

Point of View

Editorial

During these days of being bombarded by political rhetoric of all kinds from all sides, one must be very astute to distinguish fact from fiction.

The debates by both the presidential and vice-presidential candidates have been held, and the radio, television, and other media have chosen sides. The polls have made their predictions based on extremely small samples of the American public. Sharp words have been uttered from both sides.

Having heard from all sides, let's look at the facts. The present national administration has presented us with the largest deficit in the history of America. There have been promises of lowering taxes, supply-side economics, etc. This administration has spent more for defense than any other administration, and there has been conclusive evidence presented that the Department of Defense has wasted money. Incentive programs have been curtailed.

On the positive side, this administration has "lowered" the inflation rate, lowered the interest rate, and reduced income taxes.

The other major political party has promised up-front to raise taxes to reduce the national deficit, to meet with and/or negotiate with Russian leaders, to work on restoring some of the programs cut out by the present administration, and to raise the standard of living for all people.

The part to watch in this is that it is "easier said than done."

The votes of the Blacks in this country AND LOCALLY can make a difference in the outcome of this election. It is imperative that we vote our convictions.

Letter To Editor

Dear Editor:

It has been my policy for many years to never respond to gossip, slander or back-biting.

One of the recent candidates for the Assembly District #7 race has caused me to change my policy.

There were some fine men in the Primary race. Only one man — a minister's conduct was disgraceful. He did not offer the people anything but gossip. He spent his entire campaign talking about me. As to the results, he was on the bottom when the primary was over. He always loses. He even lost a church in Northern Nevada.

West Las Vegas does not need weak men to represent it, nor does it need men who have nothing but slander — no programs, nothing but slander.

Do you, the readers, know that this candidate broke down and cried in front of a congregation, because people would not vote for him? Tears ran down his cute little face.

This same candidate was passing out his campaign literature at a man's funeral.

No minister should spend all of his time around bars. Church business should not be discussed in bars.

For a minister, I find this candidate's conduct during the primary to be disgraceful, insulting and embarrassing.

Anytime a minister destroys other candidates' material, it makes me wonder. Is the ministry becoming a joke or a zoo, a place where you will find everything?

In any other city, a minister whose conduct was this bad, would be called in by his religious supervisors. Las Vegas being what it is, I doubt it that will happen here.

There is no room in politics for cry babies, weak men or women, nor half-baked sissies, or men who are incompetent.

To Be Equal

TIME TO GET TOUGH WITH SOUTH AFRICA

By John E. Jacob

American policy toward South Africa has failed, and it must be replaced. Continued appeasement of apartheid can only hasten the onset of large-scale violence and subversion of real U.S. interests.

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

The "evil empire" of South Africa tries to present a human face to the world through huge public relations expenditures that attempt to portray the country as a multi-racial paradise. In reality, it is a racist state in which four and a half million whites have citizenship privileges and power denied to over 24 million blacks.

South Africa pretends that the apartheid system is being replaced by a liberalized system of greater democracy. But nothing could be further from the truth. The government did institute a major constitutional change by granting partial political rights for Indians and what South Africa calls "colored" — people of mixed racial descent.

But even that cosmetic ploy backfired. Most eligible voters boycotted the elections. They recognized that instead of sharing real power, the government was simply trying to split the black majority from their

natural allies in the non-white community.

Meanwhile the government was keeping on the pressure against black trade unions, which constitute a major challenge to apartheid's economic oppression of

blacks.

Black unions in South Africa — by their very existence — are a threat to the system. Four out of five workers in the country are black and if they organize, make economic demands, and pursue citizenship and political rights, the system could crumble.

So the authorities passed laws outlawing what in the United States would be normal labor rights and brutally imprisoned strike leaders and union officials.

With South Africa's economy in trouble, the huge gap between black and white earnings is growing even faster than in the past. As it is, the typical white worker earns between four and five times the wage of the typical black worker.

South Africa's strategy is to define blacks as citizens of "homeland" areas that most have never even seen. That way, blacks are prevented from exercising citizenship rights in South Africa

The public expects a very high standard of conduct of its ministers. When we betray that trust and confidence, people are let down.

If this candidate is a typical Las Vegas minister, then God help us, the people are in serious trouble.

Yours truly,
Elder George Ward

P.S. Do you readers know that this same candidate, who is also a minister of my own faith, went to all of the other Church of God In Christ ministers and tried to have me forced out of the Assembly District #7 race? Actions such as this makes one wonder what in the devil is happening in Las Vegas!

itself.

South Africa's only hope is for whites and blacks to come to a new basis for living together in a unified state. But the white minority will not



John Jacob

even consider this alternative without pressure.

Pressure is building from within. Spreading riots and violence have led to escalation of oppression and police actions, as if shooting into crowds can legitimize a system based solely on racial domination of the majority by a minority.

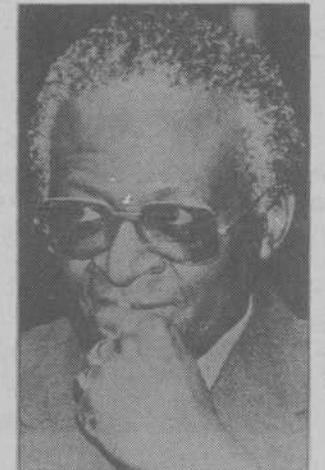
But pressure must come from abroad as well. American policy has been based on appeasing South Africa in the hope that it will be accommodating in the resolution of the issue of Namibian independence.

But there's been no movement on that issue and the hopes held by American policy-makers for greater liberalization within South Africa have also been disappointed. So this may be the time to get tough with the racist state of South Africa.

One immediate step should be lodging official, publicized protests over the recent violent suppression of black protests. A second should be demands for

release of South Africa's political prisoners, of whom there are many. The U.S. government has to understand that Andrei Sakharov is not the only political prisoner in the world whose treatment deserves anger and protest.

Finally, there should be a top-to-bottom re-assessment of American policy toward South Africa designed to marshal world pressure to end apartheid.



WINNER - BRONZ DRAKING TON was named recipient of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for "Tendy" in Oslo, Norway.

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