

# Point of View

## Editorial

ROUND ONE is over -- the 1986 Primary Election. It left many big so-called problems and turmoils.

In particular, the Assembly race of District 6 is the big battle that still looms and to be settled in November. In addition the runoff situation for the School Trustee seat between Yvonne Atkinson and Louise Jordan must be settled.

The Sentinel-Voice had predicted these unsettled questions in its earlier editorials.

Wednesday night strategic sessions were being held in both Assembly camps. Both now need to fine-tune approaches and campaign techniques.

The true test of the political savvy and acumen now rests in their hands.

It will be interesting to see how expensive they will be in their District. To do a good job they will really need to cover thoroughly their area this time -- a few signs and flyers will not bring home the bacon. Other campaign strategies: more personal appearances, advertising, community meetings, outings at churches, etc. might be the nails to hammer home victories.

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## CHILD WATCH

By Marian Wright Edelman

### A Bold Attack on the Dropout Problem

"What's at stake is America's children," says National Education Association (NEA) President Mary Futrell of her group's new dropout prevention effort. "What's at stake," she adds, "is America's hope."

NEA, along with teachers, principals, and other concerned citizens around the country are giving all of us new hope by launching a

bold attack on our nation's huge school drop out problem. NEA's "Operation Rescue" has started the ball rolling with leadership, ideas and seed money. And some school leaders are following through with the day-to-day, nitty-gritty efforts needed to help keep potential dropouts in school.

"Operation Rescue" is helping educators and others pool their ideas on how to

by Norman Hill

Labor Day has traditionally been a time when America pays tribute to the working men and women whose toil produces the great wealth of this nation. It is also a celebration of the democratic freedoms that underpin this country's economic might. And it is a time when we honor America's labor unions, an important vehicle for social and economic progress for all Americans.

In the past, images of Labor Day included huge parades in virtually every major city, with legions of workers marching proudly behind union banners. Politicians from every level government lauded the contributions of organized labor to the nation's growth, affirming John L. Lewis's observation that "the future

keep more of our children from dropping out. NEA has gathered teachers and other school officials, business and industry representatives, parents, and students around the meeting table to figure out approaches that will work. The result, released in May, is a "blueprint" designed to help schools and communities develop more effective dropout prevention programs.

"Operation Rescue" also provides another essential ingredient of success: money. NEA's dropout

of labor is the future of America."

Today, the scenario is quite different. Rapid de-industrialization (and the attendant growth of the service sector), automation and other technological advances that have radically reshaped the means of production, misguided trade policies and structural changes in the economy have eliminated millions of union

plagued by high unemployment, wage stagnation, sluggish job growth, declining purchasing power, all-time low savings rates, deflation, high trade and budget deficits and a badly crippled goods-producing sector.

So what do these factors mean for black workers and the black community? As the late A. Philip Randolph, this country's greatest black

growth has shifted from the high-paying goods-producing industries to the lower-paying service, finance and trade sectors. The result has been an increase of male-joblessness, poverty, family dissolution, and other social problems, not only among blacks, but among displaced workers of all colors.

But if the ravages of five years of Reaganomics have cast a pall over this year's Labor Day celebrations, they have also presented a formidable challenge to organized labor and the black-labor alliance. The critical question is how black workers and union members can counter the setbacks brought on by a changing economy and the adroit policies of the Reagan Administration. Clearly, the answer lies in the political arena.

In a very real sense, Labor Day marks the beginning of the 1986 electoral campaign. This year's Senate House and Gubernatorial elections provide the black-labor alliance with an important opportunity to alter the wreckless social and economic course that has wrought such misery on this country's workers, minorities, the unemployed and the poor. The black and labor vote must be mobilized to ensure that the Reagan economic disaster is translated into a political disaster for its architects.

This Labor Day must be a moment of reflection in which blacks recognize that we are one link in a long and difficult struggle of working people to achieve dignity and justice. The political struggle will determine what place, if any, social and economic justice will have on our national agenda.

As Randolph so eloquently put it: "We and our children, we and our grandchildren, cannot afford to abandon the fight. Our participation in the upcoming political and economic battles will be a very large extent determine the final outcome of our long years of dedication and sacrifice."

### Norman Hill is President of the A Philip Randolph Institute

jobs. Among American workers, generally, only 18 percent are union members, half the post-war peak.

Moreover, today's economy--despite the optimistic rhetoric of the Reagan Administration--is anything but robust. It is

prevention "war chest" will make local grants available to qualified NEA local affiliates to either start or expand dropout prevention efforts.

A recent NEA conference highlighted several schools that are already leading the way:

"The David School in David, Kentucky reaches out to youngsters who have left the school system, have little parental support, and suffer from a poor self-image. The school offers these "forgotten youth" a second chance, in an individualized program tailored to each youth's needs. Students receive a complete educational program leading to a diploma, vocational and on-the-job-training, and help connecting with community programs and services they need. In a county with a 50% dropout rate, David School students follow through to graduation and

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## Chances Go Around

"The world is like a true play of wheels, turn by turn one mounts and one descends."

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560 B.C.

Paul Ryan

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