

JACOB

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blacks allowed" but through subterfuge and silent understandings, discrimination flourishes.

We ought to have more to show for 18 years of a federal fair housing law than just driving discrimination underground, where it is still effective and deadly.

Today, a priority must be to marshal support for a new federal housing discrimination measure to plug the holes in the existing law.

The combination of loopholes and lax enforcement has made the Fair Housing Act relatively ineffective just as the housing crunch for minorities is worsening, with the stock of affordable housing shrinking and little new housing for low-income families being built.

The inability of the Fair Housing Act to stem the rising tide of housing discrimination is rooted in its narrow coverage and its inadequate enforcement provisions.

For several years the Congress has considered amendments to the Act that would put some enforcement teeth in it. And each year it has failed to pass those amendments. Now it is again considering a bill that would strengthen and extend the fair housing law.

Unless that bill is passed fair housing will never be a reality. The victims of discrimination must have access to fair hearings and the initiators of discrimination must get stiff penalties for their illegal acts.

The key to fair housing is strong and certain enforcement. We do not have fair housing in America today because we have weak and uncertain enforcement, and the remedy for that is passage of amendments to the Fair Housing Act that makes it effective.

Gibson seeks another term

RENO—Senate Majority Leader Jim Gibson said on Tuesday he will seek another four-year term in the upper house, adding he has already begun fundraising and expects to formally file within a short time.

Gibson, D-Henderson, is considered by most observers to be the most powerful lawmaker in Nevada.

Gibson, 61, said he made up his mind to run several weeks ago.

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