

Point of View

Editorial

Both major presidential candidates engaged in a "debate" on last Sunday on all television stations. The format and/or setting for the "debate" left much to be desired.

However, as most of us sat glued to our television sets, we saw and heard part of the issues discussed from both party leaders. We were listening, especially from the incumbent, for words to come forth telling us how the United States would be a better place in which to live if he was elected. Most of the rhetoric from the President concerned his past record and the placing of blame for his failures in carrying out his campaign promises. How much time does it take for an administration to establish itself with its own policies? We think that four years is long enough.

The challenger seemed much more confident, and seemed to have kept the president on the defensive. However, his major problem seems to be his previous statements concerning raising taxes.

One item that seems to be inching into the campaign is the age and physical health of the President. His appearance on television seemed to have raised questions in the minds of some about his ability to make his own decisions, his physical health, including his ability or inability to hear well, and his emotional stamina required to fulfill the day-to-day responsibilities of the office of President. Only time will give us the answers to these concerns. Common sense tells us that the demands made on our president are very stringent.

Although the polls have all placed Mr. Reagan ahead of Mr. Mondale in the election campaign, we must look at his performance record and his health record and then decide if we want four more years of this administration in the White House.

Regardless of our decision, we must get out and VOTE!

Letter To Editor

Dear Editor:

Upon reading the condescending, slanderous, repetitious propaganda advertisement that appeared in the October 4, 1984 issue of the Sentinel-Voice regarding Senator Joe Neal, I was once again reminded why Black Folks Fall Short. Are we responsible for our own fate? Can we sincerely, consistently and continually blame white folks? Or does the blame lie at our own Black Counterparts for our shortcomings?

In the Black Community during these election times, I've observed and witnessed some of the worst examples of hypocrisy. There appears to be a climate of hostility, of anger against each other — Why? The great paradox of our time is how Black Folks are tolerating and even participating in our own political destruction. I thought our challenge today is to join forces, exhibit strength and *protect our political investment*. Senator Joe Neal is, in fact, our Political Investment. He has legislative experience and he is Third in Seniority. Perhaps we do not know what experience and Seniority in the legislature is all about!

If we want to achieve sustained long-term political growth we need to take an in depth look at Senator Neal's accomplishments and his power in the Senate. The crucial question at this point is *how* and *can* a new inexperienced senator effect change? Where does his power lie? How can he operate efficiently? It takes time, experience and knowledge to learn the legislative system, to maneuver, and to rise to a position of being appointed to powerful committees. I hope that you consider all we have at stake

To Be Equal

FIRST STEP TO AN URBAN POLICY

By John E. Jacob

One major issue that should be central in this election campaign is the development of a national urban policy. Talk of such a policy has been in the air for two decades, but we have never had a developed,

cause so many large, older cities are under stress, but also because the boom has ended for many of the newer, fast-growing urban centers which must accommodate large populations without an adequate

sional committees that must deal with legislation affecting cities. Bills go to a wide variety of committees, ranging from Banking to Public

to weigh their effect on urban America.

The Committee would also specifically be charged with reviewing the Marshall Plan's rebuilding of postwar Europe to determine its applicability to present urban problems.

Two decades ago, Whitney Young called for a Domestic Marshall Plan that would do for the cities what the original Plan did for our friends and even our former enemies in war-torn Europe.

Such a Committee would not be a panacea. It would be non-legislative; that is, it would not have legislation directed to it for approval. But it would still serve to attract national attention to urban problems in ways that could result in legislation affecting cities for the better, and to set otherwise isolated bills in the overall context of urban needs.

That's an important role, especially at a time when urban health is equated with fiscal health. Some people seem to feel that if a city is no longer hovering on the brink of bankruptcy, then it is in good shape. But fiscal soundness often hides deteriorating services, spreading poverty and homelessness, and a crumbling infrastructure that chases businesses and jobs out of town.

Creation of a Select Committee on the Cities could well be the first step in formulating a coordinated national policy that ends the neglect of urban America.

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

coordinated policy designed to stem urban decline.

Such a policy is essential, not simply be-

infrastructure.

The uncoordinated way we deal with urban issues is reflected in the makeup of Congress-

in this election. Assess the current situation. I suggest three rules. First, protect the integrity of Senator Neal's current seat; this is a task for all of us as well as other Black Political Leaders. Second, learn about the legislative process, including the role, duties and powers of a senator. Third, shape and sharpen the issues of importance that face West Las Vegas; a role for all. This will enhance the ability of Black Folks to participate more fully and be more effective in the political arena. A word to the few active, political advocates out there who have resorted to rhapsodic, rhetorical embraces of negativism towards Senator Joe Neal. Why not channel and divert your energy, time and money into more positive moves, i.e. delineating your candidates' issues or getting to know Senator Joe Neal and his agenda? Thus preventing slander. You do not know Senator Joe Neal. You've watched intermittently and from afar, inferring from only a few gestures and reactions as to what kind of a person he is and what he is doing and what he is capable of doing. In an effort to achieve your unforeseen goals, you have unscrupulously voided the risk of knowing our great "Senate Leader." Nonetheless, these strands have long been part of the American political fabric and your view is historically myopic; but is it necessary to become so ensnared with attempting to destroy and divide our strength that we possess as Blacks in Unity?

The greatness of our political system is that it not only guarantees us freedom of conscience, but also permits us to vote our conscience. The political activists who have undertaken the task of utilizing negative coercion and persuasion *will not* and *can not* sway the majority of us as Blacks in "Strength" and "Togetherness" not to "Continue To Strive to Make This State A Place To Be Somebody," with Senator Joe Neal.

Fortunately Senator Neal does not fall prey to devious negative tactics and strategies to get elected. His campaign has been conducted and will continue to focus on pertinent issues and positive modes of being. In addition, we are fortunate that the bulk of us have not been arrayed against him. He is an astute politician and his victory on November 6 will pave the way, as it has in the past and will do so in the future.

Becky Jean Collins



John Jacob

Works, none of which has as its primary constituency the nation's cities.

Now, pending legislation would create a House Select Committee on Cities. Such a Committee could help focus national attention on urban needs and integrate urban issues into the context of national policies.

Three out of four Americans live in cities and it is in the cities where plant shutdowns have had the most devastating effect; where blacks are most highly concentrated; where teenage unemployment is most serious; where a host of other national problems have the greatest impact. It is in the cities too, where cuts in food stamps, housing aid, and other programs that invest in human resources have been so devastating.

A Select Committee on Cities would examine the effects of federal programs on cities, assess urban infrastructure needs, and analyze employment training programs, tax structures and demographic trends

The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the SENTINEL-VOICE editorial represents this publication.