Point of View

To Be Equal

WRAPPING UP THE YEAR

by John E. Jacob

This has been a year in which an Administration unraveled, a stock market crash threatens the future, and a presidential campaign kicked off in earnest.

After five years of economic recovery, poverty levels remained historically high and national policies continued to widen the divisions between the affluent few and the many who live in hardship.

About eleven percent of all families are below the poverty line, but if you define low-income as being below 80 percent of the median income of a region, then about 45 percent of all American families are low-income.

That means they have a hard time meeting escalating housing costs, scrimp on tight opportunities for them,

John E. Jacob is President of The National Urban League

the government has continued its belt-tightening exercise for domestic programs and squandered huge amounts on military spending.

The danger of a recession lies in the fact that after five years of recovery, many groups haven't regained the ground they lost in the last recession. A recession would widen the budget deficit to levels that could become totally unmanageable and lead to a Depression.

The politics that got us into this mess have to be changed, and 1987 saw the serious start of the next presidential campaign. The candidates have to tell us how they'd run the economy better while creating opportunities to help the neglected enter the mainstream.

The year's news was dominated by the Iran-Contra scandal, which finally showed all citizens what Blacks and the poor had learned earlier — that the Administration's commitment to ideology transcends its sworn duty to uphold the laws of the land.

So it was no surprise to many people that an Administration that sought to subvert to civil rights laws would ultimately subvert federal laws and practices, as evidenced by the Iran-Contra mess.

Nor was it a surprise that it would undermine respect for the integrity of the courts by attempting to push through the nomination of Robert Bork. Even rock-ribbed conservatives couldn't swallow that one, and the nomination went down in flames.

But not before the vital center asserted itself. Public opinion refused to accept a Supreme Court nominee so blatantly uncaring about civil rights and privacy and so totally committed to radical conservative ideology.

The emergence of the anti-Bork coalition may be one of the most important lasting effects of 1987's events. The task of that coalition goes beyond that of defeating one Supreme Court nominee to the job of reconstructing the nation to become stronger economically and morally.

Another lasting effect of 1987's events is the continued determination of black and minority communities to take the initiative in changing their lives.

Community organizations are moving ahead with programs in housing, crime prevention, AIDS - education, health and other key areas. The National Urban League's Education Initiative became fully operational and has already brought some improvements in many school districts.

So while 1987 was a difficult year that badly damaged the nation's leadership and its confidence, it was also a year in which the seeds of positive change were sown.

A CHRISTMAS PUZZLE.

FATHER CHRISTMAS, "NOW, MY LITTLE MAN, WHERE'S YOUR *STOCKING?*"
POOR LITTLE WAIF, "PLEASE, SIR, I AIN'T GOT NE'ER A ONE!"

From *Punch*, Dec. 28, 1895.

Freedom And Social Justice

by Alexander H. Jones

Peace on Earth Starts With You

How many times have you been told "Never trust anybody" as if the extending of confidence to another human being was guaranteed suicide? But what would have Mahatma Ghandi achieved without trust? What if the late Martin Luther King, Jr. held no confidence in his fellow man?

Each had to depend on their lieutenants and followers in life-threatening situations. Further they had to have tremendous trust in the inner humanity and compassion of even their oppressors. Without this bond with others, they would have achieved little.

Trust becomes even more important during the Christmas season as it is a time when we traditionally contemplate and pray for world peace. But as nations drive themselves into bankruptcy stockpiling arms and military hardware to protect themselves from each other, it becomes clear that trust is a quality sorely missing from international affairs. But without trust, it is clear we will never have peace.
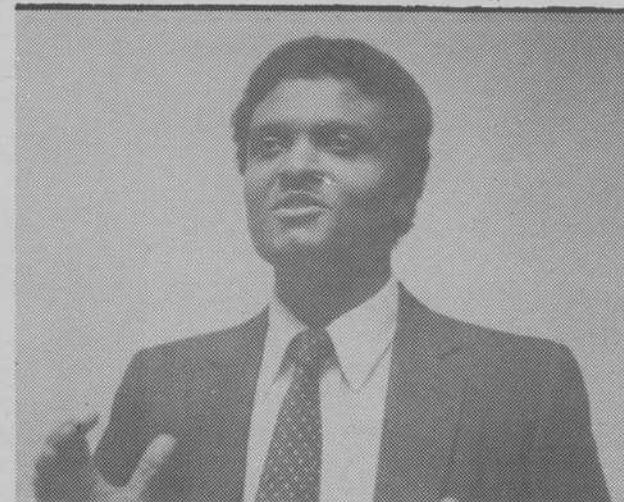
ordered and even his own survival can be put at risk.

"Mutual trust is the firmest building block in human relationships. Without it, the whole structure comes down. Trustworthiness is a highly esteemed commodity. When one has it, one is considered valuable. When one has lost it, one may be considered worthless.

"One should get others around one to demonstrate it and earn it. They will become much more valuable to themselves and others thereby."

So peace on earth starts with you. It begins by first ensuring you yourself are worthy of trust, and then by demanding that others be trustworthy as well.

If you think that you can have no effect on the world, believe me, that is not true. If you help one small child become trustworthy you have done something for the world.

You can start by getting a copy of "The Way To Happiness" for yourself and a friend. Write to me, and I will send you two copies free. Call it a Christmas present

Alexander R. Jones is the Director of Minority and Third World Affairs for the Church of Scientology (R) International.

So what can you do about this? In "The Way to Happiness," best-selling author, L. Ron Hubbard, points out that "Unless one can have confidence in the reliability of those about one, he himself, is at risk. When those he counts upon let him down, his own life can become dis-

from Mr. Hubbard to you. Write to: Alexander Jones, Church of Scientology, 400 C Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002.

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