

Point of View

Organize and Vote

"The greatest
weapon used
against the Negro
is
disorganization"

Marcus Garvey

Editorial

Black Americans perceive the debate over whether we are in a depression as an irrelevant exercise in avoiding hard realities. Depression is a harsh and relentless fact of life in the underprivileged areas, and its cold tentacles have begun to ensnare working people and the middle-class, having disposed of the most impoverished.

For many the abrupt and unprecedented turn of events have encouraged a sense of hopelessness, a feeling that things are going to get much worse before they get better -- if indeed they do get better. We do not subscribe to the alarm and defeatism so often encountered today; we are convinced that Las Vegas and the County has the resources and creativity necessary to overcome current problems.

The prophets of defeat and gloom, however, will no doubt be proven accurate if the level of local insensitivity does not rise above its present mediocrity and timidity. And while the black community certainly did not create the problems we are mired in, it has a natural and fundamental leadership role to play in helping to determine how the community is to face the enormous consequences of economic deterioration, and to help formulate an aggressive, thorough-going agenda of change.

This agenda, it should be stressed, would require a considerable break from the thinking of the past. It would be more far-reaching than the limited response from the Great Society...their limited response to pervasive class and racial injustices. More to the point, it would not be a recognizably black program, but would instead embrace all those who need social change or the protection of government against consequences of a mismanaged economy.

It was not long ago when the basic goals of black people defined a national agenda of change. While this agenda was built around the specific and unique needs of minorities, it was relevant to all those who had been excluded from a share of the good things our society has generated. Today, of course, the destiny of blacks is much more intertwined with the future of the American society.

Blacks will not move ahead while the rest of the society is in a widespread decline. Our needs will only be served by a rapid and dramatic transformation of a society which results in a new and better social order that meets the needs of all who are in need.

To Be Equal

JOB TRAINING IS GOOD INVESTMENT

By John E. Jacob

The only way America is going to compete in the world's markets is if it makes maximum use of a productive, trained work force.

Within a few years a fourth of new entrants into the work force will be non-whites — blacks, Hispanics and Asians — including many without the basic skills and training needed in a post-industry economy.

That should be cause for declaration of a national economic emergency and an all-out effort to train and place today's unskilled disadvantaged in decent jobs. Instead, we're told that it's too expensive and that the huge budget deficits don't allow for such programs.

But the opposite is true. A better trained, more highly skilled work force would mean spending fewer federal dollars while returning higher tax revenues and cutting the deficit.

A look at just one partnership venture between the private and the non-profit sectors proves that such training programs are investments in our human resources, not just spending programs.



IBM sponsors training centers in cooperation with community-based organizations, including the National Urban League, among others.

IBM's analysis of the results of its training centers in 1984 demonstrates what a tremendous investment such programs are for the community, and lead to the

inescapable conclusion that more private and government programs of this sort are wise investments in America's future.

In 1984, the job training centers graduated 3,038 people, of whom 2,643 were placed in jobs — an 87 percent placement rate.

The average cost per

Now look at the results. After placement in jobs they would not have qualified for without training, the government got back some \$7.7 million in taxes. The total economy gained by \$24.6 million.

The net gain to the public was \$30 million — salaries and taxes paid plus savings

John E. Jacob is President Of
The National Urban League

placement came to less than \$3,000, not including the value of IBM's equipment loans and similar costs. About half of the people placed have been receiving some form of public assistance, either welfare or unemployment benefits, for a total of about \$5.7 million. Incidentally, they would have been getting those government outlays whether they were in the training program or not.

in public support programs less training costs.

Put another way, each placement cost less than \$3,000 and earned well over \$11,000 in new entry level jobs for an average net gain per placement of \$8,581.

That's a 300 percent return on the training investment!

And the real, long term gain is far, far higher than that, since the training costs were one-time, one-year

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BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By Charles E. Belle
Business Editor

Following in the footsteps of a would be "jailbird" is just about the perfect act for an administration ad man in charge of affirmative action. Aside from a good sense of humor, Secretary of Labor, William E. Brock, is as bad for Black Americans as was his "grandpappy" who was a Southern Senator sometime back. Same as anyone else in the Ronald Reagan administration. In spite of Brock's glowing press clippings, cuddled by the major white press pitting him against the President's mice like Meese, Attorney General, and a rat like Reynolds, head of the U.S. Justice Civil Rights Divisions, he is selling the President's dirty laundry. Doing his duty, declaring "I am a part of the President's team," Brock bought his bright eyes and busy tail comments on "Labor Management: U.S. Competitiveness," to the

Commonwealth Club of California, in a classy setting in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco. Free trade for them, unemployment for US.

While Mr. Brock was supposed to be battling for "precise numerical hiring goals" for Black Americans, minorities and women at the White House, the fact is he got swiped out by an overwhelming number of cabinet members and the master himself, Ronald Reagan. Reckon some people cannot see the forest for the trees. Some people cannot see. A few do not even want to see. Such is the astigmatic case of considering affirmative action goals to use all of America's labor at cabinet meetings in the White House and in the head of its ringleader, Ronald Reagan. Ruining set-aside programs for small

businesses and crippling affirmative action programs for women, minorities and Black Americans apparently is not enough for this administration. Adjunct to this, Ronald Reagan and his cohorts want to have disenfranchised people under their heels to grind the beleaguered group into the ground. Thus becoming as cheap as foreign labor, Congress and Justice must call a halt to this imperialist and hilterist tactic of Ronald Reagan taking place.

On the one hand, Brock and the President's boys pretend that "low labor cost is not the cause" of the import onslaught into the domestic market. "Making \$25-an-hour is O.K.," bellows Brock, but you must be productive enough for the wages. Well, first off who

makes \$25-an-hour in any factory, except management? Maybe Mr. Brock has a better plan to reduce the country's record treasury deficit or record trade deficit than the President. If so, he is keeping it a secret since after all he was previously the President's Ambassador for International Trade, which has only gotten worse the longer he and Ronald Reagan have been in office. Face trade as practiced by the President and Mr. Brock has left the U.S. with its legs wide open.

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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