

Point of View

Editorial

Never before, during the last quarter century, have we seen so many people out of work, without money for basic necessities, and needing help so badly as we see today.

Never before has the crime rate been so high as it is today.

Never before have we seen so many actual scrambling for the very few jobs that become available from time to time.

The cold weather is creeping up on us and soon Thanksgiving will be on the horizon. It will be very bleak for many people. Many will not have the traditional turkey with all of the trimmings that are so much a part of the traditional holiday season.

Now is the time for sharing. Those of us who have been blessed to have jobs, money, a decent home, etc., must come forward and remember our less fortunate fellowmen. Now is the time to realize the many blessings that some of us have been privileged to obtain, and share these blessings with someone.

We believe that there is receiving in giving. We may not receive a monetary reward, but the feeling of having helped the helpless is much greater than any amount of money we may receive.

The federal and state governments are not willing to help in any meaningful ways during these times of ultra-conservatism. Therefore, the Black community must band together and see that help is extended where needed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mr. Ed Brown
Las Vegas Sentinel
1201 South Eastern Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104

Dear Mr. Brown:

I wanted to send you this report on our recent advances in Congress on the Anti-Apartheid Act and our effort to enact meaningful legislation to impose U.S. sanctions on the racist apartheid regime in South

Africa.

As you will see from the enclosed material, we have made worthwhile progress in Congress. The House of Representatives passed a strong bill in June, and the Senate followed by adopting a milder version in early July. These two bills were reconciled in a House-Senate conference on July 31 in which I was privileged to participate, and which recommended compromise legislation that was approved by the House on August 1 by

To Be Equal

Investing In People

By JOHN E. JACOB

There is a widespread feeling that you can't do anything about poverty. Look at how the Great Society failed, some say. And today, we hear about failed social programs dragging the economy down.

Well, it's not true. You can do something about poverty. We have done something about it.

When Congress raised Social Security benefits and instituted SSI it eliminated the bulk of poverty among the elderly. Job training programs moved working-age adults and their families out of poverty.

The Great Society programs were a mixed bag. Some worked. Some didn't. But they did prove you could reduce poverty significantly.

Maybe they worked too well. They cut poverty among whites so much that many white people thought poverty ceased to exist. They also helped cut black poverty almost in half between 1960 and 1970. It's only in the past five years that poverty has been moving up again —

the overwhelming vote of 380-48.

Unfortunately, we were not able to complete Senate action on the bill before the August recess, because Republican Senator Jesse Helms began a filibuster against it. A vote to shut off the filibuster is scheduled for September 9 in the Senate, and I am confident that we will win that vote and send the bill to President Reagan shortly thereafter.

I am enclosing a fact sheet summarizing the bill as agreed upon by the conferees. Obviously, I would have preferred to accept the stronger House bill intact. Nevertheless, the final bill is significantly stronger than the version originally adopted by the Republican Senate — primarily because the Senate conferees agreed to accept the House provision banning imports of krugerrands into the United States.

precisely the years in which federal opportunity programs have been cut.

Opportunity often boils down to education. Back in 1960 we had about 200,000 blacks in institutions of higher learning. Then came federal student aid programs. Compensatory education programs. School desegregation. The result?



John E. Jacob

Over a million black young people are in college today.

The civil rights laws and affirmative action helped double the numbers of blacks in managerial jobs. They opened doors of opportunity that many thousands walked through. Once people saw they could

I am also enclosing a copy of the text of the bill, along with the statements by Senator Lowell Weicker and myself on the Senate floor on August 1, when the conference bill was called up for debate. Senator Weicker and I were the principal Senate sponsors of the Anti-Apartheid Act, and we intend to do all we can to ensure its prompt enactment. Apartheid is one of the great moral evils of our time; we must end the Reagan Administration's policy of constructive engagement, and put America at last on the side of hope, justice and freedom in South Africa.

I hope that you will find these materials of interest, and I look forward to prompt final action on this important measure early in September. Yours for a free South Africa,

Sincerely,
Edward M. Kennedy
U.S. Senator

get those jobs, their aspirations were raised and they equipped themselves with the skills to get them.

So it's a dim view of human nature that says social programs corrupt people. They enable people. That's what America should be doing today, too — enabling people to move from poverty to decent living standards, from despair to hope, from alienation to inclusion in the mainstream.

not illiterate when it comes to computers, but also when it comes to simple written instructions.

And it won't be able to compete if it freezes large portions of people out of the mainstream in order to preserve outmoded discriminatory habits. For the fact is that the low birthrates of the past two decades place a premium on full utilization of all people, and especially of the

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We need to be doing that not solely out of altruism or a desire to achieve greater equality — although those factors are vitally important. The nation needs to be doing it in its own long-term economic self-interest.

In order to compete American companies are going to have to have a workforce that has higher skills levels, is more adaptable and is more innovative. It means we will need more engineers and fewer laborers.

And that, in turn, means investing in education and training programs that enable more of us to become productive in an advanced economy. Such an economy can't possibly compete worldwide if it has large numbers of people who are

disadvantaged, who form an ever-larger portion of the workforce and who have been denied the skills they and our economy need.

So investment in human capital is a necessity for America, and regardless of what conservative mythology says, government is going to have to do a big part of that investing. Those Great Society programs were one attempt at doing what has to be done. After this era of neglect ends, we'll have to pick up where the Great Society left off.

That suggests we can't turn our backs on a social philosophy of caring and helping — on policies that enable people to become productive — on a societal role that fulfills human aspirations.

Michael Still Most Popular Name

Naming a new baby is often the most difficult decision new parents face. Should the baby be named after a favorite aunt or uncle? Perhaps something picturesque like Rock or Sierra. Maybe a special quality like Joy or Glory.

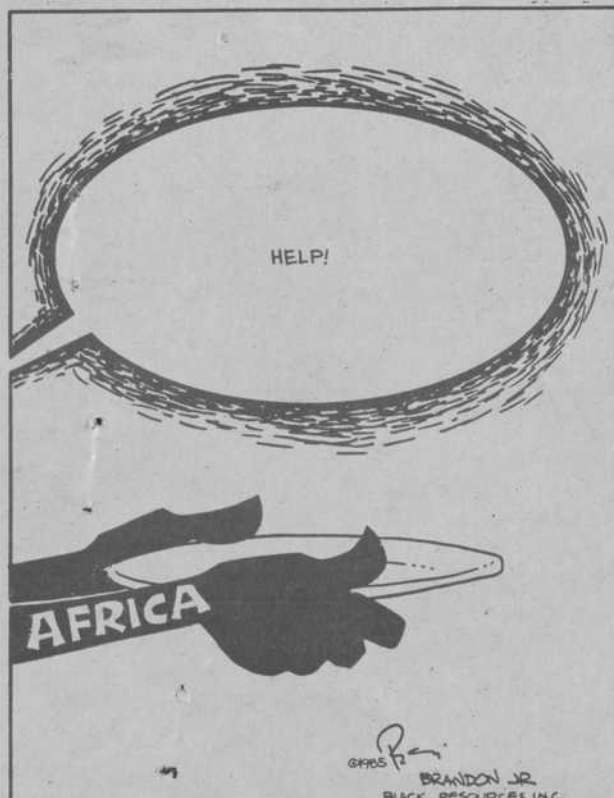
The vital records office at the Clark County Health District reports these names were most popular during 1984.

Michael, the most popular boy's name in Clark County

for 25 years, was replaced in 1984 by Christopher.

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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