

Point of View

Editorial

Blacks have always been the victims of the last hired-first fired syndrome in this country. We have been made to suffer because of the feelings of superiority by some members of our society, possibly by a fear that if our Black citizens were allowed to prosper, they might begin to feel some self-worth.

Among Blacks, this notion of a feeling of inferiority must not be tolerated. However, jobs for Blacks, especially young Blacks, are becoming harder to secure. Young Blacks, even those with young families, are being forced to roam the streets or take the most menial jobs even though many of them are capable of much better jobs.

True, work at menial tasks must not be considered degrading, but the question remains as to why our young Blacks cannot secure better jobs.

Now is the time for all men to come to the aid of their fellowman.

This is an old saying used primarily by typing teachers to teach their students how to type. However, we feel that the adage applies equally to our need to come to the aid of our young Blacks and work to provide training and to place them into more lucrative positions. Unless we, as Blacks, promote our own training programs and employment of our youths, they will soon be relegated to a life of incarcerated servitude or a life of poverty, with someone else controlling his/her lifestyle.

As Blacks, the time has passed when we can ignore the training of our youths. We must begin at once to set aside time, money, and effort to see that our youths receive the proper training to be able to cope with today's employment opportunities and tomorrow's challenges.

To Be Equal

THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

By John E. Jacob

Thirty-two states have sent petitions to Congress calling for a national Constitutional Convention that would pass a new amendment to the U.S. Constitution mandating a balanced federal budget.

If only two more states pass such a petition — and if some of those that have already passed meet court challenges — then a constitutional Convention must be called.

That would be a monumental mistake.

There are two major dangers in a Constitutional Convention. The first is that a balanced budget amendment might pass; the second, that the Convention

could become a runaway affair, rewriting the present Constitution that has served us well.

The prospect of a runaway Convention is dis-



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missed by some experts who say that if the Convention is called for the purpose of considering a balanced budget amendment it can't go farther afield.

But other experts cite the original Constitutional Convention of 1787, which was just supposed to improve the existing Articles of Confederation but threw that document out and wrote the present Constitution, instead.

The fear is that not only would single-issue extremists dominate a new Convention, writing new amendments banning abortion and busing and instituting school prayer, but that existing Bill of Rights protections would be diluted, placing traditional freedoms in jeopardy.

That's not so far-fetched, since the polarizing, so-called "social issues" galvanize the energies of the far right.

So a new Constitutional Convention would be playing with fire — and that holds even if it limits itself to a balanced budget amendment. For however worthy a goal balancing the budget may be, it can't reasonably be a constitutional

requirement. To make it one is bad government and bad economics.

It is impossible to balance the budget in the near future without chopping social security, Medicare, and a healthy chunk of the armed forces. Another

able. If that happens, then the Constitution just becomes a waste basket for rhetorical flourishes to economic theories no one believes in instead of being a sound, basic law of the land.

It is important to re-

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way would be a massive tax increase that could spark a major Depression. That's why neither candidate is promising more than to bring the deficits down over a period of several years.

And virtually all economists agree that there are times when governments should run deficits. A government budget can't be compared to a family budget and the simplistic approach of the balanced budgeteers could be fatal to the economy.

Even if they do get a balanced budget amendment through, it will have to be full of loopholes to be work-

member that the balanced budget movement is not a response to the massive federal deficits of the last few years — it started in the mid-70s when deficits were relatively low. And its basic thrust is not to control deficits so much as it is to lower taxes.

Americans are among the least taxed people in the world but the way the tax reducers carry on you would think we were among the highest. Higher taxes are inevitable to help cut those deficits, if not to provide the full range of necessary government services.

Help Your Heart



Diet in the Healthy Child

The American Heart Association recommends moderate changes in the diet of healthy American children over the age of two in order to lessen their risk of heart disease in adulthood.

The AHA's new dietary guidelines focus on lowering intake of cholesterol and salt by substituting and modifying foods. For example, when you pack your child's lunch box, substitute sliced

turkey or chicken sandwiches for high-salt, high-cholesterol hot dogs and baloney.

Your children's diet should be nutritionally adequate in vitamins and minerals and consist of a variety of foods. It should emphasize fresh fruits and vegetables, complex carbohydrates, and high-quality protein such as low-fat dairy products and lean cuts of meat, fish and chicken.

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OPPORTUNITY...

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BY THE LOUDNESS
OF ITS KNOCK!