

Point of View

Our Businesses

"Negro business men have too much to do... They cannot secure intelligent guidance because schools are not turning out men properly trained to take up Negro business as it is... to develop and make it what it ought to be rather than find fault with it."

gms

Carter G. Woodson
Mis-education of the Negro

Editorial

'Big Stick' Gets Something Done

There's an old adage that says if you carry a "big stick" you'll get something done. That's just about the size of it when something pressing is needed.

Several years ago, the Westside community was badly in need of a cleanup. There were a number of old wrecked cars strewn everywhere, trash scattered in every nook and corner, dead trees hanging dangerously and fire-gutted buildings beckoning for real disaster — a real unsightly mess.

Something had to be done . . . and fast.

A small group of ministers and concerned citizens called on city hall to file a complaint. The NAACP and other organizations pushed for support. They all wanted immediate action . . . to get the mess cleaned-up and for the city to do something about sidewalks and street lights. Well, it wasn't long before the city started work in that direction.

To see the street cleaning crews out there daily was a sight to behold. The street excavation teams moved in. Things were happening. The unfortunate thing was that it did not last long. They moved out just about as fast as they moved in. The job was not complete. It appeared to be an attempt to appease.

Now the area, in some locations, is getting back to the old condition.

The City of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas are to be congratulated for the street and sidewalk improvements made recently in the communities. It certainly has given the community a better, cleaner look. It is always reassuring to know that someone cares.



To Be Equal

WHY BUSINESS BACKS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

By JOHN E. JACOB

The Administration's war on affirmative action has revitalized a coalition of powerful supporters of policies to enhance minority opportunities, including the business community, which has a stake in preserving affirmative action.

Business supports affirmative action because it has been a useful tool in helping employers expand their employee base and goals and timetables have proven an indispensable aid to measuring progress.

Even as the Administration rails against goals and timetables as "quotas," businessmen support them as a common sense approach to solving the problem of underrepresentation of minorities and women.

As a spokesman for the National Association of Manufacturers told a Congressional committee in July:

"Industry does not believe that numerical goals for minority inclusion in the workforce, by themselves, constitute quotas. Business, particularly big business, sets goals and timetables for every aspect of its operations



John E. Jacob

... Setting goals and timetables for minority and female participation is a way of measuring progress and focusing on potential discrimination."

When government officials complain about business' use of numerical

measurements, the only response has to be amazement that anyone could think a program could be implemented without ways to determine whether its working or not.

Affirmative action has become integrated into corporate policies for a good reason, it is effective.

Business knows it can't compete without drawing on

government action or class action lawsuits to being a strategic long term policy to improve corporate skills.

Many businessmen say that even if the government wipes out its affirmative action efforts, they'll continue them. One recent survey of top corporate leaders found that their companies' affirmative action plans were established partly

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the resources of all Americans, not just the white male minority. And it also knows that past and present discrimination require special efforts to hire and promote those who had been excluded from the economic mainstream.

So affirmative action has progressed from being something reluctantly implemented from fear of

to satisfy "corporate objectives unrelated to government regulations."

Another survey found that corporate leadership doesn't agree that goals and timetables are the same as quotas. And almost all affirmed that they'd continue to use numerical goals and timetables even if government no longer required it.

FROM CAPITOL HILL

Administration's Civil Rights Rhetoric Is In Direct Conflict With Its Actions

By A. Madison

The Reagan Administration boasts that they've done more for civil rights than any other administration. That can't be denied, because it has done more to set back civil rights gains than any Administration since Reconstruction.

Mr. Reagan's refusal to even meet with Black leaders and to give the Black press an interview, even though both groups have requested meetings, in this respect is comparable only to President Pieter Botha of South Africa.

The President is accommodating the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think-tank which asked him to make getting rid of civil rights a top priority. He has gone all out to carry out their request.

The Administration worked hard to weaken the Voting

Rights Act. It tried, unsuccessfully, to substitute the intent provision for the effects test.

No one can forget the Administration's attempt to get tax exempt for private schools that discriminate, and its fight to maintain the Grove City decision, which allows discrimination in disbursement of federal funds to all departments of an institution but the specific entity that receives the federal money.

William Bradford Reynolds, assistant attorney general for civil rights, has made a massive effort to overturn court-ordered busing, although busing has been accepted in the school districts for several years. A prime example is the Norfolk, Virginia school system, which has been successfully integrated, using busing, for thirteen years. Mr. Reynolds

advised the school board that it could discontinue its desegregation plan, since the court order had been obeyed and the school system was no longer under the court's jurisdiction. Brad Reynolds seems to feel that once a court has been obeyed, it can later be ignored.

The Reagan Administration, through its reconstitution of the Civil Rights Commission, changed it from an independent agency to the Administration's mouthpiece. Some Black leaders term Commission Chairman Clarence Pendleton Reagan's lackey. The Commission fights hard to get all of the President's

views on civil rights implemented.

Since Blacks have been denied all meetings with Mr. Reagan on civil rights and South Africa, they are being forced to look beyond the President for the maintaining of civil rights gains and aid.

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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