

Point of View

AN OPEN LETTER

The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County

KCEP Radio
330 W. Washington
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Dear KCEP Radio:

As a concerned citizen and a member of the planning committee for the African-American Summit of Nevada, I believe KCEP Radio is not acting in the best interest of the community by sponsoring a gambling trip to Laughlin the same day as the Summit. It is hard enough to get people to participate in community events without having to compete with an insignificant gambling trip.

The Summit has been planned since January and your radio station has been running our public service announcements since that time. I have always viewed KCEP as being committed to making a change in this community, but evidently this is not the case. Do you typically sponsor and

schedule affairs that would conflict with an event of such magnitude as the African-American Summit?

Your Laughlin excursion could possibly take away two hundred participants from the Summit, at a time when it is imperative we have total community support to ensure the success and future of the African-American in Nevada.

In light of this, I would hope you agree with this purpose and postpone the Laughlin excursion until the following weekend, and in the future strategically plan and sponsor affairs in conjunction with the community calendar.

This is an issue which needs consideration and I hope will be addressed. I look forward to your response.

Attached are names of concerned citizens who share in the above concern.

Sincerely,
Sharon D. Martin,
Program Committee

United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

BY Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

HEALTH DISPARITY WIDENS

The correlation between health status and race in the United States of America exposes another devastating reality concerning the impact institutionalized racism has on American society. One truism is that it is unhealthy for African-Americans, Hispanic Americans and other racial ethnic persons to live here because of racial discrimination in the delivery of health care.

A new report released by the Department of Health and Human Services titled, "Health: United States 1989", concludes that the infant mortality rate for African Americans is double that of Anglo Americans. Dr. Louis Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services, reported to the *Associated Press*, "This concerns us greatly...we need to move toward equal health oppor-

tunity for our citizens, including the good health formation and the family and community support that will help every American make the right choices for healthy and productive lives."

The report was the 14th annual report on the health status of the United States. We have monitored these reports during the last ten years, and we have found that the health status of the African American, Hispanic American and the Native American communities has steadily declined in the quality of health care.

This latest report is even more disturbing because it shows the decline in the health status of racial and ethnic communities at a time when the overall health status of the United States is improving. For example, the

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POLITICAL POINTS

By

Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

WHO'S ZONING WHO?

The fact that the Clark County School District is considering allowing the issue of street gangs to affect school zoning is unbelievable. Unbelievable because some people still think that they can fool others by using one issue to "backdoor" another. Unbelievable also because some people refuse to accept the reality that gang activity affects basically EVERY community and gangs just like teen pregnancy, teen suicide, alcoholism and drug abuse affect us all.

Nevada ranks at the top of the list when it comes to teen suicide; does this mean that we should bus or zone students away from ones with this type of behavior for safety reasons? Nevada ranks at the top of the list when it comes to teen pregnancy; does this mean that we should bus or zone students away from ones who are sexually active for their safety?

Moreover, to zone and bus students because of gangs is seriously playing with constitutional rights. How does one define a gang member, a gang wanna-be, or a gang associate anyway? Just as any student should have the right to dress or wear any color that he or she chooses, students should not be harassed by schools, police or anyone else if they choose to wear a certain type of clothing. Unless, of course, school uniforms are a part of the school's requirements. If the Clark County School District, for instance, feels that, say, ten students are involved in a gang at a particular school, then the District should deal with those ten students. The existence of those ten students should not serve as justification to inconvenience all the other students and their parents. Or maybe the issue of gangs is not the real



Assemblyman Williams

issue here. A smoke screen maybe?

The fact of the matter is, what many consider gang members are really at almost every school, even elementary sites already. And because one group is said to be present at one school, does not prevent another negative group from surfacing at that same school. You can't zone crime. If we could zone crime, we wouldn't need jails; we could simply zone criminals to one area.

The unfortunate events involving gang fights never really happen between different gangs on the same school yard. Instead it's usually one group of young people confronting another by appearing at their school. Zoning does not make one immobile. The two students that were killed a block from Bonanza High School last year were not there because they were zoned there, but instead because they drove automobiles there. What will members of the school board say when gangs are in every school? Maybe they'll deal with the real issue then.

To suspect and accuse every child who wears a certain color is as insidious as zoning children because of colors. Then maybe it's not really the colors that they wear as much as the colors that they ARE. Please don't believe the hype!

POINT TO QUESTION: Why is it that people who burn flags are hated more than people who burn crosses?

POINT OF VIEW: The economic philosophy of Black nationalism means in every church, every civic organization, in every fraternal order, it's time now for our people to become conscious of the importance of controlling the economy of our community. - Malcolm X

To Be Equal

LAW ENCOURAGES BIAS

By John E. Jacob

It's four years now since Congress passed an immigration control law that included penalties against employers found to have hired undocumented aliens.

At the time the law was being debated, civil rights groups warned that such a provision would be an open invitation to employers to practice discrimination.

It seemed obvious that, rather than take the risk of hiring Hispanics, Caribbeans, Asians, or other workers who might turn out to be illegal immigrants, many employers would simply stick to hiring native-born whites.

The law was supposed to prevent such discrimination - its supporters argued that all employers had to do was to get proof of legal residence.

But many employers didn't want to get involved with such paperwork or decided the risk of being hit with penalties if some undocumented workers slipped through their efforts was too great.

As a result, the government has found widespread discrimination.

A study of the effects of the law was released by the General Accounting Office, a federal agency, in late March. It found that about one out of five employers surveyed discriminated in hiring.

Many refused to hire any job applicants who had a "foreign appearance or accent." Others wouldn't hire anyone who was not a U.S. citizen.

To supplement the survey, the GAO sent out pairs of

POINTS IN HISTORY: 65 years ago on May 19, Malcolm X was born.

286 years ago on May 20, Elias Neau founded a school for slaves in New York.

EXTRA POINT: If you would like to voice your opinion about zoning, the school board will vote on this issue May 31st.

"testers" to 360 employers selected at random. One was Hispanic-looking; the other, Anglo.

The report found that Hispanic testers were three times as likely to be treated unfavorably, while the Anglo testers got 52 percent more job offers.

It is clear that in attempting to control illegal immigration, the government is encouraging illegal discrimination.

The policy that requires employers, in effect, to act



John E. Jacob is
President of the
National Urban League

as agents for the Immigration and Naturalization service, has resulted in gross violations of civil rights.

And while the primary effects appear to be heaviest among Hispanics, black immigrants from Haiti and other Caribbean lands, as well as Asians and other foreign-born persons are also prime targets of employment discrimination.

The law includes a "sunset" provision that requires Congress to consider repeal if, after three years, there is evidence that it is causing widespread job discrimination.

The GAO study has certainly proved that it has, but there's considerable political resistance to reopening an issue the Congress thought it finally had solved by passing the law.

Instead, some urge adoption of a universal worker-identification system, probably in the form of a national identity card

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