

Point of View

Editorial

Today marks the beginning of the Las Vegas Sentinel's sixth year. On April 25, 1980, this publication made its debut with a huge cover photo of Rev. Ralph Abernathy, who had made the trek to Las Vegas to assist with the opening of a voters registration drive meeting then held at the Elk's Lodge Hall. It was a day we shall never forget.

In that first issue, Betty Brown, The Sentinel's Editor wrote: "This is the first issue of the *Las Vegas Sentinel* and the publishers and staff invite you to participate in a new and enhanced dimension of cooperation with your community newspaper. Our goal is to bring you a paper of quality, integrity and accuracy—a paper of which you will be proud, on which you can depend and with which you will want to become involved.

Our name, *The Sentinel*, and our logo denote our purpose. We are striving to perceive and report to you what is real and to serve as an ever vigilant guard that will be alertly watchful, especially to help avoid danger to our community. In the center of our logo crouches our young black "sentinel", alert and strong, holding his horn and his drum. His is an all-embracing and responsible task - to know what is happening in our community and that which concerns all of us, and then to send the message loudly, clearly and without bias, for "the truth shall set us free". When need arises, it is his task to signal the alert of impending danger, for "if we are forewarned, we are forearmed". Also, the calling together of ALL the people for the purpose of presenting a UNIFIED front in times of trouble is his task, for "in our unity lies our strength".

However, the young sentinel's success does not and cannot rest with him alone. He may send the strongest, clearest message and the most urgent alert, but if they fall on deaf ears, his efforts are to no avail. He may call all of the various groups together, but if the groups do not understand the wisdom of unity or cannot set aside individual selfish desires to work for the common good of all, then his vigilance, his guarding and his warnings are for naught.

The *Las Vegas Sentinel* dedicates its existence to the building of an ever improving and thriving community. May our community and the *Las Vegas Sentinel* have a never ending dependence upon each other!"

During April, 1982, the Sentinel Publishing Company purchased the Vegas Voice newspaper and resumed publication on May 1, 1982. The two papers were merged on November 25, 1982.

The Las Vegas Voice was in existence for approximately 17 years and on March 5, 1981, its new ownership changed the name to the Vegas Voice.

The latter publication became The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice on November 25, 1982.

Our concerns, commitments, and dedication remain as strong as ever. We will continue to strive for excellence and solicit your support so that we may continue to remain a faithful servant of the people.

Action, self-reliance, the vision of self and the future have been the only means by which the oppressed have seen and realized the light of their own freedom. - Marcus Garvey

To Be Equal

BUDGET PLAN CREATES POVERTY

by John E. Jacob

The widely heralded budget compromise worked out between Congressional leaders and the White House may reduce the deficit slightly, but it cuts too many of the wrong things and will drive thousands into poverty.

The most publicized of the cuts come in programs for the elderly — primarily reductions in Medicare that will force older Americans to pay more for medical care, and slowdowns in the rate of Social Security's cost-of-living increases.

Until now, the elderly have been protected by annual increases in their Social Security pensions equal to the inflation rate. Even so, they lost purchasing power, since the increases were adjustments for inflation that had already taken place.

But now the yearly increases will be below the inflation rate, which means that most of the elderly will lose out and many will be pushed below the poverty line.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office says the cost-of-living limits will drive well over half-a-million people into poverty

over the next three years — more, if inflation is higher than expected.

Two-thirds of the proposed spending cuts come from domestic programs that have already borne the



John E. Jacob

burden of the deepest cuts in recent years. Only a third comes from a military budget that was grossly inflated to begin with.

The Jobs Corps will be phased out, despite its track record of helping youngsters get the training and discipline they need to make it in today's tight job market.

Their needs won't be met by other training programs, which are targeted at less disadvantaged people more likely to make it on their own. The Job Corps doesn't "skim" its trainees — it deals with multi-

problem youngsters in residential centers.

Of course that approach is more costly, making the Job Corps a visible target for budget-cutters. But it is also highly effective, and the extra costs are made up through the taxes paid by people enabled to get and hold jobs.

ing a carbon copy of the Administration's original budget proposal.

David Stockman, the budget director, said the Administration had won 75 percent of the dollar savings it proposed in domestic programs and 90 percent of its proposed program eliminations.

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

Critics claim it costs as much to send a student to college as it does to train a youngster at a Job Corps Center. Maybe, but the cost is still a lot less than it is to maintain an inmate in prison.

Another program slated for the axe is the Urban Development Action Grants, which has helped draw new, job-creating investments into central cities. Urban America will also be hurt by the planned termination of mass transit operating grants, and cuts in a host of others, including desperately needed housing programs and community development grants.

Although touted as a compromise, the new budget plan is close to be-

No one questions the need to get a hold on the budget deficit, but how cuts are made is as important as whether they are made. In the current instance, the cuts are unwise, unfairly punish the poor, and harm our society.

A better way to reduce the deficit would be to restructure defense spending to conform more closely to actual defense needs and to recapture some of the revenues lost in the giant tax cuts of 1981 and subsequent years.

We should also plan to make the investments in job training and job creation that will cut unemployment, raise productivity, and by doing so, raise incomes and tax revenues.

Letter To Editor

Dear Editor:

I attended the meeting of the Library Board. After looking at the agenda and observing that the West Las Vegas Library was not on the agenda, I was not surprised. But after hearing it mentioned that the population from West Las Vegas has always supported the library bond question in the past, then, I was disappointed. I am also disappointed that we are expected to support and yet, our library was so easily forgotten. Therefore, we must suggest that all should at least take a very good look at the bond question on May 7.

We are aware that the libraries need our support. Yet, for our support, our library needs to be included just as the others are.

There are some questions that must be answered.

Rev. S. P. Parks,
President of the Minister's Alliance

What Can We Do Individually?

These same educators tell us that every concerned and thinking Black American easily can do much to change this negative image of 'Blackness'... but they clearly let us know that it is going to take the efforts of all of us. For our task is that of changing every aspect of Black life from what is perceived as a negative to that of a positive. In other words, all of us collectively—our organizations, businesses, institu-

tions, etc.—are going to have to work together in mutually-supportive ways.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice welcomes expressions of all views from readers. Letters should be kept as brief as possible and are subject to condensation. They must include signature, valid mailing address and telephone number, if any. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Because of the volume of mail received, unpublished individual letters cannot be acknowledged. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, 1201 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.

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