Point of View

Editorial

The Executive Board of the Clark County Classroom Teachers Association has come out against the bond issue proposed by the Clark County School District administration to be presented to the voters in May of this year.

There are always three sides to most issues: the proponents' side, the opponents' side, and the right side. In this issue, we must try to find the right side, which usually lies somewhere between the school district administration's side and the classroom teachers' side.

The school district administration says that the new and up-graded schools will be needed to house extra children who will come from somewhere and enter our schools. The classroom teachers' association claims that the first priority must be pay raises and other negotiable items for the teachers.

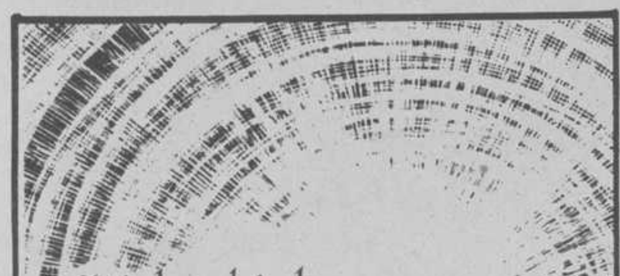
It is true that more classrooms will be needed, but it is also true that teachers' pay has lagged so far behind the inflation rate that it is difficult to stay above water financially.

The school district administration has tried to project a concept that teachers are against the education of children for not endorsing its building plan. The teachers' association implies that it is time for the school district to look out for the welfare of its teachers and then try to build more buildings.

Historically, teachers have always been the lowest paid of any profession, and the public has stood for this all along, by not seeing that teachers get their proper pay for work done.

It is absurd to say that teachers are against the education of children if they do not endorse the bond issue proposal. Without children there would be no schools. However without teachers there would also be no schools. A school is made up of both children and teachers.

The bond issue is a must. But raises for our teachers are also a must. We think we can have both.



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To Be Equal

By John E. Jacob

TAXES, BUDGETS AND DEFICITS

Congress and the President are sparring over the 1986 Budget and the Treasury's tax simplification plan. Looming over the debate is the prospect of another massive deficit, and stretching far into the future, a series of $200 billion deficits.

Most people agree the deficit must be reduced. The added interest the government will pay on this year's deficit adds up to more than the total cost of welfare and food stamps for the hungry combined. And the huge deficit virtually dictates a stringent budget. Once again, the bulk of proposed cuts come from domestic and urban programs that take up the smallest part of the total budget.

The Pentagon, whose spending has ballooned in recent years, will continue to see its revenues grow. Despite this, there has still not been any serious attempt to control the massive waste in the defense budget, or to do an item-by-item analysis of it, scrapping weapons sytems that don't meet minimum cost-benefit ratios.

John E. Jacob

Instead of dealing constructively with such important economic issues, the Congress seems to be fearful of tackling the military. At most, it wants to trim the swollen defense budget in order to make cuts in medical aid and social security politically possible.

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

The most popular plan seems to be a freeze on social security cost-of-living increases, a move that may add an estimated 550,000 older Americans to the poverty roles.

The large deficit has not been caused by domestic spending, but by the combination of defense increases and massive tax cuts. So trying to address the deficit problem by domestic cuts while refusing both defense spending cuts and tax hikes won't be adequate.

Missing from this whole debate is any sense of national responsibility to ease the hardships of the poor and to invest in the nation's human resources.

By neglecting the human deficit, lawmakers ensure continuation of the fiscal deficit. The obsession with cutting domestic programs weakens America in the long run. Even though

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DEFEAT OF REAGAN'S BUDGET PRIORITIES AT TOP OF AGENDA

By Norman Hill

Reagan's second term promises to be a fitting sequel to the first. In 1981, consistent with his philosophy of reducing the role of government in non-defense matters, Reagan easily pushed through a tax cut that reduced federal revenues, thereby stimulating an economic recovery and bringing on unprecedented budget deficits.

Norman Hill is president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute.

This in turn has created a strong pressure to reduce government spending in nondefense areas, since Reagan won his second election partly on the promise not to raise taxes. The areas in which Reagan now proposes to cut are mainly the various subsidies benefiting the middle class, around which a great consensus was once built—civil service and military pensions, college tuition loans for the middle class, farm price supports, Medicare, Amtrak, etc.—as well as some further cuts in job training, Medicaid, and other programs for the poor.

This was a masterful political stroke on Reagan's part; he created the inevitability of the basic policy he wants to pursue (cutting spending) by demonstrating the political unpopularity of the alternative (raising taxes).

However, the clear message from the electorate that it did not want taxes raised becomes a little less clear when we consider, first, that the tax burden is unfairly distributed, and many taxpayers would be happy to see the system reformed; and second, that the proposals to cut out federal expenditures in the area mentioned above may be a consequence the electorate will not swallow so easily. Americans may have to face squarely the question of whether and how they intend to pay for what they want.

Meanwhile, a mountain of debt has been sustaining the economic recovery, which depends on foreign investment in a strong dollar. The unprecedented dominance of the dollar over other major currencies is causing a horrendous U.S. trade deficit that keeps growing every year. Mondale tried to warn the American people during his campaign that the recovery was built on sand — internal and external debt — but they believed the evidence of present prosperity rather than his gloomy soothsaying. Not only has the U.S. lost ground steadily in the exports of manufactured goods such as steel and autos, but even high-tech goods have felt the sting of the strong dollar, with exports down and with imports growing from a quarter to almost half of the U.S. market share.

Unemployment is very high in relation to the economic recovery, which creates additional pressures on the Treasury, both in lost revenue and in transfer payments. The lowest

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