sorry by-product of Reaganomics.

The Reagan Administration's budget is not as radical in its proposed reductions as were its predecessors. But that is a concession to the political necessities of the election year.

Despite being tailored to fit the requirement of

## PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

By Joe Neal



State Senator Joe Neal is currently making preparations for the official announcement of his candidacy for re-election to that post. As is the policy of the Las Vegas SENTINEL-VOICE, any staff personnel or contributing writers who are running for any elective office are required to discontinue such participation until after the general elections. In the meantime, the management and staff of the Las Vegas SENTINEL-VOICE wish to thank Joe Neal for his weekly comprehensive reports and views on matters of the day.

## Editorial

The strike lingers on. How many millions of dollars have been lost forever, how many homes have had to be foreclosed, how many cars have had to be repossessed? How many children have had to be without food, clothing, and possibly medical care may never be known exactly.

However we fix it, no one has really gained by this strike. Leaders on both sides seem to think only of themselves and their own selfish interests.

The cry of the officials of the Nevada Resort Association seem to be "Let's break the unions, hire scabs, and pay them next-to-nothing for their work, and at the same time, have one person do the work usually done by two or more persons."

The cry of the union leaders seem to be "Let's milk the members of the Nevada Resort Association dry and get all we can."

Nowhere have we seen or heard where either side has come up with a reasonable excuse for prolonging the strike.

As the strike drags on, families are getting further and further in debt, tempers are flaring more and more, tourists are beginning to look to other areas in which to spend their vacation monies and the Las Vegas economy is sinking lower and lower, while the "fat cats" get fatter.

Why can't someone in the Nevada Resort Association and the several unions realize what is being done to our area? Do they really care, or is the whole strike of a political nature?

an election year, the Reagan budget is a renewed attack against the poor, the elderly, and the jobless. One can only hope that in this election the intended victims of the Reagan Administration's onslaught will

work diligently toward his defeat and prevent his disastrous initiative from further sundering the social fabric of our nation.

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