

Point of View

Editorial

We are seeing more and more Blacks in our fair city who are either in the unemployment lines or are walking the streets looking for jobs. Perhaps our vision is a bit myopic when looking at the long lines of Blacks waiting to get into our employment offices, or perhaps a mini-recession is on the horizon.

Many Americans preferred to believe that if we re-elected the present administration for four more years, all would be well, and everyone would be back on the job again working at good wages.

Perhaps it is too early to tell, but Blacks generally have not seen the upturn in the economy that was so eloquently put by our president and his economic advisors. Blacks, in general, have not yet profited from any of the promises made four years ago or those made during this year.

Perhaps the overwhelming voter turnout this election year may be seen as a backlash to the Black voter-registration drive put on by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and other Black leaders. Our basic question now is will job placements in lower paying jobs be the result of the huge Black voter registration?

We need jobs, not welfare. Too many of our young Blacks have looked for jobs with no results. How long they will continue to search for jobs with decent wages is becoming an important question in the minds of concerned Black leaders. How long will it be before these young people lose their desire to work and end up in trouble with the law is an issue that must be faced immediately by every clear thinking American.

What will it be? A life of poverty or a life of contributions to American society?

To Be Equal

THE REAGAN LANDSLIDE

Ronald Reagan's massive electoral victory was expected. The polls were uniform in predicting that the voters would re-elect the President based on an economic recovery at home and peace abroad.

An incumbent always has a big edge if peace and prosperity are on his side. Never mind that many millions of Americans are poor and were driven deeper into poverty by the withdrawal of government programs that offered them opportunities. The prosperous majority was not concerned with them.

Under the circumstances, no Democrat could have defeated the President in 1984. But Walter Mondale can be proud of the campaign he waged. He persisted

in raising the gut issues of fairness and decency which Americans will have to face sooner or later.

And he emerged from the campaign as a man of principled integrity who spoke out on behalf of the hungry, the homeless and the hurt. While



John Jacob

the country turned a deaf ear to the issues he raised, the pendulum will swing back and I would expect that before too long the contradictions of widespread want in the midst of affluence will once again claim the nation's attention.

Blacks were not a part of the President's electoral majority—they cast nine out of ten of their votes for Mondale.

That should not be hard to understand. The past four years have been hard ones for black people, with erosion of civil rights enforcement, higher levels of poverty, lower real incomes, and increased suffering due to cutbacks in the safety net programs.

The black vote outcome suggests a major problem and a big opportunity.

The problem is the racial polarization revealed by voting patterns that show there is a need for cementing coalitions that cross racial lines. White bloc voting helped defeat some black candidates who had been expected to win, so even large black voter turnouts do not assure black victories.

That suggests we

have to pay as much attention to building alliances as to registering voters. Coalition politics means compromises and tradeoffs. That also often results in lower levels of voter enthusiasm, but political reality suggests that closer attention to coalition-building will be needed if blacks are to escape political isolation.

Several alliance pos-

gests that the Republicans have an opening to broaden their base among blacks.

Republican rhetoric and attitudes that seem to range from outright hostility to bland indifference have turned off many blacks who might consider becoming Republicans.

Much will depend on what President Reagan does with his big win. If

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sibilities present themselves. Hispanics and Jews were the only other major groups that voted for Mondale, by a two to one margin. More has to be done to achieve close working relationships with labor and with moderate whites, especially in the South.

The black vote also suggests an opportunity for the Republicans to build a real two-party system in the black community. The defeat of the liberal wing of the Democratic Party sug-

gests that the Republicans have an opening to broaden their base among blacks. his second term includes new policies that take account of meeting the needs of most blacks, he could begin to break the Democratic lock on the black vote.

That will mean some major policy shifts. Using the power of the government to relieve poverty and to create opportunities would be essential. But also vital is a change in rhetoric—using what the President has called "the bully pulpit" of the Oval Office to further racial equality.

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.

LET'S CLEAN UP FOR SANTA

By H.P. "Fitz" Fitzgerald

The time is rapidly approaching for those of us who reside or have businesses in West Las Vegas between West Lake Mead Blvd., North "H" Street, West Monroe Avenue, and North "D" Street to begin cleaning up our areas again for the 1984 arrival of dear Old Saint Nick on Dec. 15. Nedco, Inc., in cooperation with the Jackson Avenue Merchants Association will again sponsor their annual Christmas Parade.

The Westside Community Development Commission working with Nedco and the Jackson Avenue Merchants Association will

assist homeowners and businesses in this particular area with some clean up and painting. However, the Silver State Disposal Service will pick up all your bulk trash and debris on a weekly basis if it is stacked neatly near your regular garbage pick up area, at no cost to the residential property owner. So, let's all "pitch out" all trash, garbage, and debris between now and Dec. 14, and let's make our area neat, clean, and attractive for the Jackson Avenue Merchant Association's second annual Christmas Parade and the arrival of Santa Claus

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Black History

