

Point of View

To Be Equal

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE NEW YEAR?

by John E. Jacob

This is the season for crystal-ball gazing, but rather than make predictions about what the next twelve months will bring, I prefer to look at some areas that require hard decisions crucial to sustaining economic growth and improving our society.

One of those areas are under heated discussion in Washington today — the federal budget, and its twin, the huge deficit.

The failure of President Reagan's economic policies is seen in a deficit that keeps interest rates high and handcuffs proposals for constructive programs to help the poor, whose numbers have grown dramatically

Despite President-elect Bush's insistence on no tax hikes, it's hard to see how they can be avoided. Past budgets have sliced social programs far past the levels needed to maintain previous inadequate services.

The only place left for new spending cuts is in the swollen defense budget. The Russians appear to be signalling the end of the Cold War, and we could see the way paved for drastic cuts without endangering our national security.

Combined with carefully chosen tax increases, that would free enough resources to cut the deficit sharply and to initiate important new programs that help people out of poverty and open new

opportunities for low-income families.

The President-elect should view such new initiatives as long-overdue improvements



John E. Jacob

in the nation's human resource infrastructure.

It's generally recognized that no society can sustain a viable economy without an infrastructure — the roads,

the waterways, electrical grids and other physical attributes of an industrial economy that foster the production and movement of goods.

But the infrastructure of an advanced service economy is people with the skills and education to produce

John E. Jacob is President of the National Urban League

high tech goods and services. That means investing in training and education, and in providing the jobs, housing, and health care that enable people to be productive.

Past policies have failed to do that, with the result that we're in danger of losing

out in today's global economic competition. President-elect Bush can demonstrate his wisdom and his leadership by focusing national attention on the need for new policies that unleash the rich human potential now buried in poverty and hampered by discrimination.

In 1989, we'll have to begin to close the dangerous gap between the races. The most glaring evidence of that gap is the widespread worry that the economy may be heating up while in the black community the prime considerations are the struggle for survival and skyrocketing unemployment.

The big dangers looming before us in 1989 include:

► Continued federal indif-

ference to the widening gap between whites and blacks, and the affluent and the poor.

► The threat of Supreme Court rollbacks in civil rights. The Court will rule on key affirmative action cases and on whether to reopen past civil rights decisions.

► Growing desperation in the poorest ghettos, driven by economic chaos and the drug plague.

The big opportunity in 1989 is for national leadership to demonstrate it understands the problems facing the black poor by doing something about them. For starters, a national employment and training program, and community-based health care and housing programs should be implemented.

United Church of Christ

Commission for Racial Justice CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL FREEZING TO DEATH IN AMERICA

by Benjamin F. Chavis, jr.

The different kinds of mortality of a society give an indication of the social priorities of that society. Across the United States during this winter season there is an alarming increase in the number of homeless persons who are freezing to death on

the streets. Despite municipal programs to gather up the homeless, especially when the temperature plummets, the number of homeless deaths continues to increase.

Recently in the city of New York, five homeless persons died on the streets during one weekend. The frequency

of these deaths has not aroused a great public outcry. In fact, there seems to be a growing social acceptance that a fair number of homeless people shall die during the winter. Many of these victims of homelessness are racial and ethnic persons whose names will never be known, not even to the city morticians. Whether the names of these victims will ever be known to local or national politicians is a matter of how well concerned citizens of this nation make this issue a priority.

When we hear of the great sufferings of people throughout the world, some caused by natural disasters and others caused by the sins of greed and avarice, we should remember the daily sufferings of the people living on the streets of America this winter. There needs to be a comprehensive and effective response to this growing problem.

To depend primarily on the police and other law enforcement agencies to treat the homeless, as if their destitute state is a criminal offense, is neither a compassionate nor humane approach. In surveying how some of the major cities in the United States handle the homeless, particularly during the winter months, we were alarmed to find the proclivity to use police action rather than social service support

NNPA FEATURE

COPING

by

Dr. Charles W. Faulkner



HOW TO AVOID HOLIDAY DEPRESSION

As I told you in my last column, Christmas is a period of joy for many. For millions of others, it is a time of deep, long-lasting depression. You listen to virtually hundreds and hundreds of Christmas songs between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It's unavoidable. Every store plays it over and over. Television, radio, at work. You are bombarded. Eventually, you are brainwashed by the theme, which is: "Either buy presents or feel sad, guilty and rejected for all of 1989. Now is your chance to seek forgiveness for your bad deeds. Don't blow this opportunity. Buy presents, presents, presents."

The additional effect of Christmas music is to brainwash you into using it as an emotional crutch. Thirty-six days of any kind of music will brainwash anybody. So, you accept it as a nice emotional crutch. Then, Christmas comes and abruptly the music stops. And your

crutch is gone. Millions of Americans go into deep depression after Christmas. This depression is caused directly by promotional advertising that manipulates you into spending your money. Then, after Christmas, advertisers turn off the music and start brainwashing you to buy items for other occasions. Don't let depression happen to you.

Do not become emotionally consumed with Christmas. Avoid the brainwashing effect and manipulate Christmas music by listening to other kinds of music. Participate in social activities that have nothing to do with Christmas.

Do find different ways of expressing your love for those dear to you other than by buying gifts.

Use January, February or any other time to buy gifts.

They will be less expensive than they are now. They will be more appreciated because they will be unexpected.

Don't expect a simple gift to buy love or friendship. If a person requires a Christmas gift to be your friend, you are used. Longlasting love and friendship are gotten and maintained with mutual sincere smiles, kind words and expressions of caring.

If you must buy gifts, consider less expensive, more symbolic gifts. Books, useful items such as pens, pencils, writing paper can be appreciated by anybody.

Stay actively involved in your regular activities. Get exercise. Eat sensibly. These are wonderful ways to avoid and conquer depression. And finally, repeat over and over: "It's only a holiday. I refuse to be manipulated into depression."

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.

**HELP
MAKE EDUCATION
A POSITIVE
EXPERIENCE**

**WORK FOR
BETTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**