

Point of View

Editorial

Are our elderly and the poor going to be penalized by this administration for being elderly and poor? A fair question? We hope not.

It appears that the present administration is seriously considering either cutting, taxing, or freezing benefits to Social Security recipients in order to reduce the deficit.

Maybe the question should be asked: Are these recipients the cause of the huge deficit incurred by this administration? No one knows for sure where the problems with the national budget deficit really lie. However, we are quite sure that the meager amounts that Social Security recipients have to live on is not the major factor that caused the huge deficit.

Our major concern, at this time, is that the elderly and poor are not made to feel guilty for being in their particular condition. While it may be true that some Social Security recipients may not need the money to live on, it is also true that many recipients have no other means of support.

To play politics with the very existence of the elderly and the poor may cause an enormous amount of tension and fear, thereby depriving many of these persons of the right to live out their lives without fear of having enough to eat or a fairly comfortable place in which to live.

Most of us have been taught that "What goes around, comes around." If this is a truism, the years when fear and tension come around for the politicians will be very difficult ones for them.

Letter To Editor

(Editor: The following letter was forwarded to Tom Keevil, Editor, Las Vegas Review Journal by Otis R. Harris--See related story page 4)

Dear Mr. Keevil:

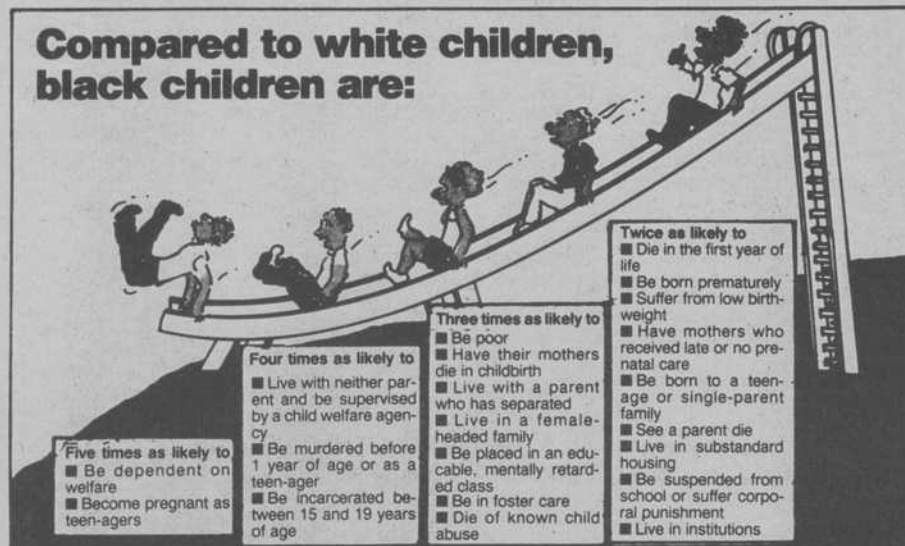
This community has suffered a badly bloodied nose from the article published in the A.M. edition of the Las Vegas Review Journal June 3, 1985 on page 3A.

It appears that the news story was written and published to deliberately influence the legislature for the sole purpose of sabotaging the New Dawn economic development project. The A.M. edition (the one that the legislature receives in Carson City) reads almost completely different from the P.M. home edition.

It is obvious that the story was designed and started to engender fear and play on racial bigotry in the legislature solely to discredit the project (New Dawn) because black ministers support it, and black citizens initiated it. This kind of negative treatment of black initiated economic development efforts appear to have a long and consciously premeditated history of harrassment on the part of the R.J. if there appears to be possible that some measure of success is about

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Compared to white children, black children are:



By Susan Harlan, USA TODAY

To Be Equal

Action For the Homeless

By JOHN E. JACOB

Homelessness is a growing problem in America, demanding a coordinated national policy that assures emergency shelter, food and health services for the poorest of the poor.

The brunt of providing emergency services has been borne by local governments and, by voluntary groups. But the sheer scale of the problem overwhelms their efforts, making federal intervention absolutely necessary.

The right to shelter is a basic human right, as acknowledged by the 1949 Housing Act that commits the nation to "a decent home and a suitable living environment" for all Americans, regardless of income.

It is estimated that over three million people are homeless in America today — sleeping in temporary

shelters, on park benches or in the streets. The problem is massive and visible, in large cities and in small.



John E. Jacob

The widely held myth is that the homeless are drifterse, mentally ill, or alcoholics. That may have been true in past years, but virtually all who have been involved in servicing the homeless agree that today they are largely composed of families, poor people who can't afford housing, and unemployed workers and

their families.

In New York, for example, adults; and that there are more children than single adults staying in the city's emergency shelter system.

So the problem can't be swept away by recycling old

construction and the deep cuts in federal housing subsidies over the past several years. That shrinkage of the federal role has occurred while waiting lists for public housing grew and while low-income

John E. Jacob is President Of The National Urban League

stereotypes. Homelessness is the result of extreme poverty and of the housing crisis that consists of the elimination of affordable housing units for low-income families.

The lack of low-rental housing means that many of the poor are forced into the streets while others are forced to double up by moving in with other families or relatives.

And it is compounded by the virtual freeze in federal low-income housing

housing in many cities has been replaced by luxury apartments.

Millions have not participated in the economic recovery, and better economic conditions have not led to more construction of low-income housing by private developers. It is generally agreed that the private housing market won't go near low-income housing, leaving government or assisted non-profit voluntary groups as the only hope for

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TOWARD EMPOWERMENT

"No Hiding Place"

By CALVIN W. ROLARK

Editor's Note: This week's guest opinion leader is Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, President and Founder of the United Black Fund. Dr. Rolark also serves as Chairman of The BMI Cooperative (member publishers of Black Media, Inc. of which this paper is an affiliate. This group's papers represent approximately 70 percent of the circulation of all the Black-owned newsprint in America). Lastly, Dr. Rolark is publisher of the Washington Informer newspaper in Washington, D.C.

Never have I felt more inspired to move even farther in terms of Black community-

building than when the Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan addressed the members of the board of the Assault On Illiteracy Program (AOIP), Black businessmen and women from the Black and Corporate communities, the publishers associated with Black Media, Inc. (BMI) and others at the First Annual National BLACK MONITOR Hall of Fame for Community-Building Award weekend in Washington, D.C.

His stirring and most vital subject of doing for ourselves as Black people, rather than waiting around for someone else to do for us, was placed on a level where not one of us in that room could escape the reality that is facing all of us as Black people. And that is, that there is "no hiding place" for Blacks. The "veil

of ignorance" and apathy was lifted once again in that meeting and, I dare say, not one of us, as "middle class and upwardly mobile Blacks," who listened with such fierce intensity and admiration, would ever be the same again. We cannot afford to be complaisant any longer.

While I am not able to invoke the spirit and fervor of Dr. Sullivan's "no hiding place" speech, I will try to convey the essence of his instructions.

One World

Wendell Wilkie, author of *One World* stated that there would come a time when everything in the world would be so interrelated that nothing in the world could be hidden any more. There would be no more "see no evil," "hear no evil," and "speak no evil." The consciousness of the world would be raised. Cases in point: Gandhi in India; Nkrumah in Ghana; TV

cameras focusing on dogs biting children; and fire hoses turned on civil rights workers in Birmingham. Also the spotlight is always on injustice, and will remain as long as there are people who are committed to seeing that the injustices done to them are not only abolished, but also that they are compensated equitably.

The Civil Rights Movement has been successful and we have Black mayors of some major U.S. cities, but we just can't have Black mayors with no economic power.

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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