

Point of View

Editorial

Encouraging courtesies

Many a comedian has in his repertoire a favorite joke about a nettlesome New York cabbie. Indeed, a measure of the image New York projects to the outside world is based on the legendary rudeness of its cabbie corps.

The Greater Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce apparently realizes that one of the first impressions visitors to Las Vegas glean of the city is derived from their experiences -- good or bad -- on that cab ride from the airport to that Strip or downtown hotel.

Beginning Monday, the chamber will begin a program designed to encourage Las Vegas cabbies to put on their best face for visitors. At the chamber's behest, the city's 1,800 taxicab drivers will be asked to provide their fares with post cards that the customers can use to rate the drivers in terms of appearance, attitude and safety.

On the basis of the customer evaluation, prizes, donated by local businesses, will be awarded to three outstanding cabbies each month.

It is hoped this program proves successful. The more courteous the cabbie corps, the better Las Vegas' image and the more attractive the city becomes for repeat tourist business, which will benefit both the cabbies and the local economy.

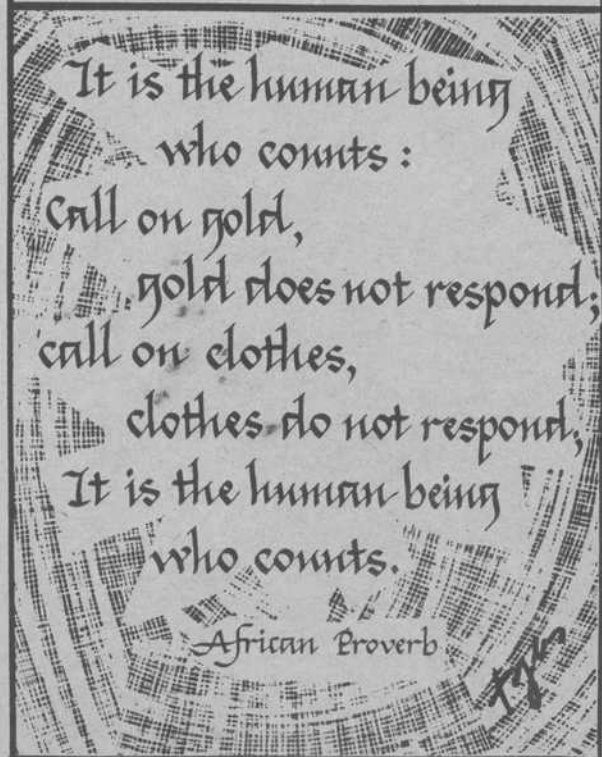
--Review Journal

Register

VOTE

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It's About People...



To Be Equal

Sliding Backwards

By John E. Jacob

What a difference a dozen years make! The National Urban League's annual conference returned to San Francisco for the first time since 1974, sparking some thoughts about the change in the state of black Americans over that period.

Few in 1974 could have foreseen the deep erosion that has taken place -- few could have imagined the slippery slide that placed black citizens further away from the goal of equality.

Back in 1974 we were seriously concerned the unemployment that was damaging black communities across the nation. A tenth of black workers were unemployed -- about a million people.

But today those numbers look good. Today, 15 percent of blacks are officially unemployed, or over 1,800,000 people.

So in those dozen years our employment rate rose by half and another 800,000 blacks were added to the ranks of the jobless.

Black family income was another concern in 1974. Then, the typical black family earned only 58 percent of the income of the typical white family. Today, the gap is even wider -- black family income is 56 percent that of whites.

Controlling for inflation, the typical black family LOST



John E. Jacob

\$1,500 since 1974. Put another way, the typical black family in 1974 had 1,500 more dollars to spend on food, clothing and shelter than its counterpart in 1986!

We were concerned about poverty in 1974. Just under 28 percent of all black people were poor. Today, about a

third of all blacks are poor.

In 1974, there were almost seven and a half million poor black Americans. In 1986, there are almost nine-and-a-half million poor black Americans. Two million more blacks became poor in the past dozen years!

Back in 1974 a third of all black families were headed by women. In 1986, over forty percent are.

Back in 1974 almost a third of black high school

Then, there were large numbers of Americans who still were unashamed of their belief in racial equality. There was a critical mass of people who saw the progress being made as a result of the War on Poverty programs, the job training programs, and the community development efforts sponsored by government.

And there was still considerable national commitment to the idea that

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graduates went on to college. In 1986, only 27 percent do. In many cities more black kids drop out of school than go on to college.

Yes a dozen years makes a difference. And for black Americans it is the difference between bad conditions and intolerable ones, between marginal status and no status, between trying to get ahead and fighting to keep from falling further behind.

There are other differences between 1974 and 1986.

society must help poor people survive -- that government's responsibility extends to feeding the hungry and housing the homeless and redressing the wrongs of discrimination.

Since the Watergate Summer of '74 we have seen a shift in values, from traditional ones that stress moral righteousness, compassion, and equality -- to today's new era values of anything goes, hostility to the poor, and indifference to inequality.

So in some ways, our nation has to turn the clock back -- to recapture more humane values, and to resume the march toward fairness and equality that has been prematurely abandoned.

FROM CAPITOL HILL

By Alfreda L. Madison

U.S. Must Use Equitable, and not Selective, Sanctions

Recently, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to accept H.R. 997, the Ronald Dellums amendment which calls for very strong sanctions against South Africa. This amendment prohibits all United States investments in South Africa, which means complete divestment of corporations presently operating there. It also restricts all South African imports and exports to this country except strategic minerals that are essential for U.S. military uses, all landing rights must be denied South Africa aircraft to the United States and American banks are prohibited from making loans to businesses operating in South Africa. All of these measures are to take place

180 days after the President signs the bill.

There had been no hearings held on the Dellums bill which had been introduced. The Gray bill which was much stronger than the sanctions bill adopted by Congress last year but much weaker than H.R. 997, was discussed in committee hearings and passed by the House Foreign Relations Committee, was brought to the House floor. After much discussion on the Gray bill, Dellums made a very strong dynamic plea for his amendment. Ron Dellums, who is one of the most knowledgeable and persuasive speakers in Congress, used his unusual natural talent in presenting H.R. 997. When he finished, the House members were left

with no alternative but to vote for his amendment. It has already been introduced in the Senate by Senators Kennedy, Weicker and Cranston. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold hearings on the Dellums bill around the last of July.

There have been various reasons given for the strong voice vote in favor of H.R. 997. One is that the Republicans voted for the strong bill because they felt it was so strong the Senate would refuse to even consider it. The overwhelming view is that South Africa itself gave great impetus to passage because of its very repressive measures, recently instituted.

The Washington Office on

Africa, a church and trade union sponsored organization, stated "the House's actions send a strong and uncompromising message to South Africa's racist minority regime; the people of the United States will no longer be accomplices in the brutal oppression of

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