

# Point of View

## Editorial

### THE COMMUNITY TRIBUNAL SEGMENTS AND THEIR POWER

The considerable amount of research and studies currently underway at the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice on the political ramifications and close bond developed since the 1940s among many of the families who migrated from Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi is certainly challenging and intriguing.

The growth and development of this element of the community tribunal activities are certainly nothing that anyone should ignore or overlook.

It's one big, mammoth integrated family cemented to a state of being practically inseparable. There's no way around this fact. The community tribunal is one to be reckoned with.

On the political scene, the power of this community element has merged as one of the toughest to overcome. It is a hard shell to crack or penetrate.

Last week, the Sentinel-Voice launched Part I of this growing series. Next week and during the ensuing weeks, our reporter, Bob Palm, will give some interesting insights revealed through a number of our community leaders and the general populace.

These views will be reported throughout the series.

The community segments will be identified and the districts explored.

We will show how they are organized and how they rally to a cause whether political or socially oriented.

It's the COMMUNITY'S TRIBUNAL SEGMENTS AND THEIR POWER—reported in a series here for the next several weeks. IT WILL BE MUST READING. Don't miss a segment.

*"It does no good to constantly remind folk of our primitive splendour and early civilization if we are not working to restore that majesty by taking our rightful place in the world today by developing a progressive technologically advanced culture that can not only compete with others but shine as brightly as any other people in the constellation of nations."*

Elombe Brath

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 Because of the volume of mail received, unpublished individual letters cannot be acknowledged.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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## To Be Equal

### THE BUDGET DISASTER

By JOHN E. JACOB

The Administration's proposed Budget for 1987 is a disaster that Congress should completely overhaul. It continues the process of overspending on costly, controversial weapons systems while starving programs that invest in human resources.

Domestic spending has been drastically cut since 1981 after adjusting for inflation, even as increased needs were generated by changes in the national economy and by the larger numbers of people in poverty.

The Administration's proposed 1987 Budget would cut yet another 14 percent out of domestic programs. In short, programs that were inadequate in 1981 were cut heavily since then, and would be subjected to major cuts in fiscal '87.

This Budget then, constitutes a war on the survivors. Having wounded vitally important programs, the Administration now proposes that Congress walk through the ruins and shoot the survivors.

This Budget would put bullets through the heads of welfare, nutrition, urban, job and health programs that poor people rely upon for basic survival and for new opportunities.

Programs targeted to low-income people would be cut by over \$9 billion, with 14



John E. Jacob

programs ended and others cut heavily. Because current spending levels become the base for future spending, the 1987 Budget cuts in those programs would come to \$23 billion by 1991.

Most deeply affected would be the elderly poor, two million of whom would be paying more for Medicare, and blacks, whose disproportionate poverty makes them rely more

heavily on survival programs.

Among the programs the Budget would close down are Legal Services, which helps give poor citizens access to the justice system; the community services block grant, which helps cities provide social services to the poor; housing assistance, and emergency food and shelter programs.

Another proven success,

fewer youths employed next year.

A federal Budget should be framed by first determining what the nation's needs are and then raising the revenues required to cover them.

But this Budget was framed without regard to either the short-range survival needs of significant numbers of citizens nor of the long-term educational

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

the Job Corps, would be also ended. The Job Corps has been on the Administration's hit list since it came to office, although the program is one of the few job training efforts targeted to the poorest, hardest-to-place youngsters and has compiled an extraordinary record of having its graduates go on to private sector employment, further schooling, or military service.

Other successful programs, like nutrition programs that help feed infants, and summer youth job programs, would also be cut, meaning that fewer children would be fed and

and economic needs of the nation.

It imposes unacceptable sacrifices on an already burdened poverty population. Poor people have paid for the economic boom and for tax breaks for the affluent with unemployment, reduced survival programs, and shattered hopes. They have not shared in the benefits of recent policies while they have assumed all of the burdens of the negatives of those policies.

When this Budget was first announced someone said that as far as Congress is concerned, it is "dead on arrival." Well, it has arrived and it is not dead. Congress should kill it and spare the nation's poor people further misery.

## CHILD WATCH

by Marian Wright Edelman  
President, Children's Defense Fund

### Joining Together to Fight Teen Pregnancy

It has been on the cover of Ebony and the cover of Time. It affects black Americans and white Americans and Hispanic Americans. It is our crisis of children having children, a problem that hurts all of us and which we can only fight together, as a nation.

Teen pregnancy carries with it grave costs:

- For the teen, who, as a result of the pregnancy, will probably drop out of school and never receive a high school diploma, and whose lifetime earnings will be half as much as a woman who waited until age twenty to have her first child;
- For her baby, who is

significantly more likely to be born at low birthweight and is at a much higher risk of death or birth defects, and who by age five will be more likely to have been admitted to a hospital because of an accident or a gastrointestinal infection; and

- For society, which will bear much of the financial burden of these problems. The public costs of teen pregnancy are very high. Thirty percent of all hospital deliveries involving births to pregnant teens are paid for out of the public purse. Sixty percent of those who rely on public assistance to survive had their first child as a teen. Seventy percent of all

families headed by women who are twenty-five or younger end up in poverty.

Our nation must act now to prevent teen pregnancy and to address the range of problems facing those teens who have already had children. Our first priority should be to prevent as many teens as possible from getting pregnant in the first place. Our second priority should be to delay as long as possible that initial teen pregnancy and ensure that teens who have already had one child do not worsen their

problems by having a second child before they are ready. The third priority is to protect those children that are born to teens from preventable health problems by making sure all teen mothers get prenatal care.

Undergirding our national effort should be an attempt to come to grips with the role and future of all young people in our society. To delay too-early parenthood, young people need hope, positive options, and the skills and job opportunities to move toward their goals.

Together, our nation can help all our youth stay off the wrong track and get on the right one.

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