

# Point of View

## NNPA EDITORIAL Stop Bork's Confirmation

The confirmation of Judge Robert H. Bork received a staggering, perhaps fatal blow when the Senate Judiciary Committee concluded its deliberation with a resounding 9 to 5 vote against his seating on the U.S. Supreme Court. It is now up to the entire Senate membership to record its vote.

While Bork's shocking record and constitutional philosophy undoubtedly were his undoing he and the President of the United States have vowed to continue the effort. This too we believe will be futile. However, it should not be taken for granted.

We know his shameful reactionary record in civil rights matters and we cannot relinquish our efforts to assure that his ultra conservative views do not become a part of the Supreme Court deliberations in years to come. "We are one justice away from injustice" stated a Hebrew organization, and we agree.

Members of the Senate must be aware of our views, as was the Judiciary Committee. You must contact your Senator today and urge that he vote no on the confirmation of Judge Robert H. Bork.

## AN OPEN LETTER

WRITE YOUR  
CONGRESSPERSON, TODAY!

Dear Friends:

The D.C. Statehood Bill, H.R. 51, should come to a vote on the House floor soon. This letter is to ask you to write your Congressperson today and urge support of this vital legislation.

As you may know, three-quarters of a million tax-paying Americans reside in the District of Columbia and shoulder all of the burdens of citizenship. Yet, they alone in the United States are denied the most precious right of citizenship — the right to fully participate in the shaping of laws under which they must be governed. It is a clear case of taxation without representation.

The citizens of Washington, D.C. have fought and died in every war and, in the recent Vietnam War, had more casualties per capita than 47 of the 50 states.

On the important issues of the day before the Congress of the United States, the view and voice of the people of Washington, D.C. is silent. They have limited, voteless representation in the U.S. House and no presence whatever in the U.S. Senate. This situation exists because there are some who would deny to citizens of the District what they demand for themselves.

The D.C. Statehood Bill will cure this glaring def-

## To Be Equal

# CHILDREN IN NEED

by John E. Jacob

About a fifth of all American children grow up poor, and nearly half of all black children are poor.

Facts like those ought to shock, but they don't. As a nation, we've become immune from human suffering and from making the policy changes that help children grow up into strong, healthy independent achieving adults.

But the business community, which has a stake in tomorrow's workforce, seems to show a new-found interest in education, social welfare, and child development programs.

I say "new-found" because historically business was more interested in direct training efforts to bring skills to the unskilled. It was only when industry realized that the schools were graduating people deficient in basic reading and math skills, that it evidenced concern with public education.

Now business appears to be on the road to advocacy for children. It finally understands

inequality in our democracy. Kindly select from the five sample letters provided or create a letter of your own and write your Congressperson today. By so doing, you will strike a blow for freedom and equality. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,  
Walter E. Fauntroy  
Member of Congress

that just reforming the schools won't be enough, because too much that affects a child's mental and physical development goes on outside the schools.

Education reform is important, but it can't exist in isolation. It has to be accompanied by efforts to break the



John E. Jacob

debilitating effects of poverty.

The best training programs and education reforms are those that begin with prenatal care for children of poor parents and continue on through child care, pre-school, and health care programs, targeted at the children most at-risk.

That's a giant leap for many in industry to make. Such areas used to be considered "soft," and not as realistic as programs dealing directly with adult employability.

A landmark in business' evolution to a new realism is a report issued by the prestigious Committee for Economic Development.

Entitled, "Children in Need," the CED report calls for a national campaign "of early and sustained intervention in the lives of disadvantaged children," including programs ranging from prenatal care through age 5, sweeping reforms in the schools to make them more responsive to the needs of the poor, and

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targeted programs for students at risk of dropping out.

The CED report is astonishing for the sweep of its recommendations and its break with conventional conservative wisdom about what's wrong in our society.

Like civil rights advocates, the report charges that the education reform movement has largely bypassed those most at-risk, and advocates that more resources be directed to providing quality education for disadvantaged children.

And like other advocates for the poor, it stresses the importance of programs that begin early, and for support services for disadvantaged parents.

And the report urges that business become a "prime advocate" for disadvantaged children. I've always felt that if business leaders trooped up to Capitol Hill to testify and lobby for child nutrition, day care, and anti-poverty programs, the brutal cuts in social programs would never have taken place and we'd be better able to implement programs that break the cycle of poverty.

The report highlights a number of such programs, including Head Start and Chapter One remedial reading and math programs that the Administration wants to cut, despite their proven success. But many eligible youngsters are not reached by such programs, and Head Start barely covers 20 percent of eligible children.

Poverty is the most debilitating of all childhood diseases and it's time to launch a national effort to eradicate it.

## CBC Legislative Highlights

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Over 20,000 thousand people converged here last week to participate in the Congressional Black Caucus' 17th Annual Legislative Weekend. The theme of this year's Legislative Weekend was "Educating the Black Child: Our Past and Present."

The week-long event, which took place September 23-27, featured over 50 panels and workshops on a wide variety of topics ranging

from the 1988 presidential election to Blacks in sports.

### BORK AND BIDEN

Without a doubt, the most discussed issues during the week-long event was the nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court, and Senator Joseph Biden's decision to drop-out of the 1988 presidential hunt.

Bork, whose nomination has sparked a continuous stream of controversy on Capitol Hill, was repeatedly attacked for his "ultra-conservative" views during various workshops.

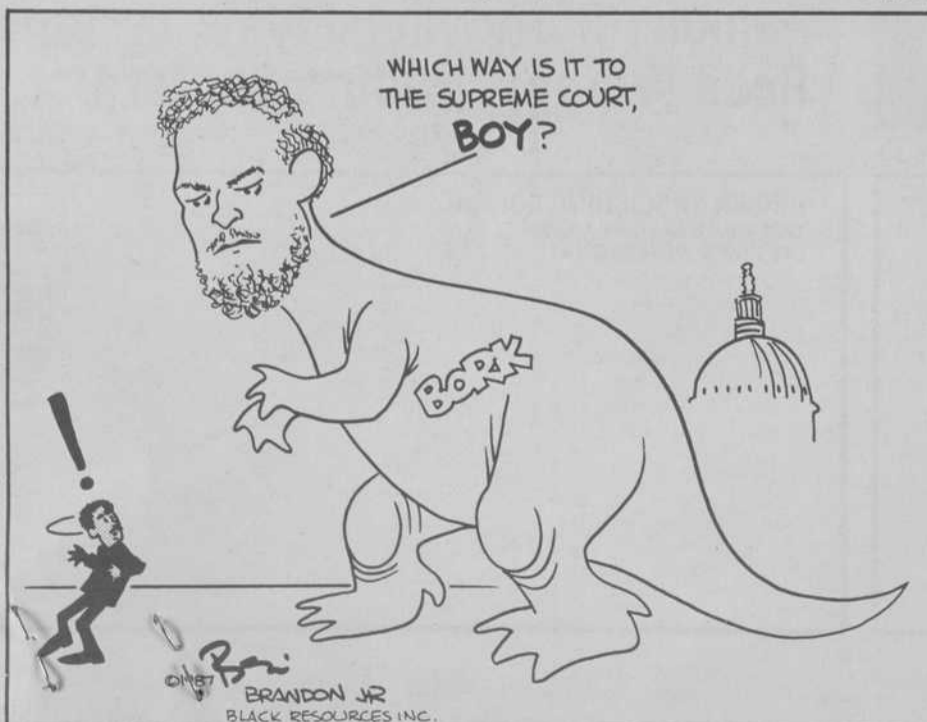
Walter Fauntroy, delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, said Bork's succession to the highest court in the land would be "disas-

terous" for Blacks and the civil rights gains "we have earned over the last 25 years."

Fauntroy, speaking during the National Black Leadership Roundtable workshop, said Bork's future lies in the hands of key Democratic swing votes in the U.S. Senate. The District of Columbia representative said that white Democratic senators from southern states who enjoyed a plurality of white votes in the last general election must turn away the Bork nomination.

"They hold the key," Fauntroy told the gathered audience, "that message must not be lost on them."

While Bork enjoyed a great  
**See HILL, Page 16**



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.

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