

Point of View

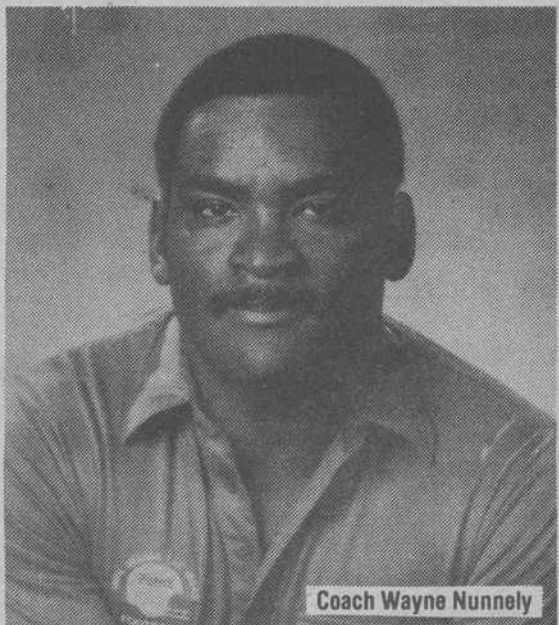
Editorial

Wayne Nunnely gets permanent call to as UNLV football coach

Wayne Nunnely hasn't received a phone call from President Reagan or a telegram from the Rev. Jesse Jackson yet, but Tuesday his office was filled with flowers and baskets of fruit carrying best wishes on his appointment as UNLV's permanent football coach.

There was also a letter from Harvey Hyde congratulating Nunnely on the Rebels' 17-7 win over Wisconsin Saturday. Hyde, fired last spring following a long series of police-related player incidents, reportedly sat on the 50-yard line with his family, cheering for UNLV.

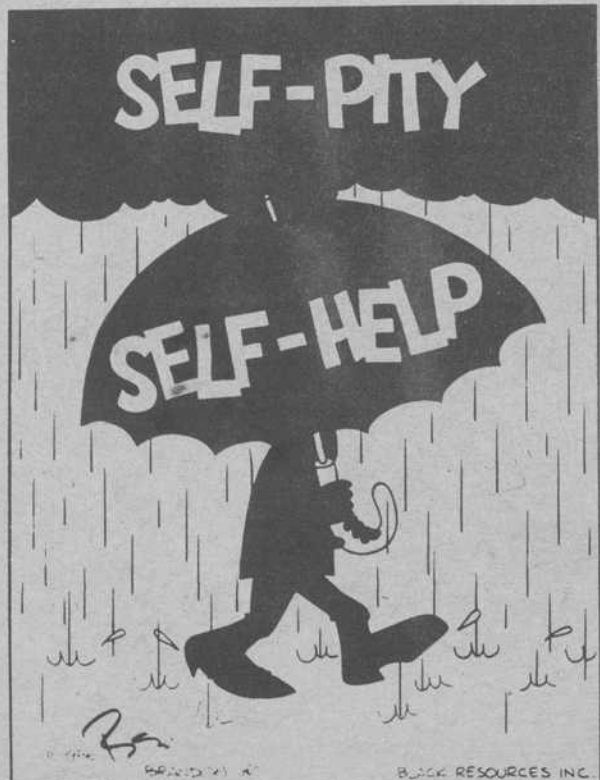
"The letter came Monday morning, so Harvey didn't know



Coach Wayne Nunnely

about the promotion yet," said the 34-year-old Nunnely, whose elevation from interim coach Monday afternoon makes him the first head black coach at a major university in the West.

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To Be Equal

Repeal Gramm-Rudman

by John E. Jacob

The history of the Gramm-Rudman Deficit Reduction Act is an example of the perils of bad policy.

Gramm-Rudman was born out of the prospect of never-ending federal budget deficits of increasing severity, and of Congress' inability to act responsibly on fiscal issues.

The Supreme Court threw out the provision of the Gramm-Rudman legislation that allows the Comptroller General to make automatic spending cuts. That gimmick was known by most who voted for it to be unconstitutional, so an alternative way of making budget cuts was written into the law.

Gramm-Rudman mandates that the federal deficit must be reduced by specific amounts over the next several years. While some key budget areas are exempted from its provisions, most are not.

Half the cuts needed to meet Gramm-Rudman targets would come from defense, the rest from domestic programs.

At some point, into the fiscal year, a "snapshot" is taken of the economy and the budget's performance, and if it looks like the Gramm-Rudman deficit goal will not be reached, those automatic



John E. Jacob

spending cuts go into effect.

But now that the Supreme Court wiped out the automatic mechanism, Congress will have to pass a bill embodying the cuts. And

the President, Freed from the automatic provisions of the bill, can veto the cuts. Experts say he's likely to do so if those cuts come out of the military budget, as they must.

That leaves us with the likelihood that domestic programs, especially those needed by the poor, will be under further attack in the name of "deficit reduction."

The list of important vulnerable to Gramm-Rudman cuts is a long one.

when they are as irresponsibly large as the current ones.

But in a slow economy like ours, with high unemployment and some industries in deep recession, we still need the stimulus of federal deficit spending to avoid a deep national recession.

So Gramm-Rudman cuts could act as a recession trigger that would be self-defeating. If lower deficits trigger a recession, then

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It includes education, job training, housing programs, mass transit grants, and others that are targeted at low-income families and impacted urban areas. Such cuts would be disastrous.

The very idea of deficit reduction may be mistaken at this time. Not that deficits are good for us, especially

recession lowers federal tax revenue, which in turn means higher deficits and more Gramm-Rudman budget cuts -- an irrational cycle that could become a nightmare.

So how do we meet Gramm-Rudman's requirements? The best answer is that we don't. Instead of trying to fix a bad law, or, worse, trying to get around it, Congress should repeal Gramm-Rudman.

It no longer makes any sense, and it never did. Congress needs to set priorities based on what the nation needs and raise the revenues to support those needs.

The massive 1981 tax cut and runaway military spending led to the spiraling deficits that led to Gramm-Rudman. Congress abandoned its responsibilities by serving as a rubber stamp for irresponsible policies and now it must not make the poor suffer more for its mistakes, but take action to meet the nation's need and raise the necessary revenues.

NCNE Lauds Black Self-Help Efforts

Washington, D.C.-- Administration moves away from debate on the issue of affirmative action and toward more positive programs encouraging black self-help efforts were welcomed by Robert L. Woodson, President of The National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise and Chairman of the Council for a Black Economic Agenda.

The Reagan Administration position was articulated by William Bradford Reynolds, Assistant Attorney General, at a conference in Washington D.C., sponsored by NCNE, the Christian Broadcasting Network and the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Reynolds told the conferees that the courts had spoken on the issue and that his office would enforce the law of the land. He stressed new policy focuses taking shape in the White House.

Woodson noted that previously, the Administration had appeared to be in a posture of challenging affirmative action

programs, even when they provided positive sum solutions to society.

"The Council for a Black Economic Agenda and the National Center have differed with the Administration in the past over the issue of affirmative action," Woodson said. "It has been our belief that affirmative action is a useful tool, particularly if it yields a positive sum solution -- that is, everyone benefits as opposed to one person gaining only at another's expense."

Woodson said he joined in the desire to move beyond debating the issue and toward solutions to the real problems that face the black underclass.

"Racism could end today, but it would not end the plight of poor blacks -- their problems are of an economic nature. Twenty years ago, columnist William Raspberry quoting a number of civil

rights leaders reported that the civil rights gains were not benefitting poor blacks. That situation is unchanged today. Race-specific solutions are not suitable remedies for the problems of the underclass," he said.

"Therefore, we have pursued public policies that will aid all poor people in our talks with Administration officials, including Brad Reynolds and Chuck Hobbs at the White House. We look forward to continued cooperation with the Administration in creating opportunities for low income people and supporting welfare reform. The information from this conference will be shared with policymakers, so that we may further enhance the role these conferees will play in shaping public policy," Woodson said.

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