

Point of View

Editorial

Last week the Las Vegas chapter of the National Assault On Illiteracy Program, a nationwide community-building program of Community Motivators, was organized during an initial meeting held at the Heritage Hall, Nucleus Plaza.

A cross-section of community organizations was in attendance and the meeting was ably conducted by Dr. Calvin Rolark, newspaper publisher of Washington, D.C. and Chairman of the Black Media, Inc. Cooperative; Winnie Palmer, National Chairperson of the **THE ADVANCER**, the AOIP Family and Community Reading Newspaper; and Carrie Haynes, National Vice Chairperson of Interorganizational Liaison Oversight.

There was wide participation, involvement and total commitment rendered by all who attended. It was a heart-warming meeting.

The work of AOIP is targeted to reach and assist every educationally-disadvantaged class of persons in America—young and old—whose lack of learning beyond the fourth grade level is due, in significant part, to egodiminution in the past or present.

The primary universe upon which AOIP deals in a compensatory, ego-strengthening way includes—but is not limited to—Black, Hispanics, Indians and other Americans similarly situated. AOIP's approach is helpful to all educationally-disadvantaged students.

This largely Black-focused approach is most revelent because Black Americans represent this kind of illiteracy predicament "in extremes" and the needs of other disadvantaged are included as well under this setting.

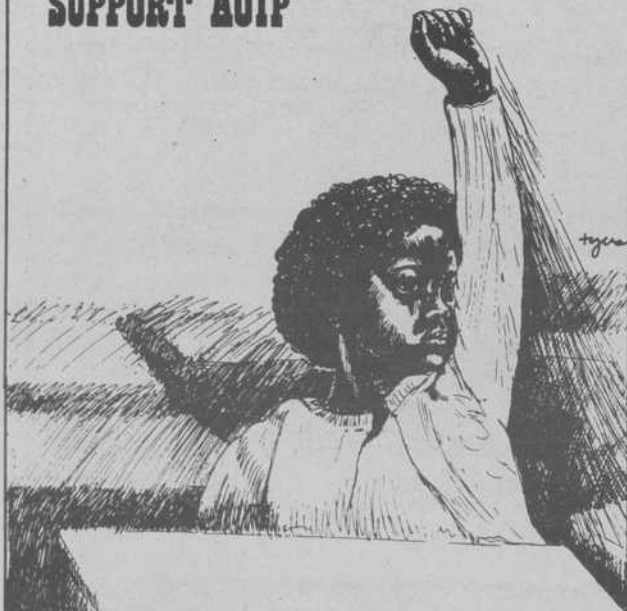
The role of AOIP among the educationally disadvantaged within public school settings is totally supplemental in nature. A large part of the unique learning materials developed by the long-experienced and exceptionally-qualified educators and oehr professionals within AOIP is designed specifically for Chapter 1-type students . . . and this includes parents of those students in school who are educationally disadvantaged and need assistance.

Las Vegas is fortunate to have this opportunity of advancing this total program for those in need within our community.

Representatives of AOIP, community organizations and dedicated participating individuals are to be hailed for their unselfish interests and participation in this worthwhile cause.

The community needs this great work. We see a great future for this endeavor. With full cooperation and support of all the citizens, the project will not fail.

**THE FIRST STEPS
ARE SO IMPORTANT...
SUPPORT AOIP**



To Be Equal

UNEMPLOYMENT TOP ISSUE

by John E. Jacob

It is dangerous for the nation to think that the current economic prosperity means there's no unemployment problem any more. In fact, unemployment is a serious problem that could grow to more than that at the first sign of a cyclical downturn.

And for black Americans, whose unemployment rate is stuck at the 16 percent level, doing something about Depression-level unemployment rates is the top priority.

Unfortunately, most Americans wouldn't agree. Americans wouldn't agree.

They know that overall unemployment is down to the seven percent range, and they are told that seven percent represents "normal" unemployment. There's a dim recognition that minority joblessness is a bit higher, and that some manufacturing regions have high unemployment. But that's about the extent of the general public's perception.

But seven percent isn't "normal." Just a decade or so ago it would have been

seen as recession-level unemployment and "normal" was more properly defined at about four percent of the workforce.

Seven percent unemployment translates into about eight million people officially unemployed — and



John E. Jacob

almost as many "officially" jobless, since they are willing and able to work but can't find full-time job. Blacks are disproportionately among those who are jobless, with rates well over double the white jobless rate.

In considering the unemployment issue, it is important to understand that while

the economy is creating an astounding 300,000 jobs every month, it is not creating enough jobs to employ all who want to work.

And many of those jobs aren't full-time -- they're part-time jobs. The government counts all part-time work, even an hour a week, as a job. So the statistics mask what would otherwise be seen as a serious

fringe benefits. In Europe, where part-time work is also very extensive, the lack of fringes isn't as important since there is a fully-developed government social welfare net that includes family allowances, medical care insurance and housing subsidies.

But in the U.S. where social benefits are limited, there is no such compen-

*John E. Jacob is President Of
The National Urban League*

problem.

Some twenty percent of all U.S. jobs are part-time, and that share of all jobs is rising. Most part-time workers want to work part-time, but some six million do not -- they want to work full-time and accept part-time, but some six million do not -- they want to work full-time and accept part-time work because they have no other alternative.

Wages for part-time work are generally lower, and most such positions offer no

sation for part-time workers. So increasingly, workers are forced into the bottom tier of a two-tier job market. The more fortunate and skilled enjoy full-time jobs and benefits, and an increasing number are consigned to part-time, low-skill, no-benefit jobs.

That bottom tier of the job market is also home to the bulk of black workers, who are disproportionately found among low-wage oc-

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ENTERPRISE ZONES: URBAN RENEWAL OR WISHFUL THINKING?

By Norman Hill

President Reagan's only idea about how to help America's depressed urban and rural areas is to endorse the creation of "enterprise zones", as set forth in the 1983 bill co-authored by Reps. Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.) and Robert Garcia (D-N.Y.), to be introduced again in the present Congress.

The advocates of the zones are of two kinds: those who see them as a new idea for urban revitalization that breaks from the government "giveaways" of the 1960's Model Cities program; and those who accept the fact that urban and community development grants will be cut, and they might as well jump in and try for the only form of

federal aid going. Into the latter category falls the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which is on record as supporting the plan, with the proviso that the number of designated zones (now set at 75) be expanded to 300. Under the plan, the fed-

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

eral government would offer tax cuts: new companies in a zone would be exempted from all capital-gains taxes and 75% of corporate income taxes. Their workers would also receive individual income tax credits.

The impulse behind the enterprise zone is good: to create attractive oppor-

tunities for businesses to open and create jobs in areas where they wouldn't normally want to operate. It is a plan that appeals to the pragmatic desire to help people help themselves and their communities, by eliminating the

conditions that discourage private initiative. It is this type of pragmatic populism that makes Republican Jack Kemp well-liked.

The problems with the plan are several. First, the

plan would mainly encourage already existing companies - companies large enough to see a real advantage in the tax cut - simply to relocate, probably bringing their employees with

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