

Point of View

Editorial

Christmas is over, and we are all looking forward to the celebration of the New Year. None of us can predict the future. However, we as Blacks, must now turn to seeing that 1985 will be a better year than 1984 has been.

How can we do this? We can do this by coming together to work out a program for progress, a program that will help our community, our city, our state, and our nation. Never before has togetherness been needed as much as now in our Black community.

Not long ago the question was asked: Who is the one Black person in our community that can speak for us? We do not know of any person who can do this for everyone. We are individuals just as any other ethnic group. However, we must band together for strength to face the future.

The year 1984 has not been good for the Black community. Promises have been made and not carried out, investigations of Black activity have been made, and in some cases, we have come out on short end of the stick." By banding together we should be able to "get our piece of the pie." Remember that "together we stand, and divided we fall."

By standing together in 1985, we should be able to get what we deserve to improve our lot in our community. Our youth need our attention badly. Our jobs are crumbling, and our senior citizens are being neglected. We must decide, and decide immediately, what we must do.

We must not let the end of 1985 catch us in the same old rut that we find ourselves in at the end of 1984. Togetherness is the answer.

Have a happy holiday season.

To Be Equal

1984—YEAR OF HOPE?

By John E. Jacob

The year started with another federal budget planning cuts in lifetime programs for the poor and it is ending the same way. It saw an economic recovery that largely excluded black workers and an election in which blacks were solidly in the loser's camp.

And it ended as it began, with Washington officials floating budget plans for more cuts in programs that serve the poor. There is general agreement that domestic programs have already been cut to the bone and that further cuts are not feasible. They amount to peanuts in a trillion-dollar budget.

But cuts have been proposed in many crucial programs. That hit list includes food

stamps, Head Start, welfare, rent subsidies for the poor, and nutrition programs for poor children. And the Job Corps, a proven success, would be eliminated altogether.

Hopefully, cooler and



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wiser heads in Congress will prevail and beat back these unfair budget measures. But the very fact that the Administration would seriously consider compounding its past callousness in this area adds gloom to the holiday season.

Despite all this, 1984 saw some developments that make it not a year of despair, but a year of hope for minorities.

One such event was Jesse Jackson's candidacy for the presidency.

Few thought he had a chance to win his party's nomination. But the Jackson campaign galvanized the black community into political action. It helped boost black voter registration and participation in the democratic political process. Its full effect may not be known for years, as those who got their first taste of political action in his campaign run for local, and then for state and national offices.

The Jackson campaign, followed by the sweeping re-election victory of President Reagan, also helped foster a new sense of political realism among many black citizens.

The realities of the rough and tumble world of politics de-

mands realism, compromise, and coalition-building. At year's end, there is a stronger sense of the need to forge alliances across racial, class and political lines that may have been absent earlier.

A second sign of hope in 1984 was the black community's coming to-

gether and blacks together in mutual outrage and concern.

For the first time in years preachers and rabbis, labor leaders and civil rights proponents, marched hand-in-hand singing "We Shall Overcome." Congressmen of the Black Caucus and conservative Republi-

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can senators alike, protested the South African oppression. A similar coalition was active to urge aid for the starving victims of the famine in Africa, and communities all over the country mobilized their resources to send food to the hungry abroad.

What is happening is an emerging new coalition of decency in which moral values and a sense of fairness are reawakening. Now those feelings of solidarity are being directed abroad — to the victims of racism and hunger. But once those positive values have been tapped, how long will it be before the discrimination, hunger and unfairness at home also generate an active coalition for change. If they do, then the hopes born in 1984 will come to fruition.

Finally, as the year drew to a close the vicious racist actions of the South African government brought whites

together to deal with the internal problems of the community. A major national conference on the black family brought together representatives of national organizations to map out strategies to place our endangered families on firmer footing.

And on the local level, a multitude of community organizations increased their voluntary activities to combat crime, help troubled youngsters and improve educational opportunities. A reawakened and active community is essential to black progress and 1984 was a year in which that cornerstone of future health for the community was laid.

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Watch what you say!

You catch a cow by it's horns but you catch a man by his word.

-Jamaican Proverb

BEST WISHES for a Happy & prosperous New Year!



From The Staff and Management of the Las Vegas SENTINEL-VOICE

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