

FITZGERALD

From Page 2

pickup truck wearing a white uniform and a cap with "PRE" imprinted thereon. There were no blacks or other minorities shown among the firemen on the scene. There were no blacks shown among the fleeing 65 workers of the Kidd Company. There were no minorities shown among those whose homes had been damaged. There were no blacks among the 30,000 school children. There were no blacks among the parents shown who were concerned about those black children who were not shown who lived in those unshown damaged black homes. There were no blacks seen in the shelters. There were no minorities shown or interviewed concerned with possible toxic fumes — they don't bother us. There were no minorities shown among those window repair people who were "cleaning up." There were no minorities shown among the employees with Mercy Ambulance — maybe they don't hire minor-

ities. There were no blacks shown among those being taken to Rose de Lima Hospital — is there a black hospital in Henderson like we used to have back in Mississippi?

Maybe blacks just do not get hurt in these kinds of disasters. There were no blacks shown patrolling the streets during the curfew—we know why don't we? Born looters.

There was one man who appeared to be Hispanic in a blue security looking uniform being attended to by a woman in a white uniform who also appeared to be Hispanic. There was Charles Blake, thank goodness, a black man, representing the Red Cross and a Hispanic man named Joe Sandoval who is certain that he lost his job with Pacific Engineering because he blew the whistle one time too many to OSHA about safety violations at the plant.

Maybe there are no minority people — not really. Maybe we're merely illusions — figments of our own imaginations. The camera does not

lie — it captures whatever it is pointed at. Either minority people do not exist or the camera does not point in our direction or go where we live unless there's a killing. The public obviously prefers to see us in the latter posture. We do not see minority people when we see commercials for that amusement park called "Wet and Wild" and I've actually seen many there. We do not see minorities in those Fats Domino and Nat King Cole album commercials. Glenn Ford isn't interested in selling insurance to minority veterans and, believe it or not, with two Super Bowl championships in Washington, D.C. we have yet to see blacks in the "selected" bars celebrating the victories.

We should not be dismayed, however, at how we are treated locally by the media. No blacks suffered as a result of the explosion at the Shell Refinery at Norco, Louisiana on that same date. In that towering inferno at the First Interstate building in Los Angeles, there was not a single black face

among the workers who showed up for work on Thursday morning. Maybe no blacks work there or maybe they figured that since the place had burned down, there was no need to show up for work. Who knows. There has to be a reasonable explanation — there always is.

It is all in the camera and in the disposition of the entire news crew. Perhaps this year's graduating class of journalists across the United States might make some attempt to neutralize Ralph Ellison's perception of how the nation views black/minority people. You remember Ellison, don't you? He wrote *The Invisible Man*.

JACOB

From Page 2

law. The case made its way up to the Supreme Court. Neither side in the case challenged the 1976 Court ruling. But the five justices of the Court did.

They surprised everyone by ordering attorneys for the two sides to re-argue the case next fall, and to specifically address the question of whether the 1976 decision upholding that 1866 law should be reversed.

Incredible, isn't it? Not even the diehards at the Justice Department thought to challenge the 1976 decision. And even the lawyers for the employer in the current case never referred to the possibility that the 1976 ruling should be overturned. But the Court majority said, in effect: "Hey, why don't you guys forget about what you've been arguing and come back in the fall and tell us why we should reverse a ruling everyone seems to accept."

The Court's minority — Justices Brennan, Marshall, Blackmun and Stevens — were rightly angered. And Justice Blackmun correctly pointed out in dissent: "I am at a loss to understand the motivation of five members of this Court to reconsider an interpretation of a civil rights statute that so clearly reflects our society's earnest commitment to ending racial discrimination."

I'm not at a loss to explain it, though. It reflects a clear desire on the part of the five justices to send a message that past civil rights rulings can no longer be taken for granted.

CHILD WATCH

By Marian Wright Edelman
President Children's Defense Fund

A Quiz For Candidates

How much do the people who are now running for public office know about the social realities of today's America? Every candidate should know the basic facts about our society and economy if they are to represent



Marian Wright Edelman

all Americans and protect our children. First test yourself and then test candidates with these important ques-

It also demonstrates the clear intent of at least some of those justices to overthrow civil rights protections long embodied in law and in judicial rulings.

And it suggests that a reactionary judicial activism is in control of the Courts' majority, willing to imperil the nation's social peace and established law in order to impose its own social agenda on the rest of us.

The decision to reconsider **John E. Jacob is President of The National Urban League**

the 1976 ruling is a dangerous harbinger of further attacks on civil rights. Clearly, the Supreme Court's majority is gearing up to challenge settled principles, and it's hard to avoid the feeling that this is just the first shot in a campaign to overturn civil rights guarantees.

The Court's majority down-played that possibility, claiming it had not voted to overturn the 1976 decision, but merely to review it. That's not going to fool anyone. They pulled that decision to review out of a hat—and we're all wondering what other negative surprises are waiting to be pulled out in the near future.

tions (answers appear at end):

1. How many Americans are poor?
2. How many children are poor?
3. Are the majority of the poor white or black?
4. Are the majority of the poor working or on welfare?
5. What is the average welfare payment in America today?
6. How many Americans are unemployed?
7. How many Americans have no health insurance?
8. What percentage of preschool-age children have mothers in the labor force?
9. Where does America rank among 20 industrialized nations on infant mortality rates?
10. How many American teens gave birth in 1985?
11. Were most of them black or white?
12. Which group of families is most likely to be poor: young families, families headed by those who are 40-50 years old or those headed by older Americans?
13. What was the average cost of buying a new house in 1985?
14. What did a new house cost on average ten years earlier?
15. What was the median income of white families in America in 1986?
16. What was the median income of black families that year?

ANSWERS:

1, 32 million. 2, 13 million. 3, white. 4, working. 5, \$4.00 per person per day. 6, 7 million. 7, 35 million. 8, half. 9, last. 10, about 500,000. 11, white. 12, young families. 13, \$84,300. 14, \$39,300. 15, \$29,458. 16, \$17,604.

FAR WEST WHEELCHAIR GAMES SCHEDULED

The City of Las Vegas Adaptive Outreach Program will once again host the Far West Wheelchair Games at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on May 13-15. Those interested in competing in track and field, swimming, weight lifting, table tennis, slalom, or air games should contact John Chambers at 386-6297. Volunteers are also needed in all areas for a multitude of tasks.

Register

PARAGON ADVERTISING

Quality Printing and Publishing Services

ADVERTISING FLYERS
LETTERHEADS
ENVELOPES
BUSINESS CARDS

CHURCH PROGRAMS
PAMPHLETS
MENUS
SOCIAL PRINTING

INVITATIONS
BINDERY SERVICE

NEWSLETTERS
BROCHURES



PICKUP & DELIVERY
ADVERTISING SERVICES

QUALITY WORK — COMPETITIVE PRICES

paragon advertising

(A subsidiary of Brown Publishing Co., Inc.)

1201 South Eastern Avenue
(1 Block South of Charleston)

387-6290