

**By JOHN E. JACOB** 

The Office of Management and Budget, which is supposed to be the guardian of the budget, has taken on the task of undercutting civil rights under the cover of reducing paperwork.

Many government agencies demand statistical breakdowns on race and gender from users of their services. At the Department of Housing and Urban Development, for example, home loan lenders seeking federal guarantees have to indicate the race and sex of loan applicants on their for governmentforms insured loan guarantees.

Why? The answer is mple simple.

In the past blacks, Hispanics and women were routinely discriminated against for housing loans. That discrimination is now illegel and to monitor compliance with the law, HUD. the

in Black progress and sur-

the general population.

show that the incidence rate

comparison with a 12 per-

population. Mortality rates

for Blacks have increased 34

percent, although the rate for

nine percent. Studies show

that socioeconomic factors,

including diet and lifestyle

vival

health.

Administration, and other federal agencies include race and sex information on their

That way they can tote up the statistics and determine

It says they aren't necessary that the same numbers are collected elsewhere by other government agencies. But those agencies often do not have the responsibility for enforcing the laws and

Department's data collection procedures and you virtually ensure that it will not be able to measure progress.

The Transportation Department is affected too, since it administers similar set-aside programs. Federal monies distributed to states

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

## HUD and VA applicants.

OMB isn't politically naive, so it doesn't come right out and say its purpose is to get government out of the business of enforcing the civil rights laws. Rather, it claims it has the 'responsibility under the Paperwork Reduction Act to reduce the burden to the public in filling out forms."

That raises the issue of whether paperwork reduction is more important than civil rights enforcement and suggests a very strange set of priorities. Sure, it is good to cut government red tape and paperwork, but no one ever thought the Paperwork Reduction Act would in effect become the Minority Opportunities **Reduction Act.** 

If OMB has its way other agencies too, will eliminate racial and gender questions on their forms. The Commerce Department, for example, runs programs designed to give minorityowned businesses their fair

government

contracts. Eliminate the Since part of the problem is a matter of perceptions, attitudes, and lifestyles, a major challenge of the JOINT HEALTH VENTURE is working to change our perceptions about cancer, attitudes and lifestyles.

of

share

A 1980 American Cancer Society attitudinal survey revealed that Blacks: underestimate the prevalency of cancer, are less likely than whites to believe they themselves will get cancer, remain pessimistic about the curability of cancer and are less likely to see a doctor if they are experiencing symptoms, and have limited awareness of cancer prevention

regulations applicable to

and cities could also be used to discriminate without data on race and sex of employees, contractors, and

> users. It is clear that OMB's aim is to stop civil rights enforcement by eliminating information crucial to that enforcement.

> It has a parallel in the Justice Department's war on numerical guidelines in affirmative action programs and in the government's own reluctance to comply with requests for statistics about its own employment patterns.

> Speaking of numbers, it would be interesting to have some numbers about OMB itself - how many blacks, Hispanics and women it employs in professional positions and how many were involved in its current campaign against vital statistics.

> Effective measurement is a form of control. Take away the data and you lose control. OMB is trying to make sure the government loses control over civil rights enforcement.

> The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NN-PA) is pleased to join the National Medical Association, the National Council of Negro Women, the

#### See NNPA, Page 6

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice welcomes expressions of all vie 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

health of ourselves and our children. Will our sons and daughters be forced to fight in a war that may or may not concern them directly? The above question is being asked by more and more of our young men especially. There can be no definitive answer to this question as long as our world leaders do not put forth an honest effort to peaceahly settle their differences. It seems rather apparent that crisis become more serious just before announcements are made concerning intentions to seek reelection or afterwards.

One other question that we may ask is: Are we in any way responsible for the creation of any of the crises mentioned above? If the United States is responsible in the least for any one critical incident, then we must examine our motives for becoming involved.

bers of missing children across the country; the huge wave of

dope peddling across and nation; the loss of the orange crop

in Florida, and the alarming minority unemployment

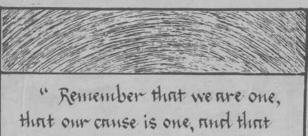
We, as law abiding citizens, must begin to question the ef-

fect of so many crisis situations upon the physical and mental

Blacks are particularly vulnerable to the effects of crisis situations on the national level. It appears that every time there is an emergency situation, programs aimed at helping Blacks are either reduced or curtailed.

As we enter the summer season, we would do well to rethink our priorities for dealing with situations all around us.

\* The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication. .....



we must help each other, if we must succeed ... What you suffer, we suffer, what you endure, we endure. We are indissolubly united, and must fall or flourish together."

> Frederick Douglass Editorial from North Star

rather than inherent biological characteristics caused the prevailing difference bet-

Health experts say, in ween Blacks and whites. most instances, our en-Ther is encouraging news vironment and the way we about a new national effort to live our daily lives directly afreduce cancer risks and deaths among Blacks. Offect the state of our physical ficials of the National Cancer A striking example of this Institute and representatives is documented evidence that of key national Black Blacks drink and smoke organizations have announmore than any other ced the launching of a JOINT HEALTH VENTURE to help population group, and, as a result, Black Americans get protect Blacks from cancer cancer more often and die through prevention and from cancer more often than health awareness.

This JOINT HEALTH VEN-Specifically, cancer data during the past 25 years TURE is a cooperative program of the National Cancer Institute of the U.S. for Blacks is up 27 percent in Department of Health and Human Services and national cent increase for the white Black organizations to utilize existing grassroots communications networks and the mass media to convince whites has increased only Black Americans that there is something all of us can do every day to protect ourselves against cancer.

John E. Jacob whether discrimination appears to be taking place and who is doing it. Take away that valuable enforcement tool and you virtually guarantee that discrimination can go on without fear of being caught or punished.

So why does OMB want to away with those

# Be aware of and protect against cancer . . . **Health Important To**

**Black Progress** Poor health is increasingly



## do Veterans statistics?

everywhere.