

To Be Equal

JOBS ARE TOP PRIORITY

By John E. Jacob

Unemployment and underemployment are at the root of virtually all of the problems afflicting black communities and the cities in which they are located. With jobs and paychecks, people can buy food, housing, and health care. They can educate their kids and provide them with aspirations and role models.

But without jobs and decent wages, people can only turn to inadequate government programs that enable survival and little else.

The recovery was supposed to end unemployment but it hasn't reached blacks, whose jobless rates remain over double the white race. White male unemployment is around seven percent but black unemployment is stuck in the 17-18 percent range.

And it's really a lot higher. If the rates included discouraged workers who have given up hunting for jobs that aren't there and part-time workers who want full-time jobs, then true black unemployment is closer to thirty percent.

Can you imagine the outcry if white unemployment was anywhere near that level? Before it got even close to that point there would be massive job creation programs. But what is clearly unacceptable for

whites is tolerated when it affects blacks. This double standard can't be allowed to continue, for it is eroding the viability of the cities and of the entire economy.

It is also undermining the black family. Twenty-five years ago, 75 percent of both black and white men were working. In 1982, about the same percentage of white men were working, but only



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54 percent of black men had jobs.

Anyone concerned about the rise of single-parent families in the black community doesn't have to look further for the reason. Men without jobs and the ability to exercise their economic responsibilities can't raise families, a problem worsened by welfare rules that won't help two-parent families.

While youth unemployment is a serious problem in its own right, no one should think that the sky-high black jobless rate is solely a teenage problem. Adults make up well over three-

fourths of the nearly four million black jobless.

It is urgent for action to be taken to reduce teenage unemployment — now above fifty percent for blacks. But that is just a part of the overall problem of black employment. Important as it is to provide work and training opportunities for young people, it is just as important to make sure their parents have work too.

In fact, the joblessness of a parent tells young-

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sters that they have no future in our economy. So job creation programs that put parents to work may be the key to improved educational performance and career aspirations for their children.

The state of permanent economic depression in the black community can be broken through federal job creation programs, a public works program to rebuild the deteriorating infrastructure, and a stronger commitment by the private sector to affirmative action.

It is time to restore a targeted public service job program, aimed at the urban disadvantaged. The last such venture, CETA, was ended in the midst of a recession,

leaving over a million people a year stranded without the temporary jobs and income it provided.

And a large-scale infrastructure repair program is needed to restore deteriorating roads, bridges and streets and to refurbish all sorts of essential public structures. That would create millions of jobs in the private sector, including many jobs for unskilled and semi-skilled workers who

could learn new trades and skills in the process.

Unemployment is the nation's number one enemy. Overcoming it should be our number one priority.

Glaucoma Test Provided Free

Glaucoma is the nation's second leading cause of blindness and, according to Evelyn McColl, deputy health officer at the Clark County Health District, about 5,000 persons in Las Vegas have glaucoma but are unaware of it.

Since glaucoma develops without pain or symptoms, victims are not normally aware of the disease until noticeable vision loss has occurred.

Hon. Willie Brown To Speak At Lonie Chaney Fete

The Committee to Elect Lonie Chaney to the Clark County Commission, District D, has announced plans for a dinner to be held Saturday evening, June 30 at Caesars Palace. The special guest of honor and principal speaker at this dinner will be California Speaker of the House, the Hon. Willie Brown.

Candidate Chaney, a 10-year veteran of the Nevada Assembly, is delighted that Nevadans will have the chance to meet Brown, one of the most powerful men on the West Coast. There are plans to discuss mutual avenues for economic development and improvement. The Nevada Association of Race and Sports Book Operators (NARASO) will discuss the prospects for live television broadcasts of California horse racing action and many other items that are of interest and potential benefit to both states.

Known for his solid plans to improve and diversify the Western economy, Lonie Chaney is on record as saying, "We must couple this economic restructuring with plans to train our people so they will be able to get and hold the good-paying jobs that are created."

Screening tests for glaucoma are scheduled by appointment on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, 1:30

The June 30 dinner will also feature entertainment, and there will be appearances by numerous Strip personalities as well as other celebrities. The cocktail hour starts at 7 p.m. and dinner will be served at 8 p.m.

For ticket information, phone the Committee to Elect Lonie Chaney at 702/382-2881.

Guard Hines Found Innocent

Security guard Wilbur Hines has been found innocent by a District Court jury of the Feb. 11 shooting death of Milton Watts.

The jury deliberated for about two hours before reaching its verdict.

The shooting took place at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Club, at 1905 No. "H" St., where Hines was a security guard.

Watts was shot once in the chest.

Jury members indicated the state had not convinced them that the shooting was nothing more than Hines protecting himself from a known bully.

Hines was represented by Deputy Public Defender Jackie Naylor, and prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Tom Green.

to 3:30 p.m., at the District Health Center, 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas.

call 383-1354.

Westside Credit Union Management Position Under Scrutiny

The management position of the Westside Federal Credit Union is under investigation, according to the National Credit Union Administration.

Following Clark County Commissioner Woodrow Wilson's guilty plea to YOBO bribery charge, Len Skiles, the federal agency's regional director said last Friday from his Austin, Tex. office that his agency is investigating the situation and "will act quickly."

Bob Fenner, director of the agency's legal services division in Washington, D.C., said the administration's board has

the discretionary authority to remove Wilson, or any other federal credit union employee charged with a felony when they are considered a threat.

According to federal laws governing credit unions, Wilson could have been temporarily removed from his post after his indictment on Dec. 16, 1982, officials said. The federal agency apparently was not aware of the situation until Friday.

Final action on Wilson's fate, however, cannot be taken until after sentencing, explained Fenner.

The Clark County Commissioner and

former state Sen. Gene Echols admitted Monday in U.S. District Court that they accepted payoffs from former FBI undercover agent Stephen Rybar in exchange for their political influence.

Wilson is listed as manager and principal financial officer of the Westside Credit Union, according to federal records.

National Credit Union Administration officials said they will contact the U.S. attorneys for additional information about Wilson's case.

A report will be submitted to the administration's three-member

governing board, which will decide Wilson's fate. Skiles said the board findings can be appealed.

The regional director said the majority of similar situations have resolved themselves with the resignation of the person in question.

"There are very few instances where we have had a problem," said Skiles.

The Westside Federal Credit Union was founded in 1951 to serve Las Vegas' black community, according to reports.

Wilson, associates say, was one of its chief founders.

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