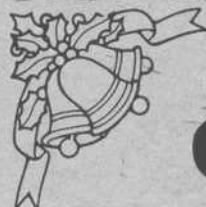
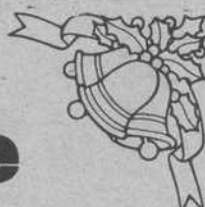


# Point of View



## To Be Equal

# Christmas A Time For Compassion



By John E. Jacob

This year, the nation's celebration of Christmas is clouded by disclosures of illegal governmental undercover operations and by financial scandals that demonstrate the corrosive effects of secrecy and greed on our national life.

Those scandals could have a positive outcome if they result in the kind of national soul-searching that results in a renewal of values too often forgotten these days, values like honesty, integrity and compassion.

This last value -- compassion -- was sorely missed when the nation went on a binge of selfishness and indifference to the plight of our fellow citizens.

But this is the season when compassion is not a wimpy word, but a central part of our spiritual heritage, one that should no longer be ignored.

We have to be mindful of the fact that while the typical American family gathers for its Christmas Day feast, millions of people cope with the burdens of broken families, unemployment, poverty and homelessness.

The over 100 million people who have jobs can't

forget that at least ten million others have no jobs.

The many who have decent incomes can't forget that there are over 20 million people who struggle with



John E. Jacob

deep poverty.

And the millions of well-housed Americans can't forget that temporary shelters and the streets are the only housing available to some three million homeless.

The symbol for this Christmas might be the homeless New York mother of four whose family was placed in a two-room, sixth floor walkup apartment in a rundown hotel used by the city to shelter the homeless.

The city pays a monthly rent bill of \$2,300, plus a small restaurant allowance since the apartment doesn't have a kitchen. And the

government cut this destitute family's food stamps because the inflated rent is counted as income!

At a news conference, President Reagan referred to this case and asked why the government doesn't take the money it shovels into inadequate temporary

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

housing like welfare hotels and build homes.

A good question. But he shouldn't be asking it, he should be doing it. His Administration has virtually ended low-income housing construction and administers the rules that count rent to welfare hotels as income.

It's worth spending some time thinking of the tragic dilemma of that family and the absurdity of current policies that place pressures on the poor while wasting resources that should be used to help them achieve independent, productive lives.

Something is wrong when some families are forced to sleep in rodent-infested welfare hotels that cost the government huge sums, while others make fortunes in illegal speculations on the financial markets.

Something is wrong when people don't get angry

enough about such social conditions to demand that their elective representatives do something about them.

And something's wrong when people celebrate the Christmas message of brotherhood without extending their compassion, and their action, to the homeless and helpless.

So in this season of joy and hope, as I extend my very best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful Christmas, I also extend the challenge to make this season a time to renew the compassion that is at the heart of Christmas and of a humane society.

### Black Caucus Vote New Leaders, Hit White House

By Larry A. Still

Washington, D.C. - Approximately 200 members of

the National Black Caucus of State Legislators and the 24-member Congressional Black Caucus elected new leaders here during a hectic week of political activity highlighted by debate on the latest White House scandal.

U.S. Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.), was voted chairman of the expanded CBC group in the historic 100th session of the House of Representatives convening next month and Pennsylvania State Rep. David Richardson

## Sullivan Urges 'Drastic Action' In South Africa

By Larry A. Still

Although 181 American firms conducting business in racist South Africa were praised for "significant progress" under the "Sullivan Principles", Rev. Leon H. Sullivan recently urged a complete withdrawal of U.S. corporations, a total trade embargo and a final break in diplomatic relations if apartheid is not ended in the next six months.

Sullivan, author of 10-year old business guidelines designed to eliminate racially restrictive practices, told a press conference here "Time is running out. Events occurring in South Africa have out-distanced non-violent, peaceful solutions such as the Sullivan Principles... If it is necessary to dismantle (them), I am in favor of that."

While issuing his 10th annual report on major corporations in the all white ruled nation, Sullivan also criticized President Ronald Reagan, the Pope, the World Council of Churches and the government of Israel for not taking "aggressive action" to end the "wretched system" in the country.

However, he commended Secretary of State George

Schultz for recent efforts to improve conditions, but denounced the administration's "Constructive Engagement" policy as a total failure in calling for "drastic action" by May 31, 1987.

Nothing that some firms have announced plans to discontinue operations in South Africa, the minister-businessmen is seeking support for a total withdrawal by shareholders representing \$100 billion in corporate ownership. Sullivan, who is a member of the board of General Motors and several other corporations, said he already has \$60 billion in pledges.

Total disinvestment could ignite a revolution among affected black workers in South Africa, destroying much of the progress resulting from firms following the Sullivan Principles, the author of the 1976 guidelines stated. According to an "independent" survey of results... signatory companies spent over \$33 million during the past year on education, housing, community development and other programs designed to benefit South African workers, he reported.

Some companies are providing training for nearly 500 black workers to obtain journeyman certificates, a coveted trade designation; seven corporations have Blacks on their board of directors with 77 percent indicating they have Blacks supervising white employees, and several firms helped black families obtain nearly 1,000 ninety-nine year leases for homes in integrated areas during the year, according to the survey report.

In addition to serving as pastor of the Zion Baptist Church and developer of community owned housing complexes and shopping centers in the Philadelphia area, Sullivan is founder of the Opportunities Industrialization Centers, Inc., which operates job training centers in 100 cities throughout the United States and Africa.

See CAUCUS, Page 5



©1986 BRANDON, JR. BLACK RESOURCES INC.

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.

The views expressed on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one indicated as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represents this publication.