

Point of View

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TO BE EQUAL

A HOPEFUL CHRISTMAS

By John E. Jacob

Christmas is a season of hope, and that human longing for peace and goodwill to all humankind is sorely needed in this troubled world.

A quick look around the globe yields a troubling view of a world struggling with its age-old demons of racism, poverty and hunger.

The African continent, which has such tremendous potential to become a prosperous, peaceful land of plenty is torn by civil wars and widespread hunger.

The world's attention has finally been caught by the suffering in Somalia, where interna-

tional peacekeepers are trying to prevent mass starvation, although similar misery in Sudan is ignored.

The world looked the other way while Somalia slid down the slopes of chaos, but in this season of conscience it is finally acting to ensure that whatever political differences exist there, people will be fed and the claims of humanity protected.

This is also the season for the world to call on South Africa to bring the long, and thus far fruitless, negotiations for a new democratic government to a speedy conclusion. Apartheid won't be buried until majority rule

comes to that land.

Racism is rampant in Europe, too. The ugly civil wars in what used to be Yugoslavia were made uglier by the Nazi-like calls for "ethnic cleansing" and the slaughter of innocent people for the crime of belonging to a different ethnic group.

And all across the continent, we see the spread of a similar form of racism. Most troubling of all is the rise of neo-Nazi gangs in Germany. Their violence against Jews and darker-skinned immigrants is a reminder that the genocidal racism of the Nazis can return.

The world's civil and religious

leaders must speak out forcefully against that vision of racial hatred. We cannot repeat the silence of the past in the face of the dangers of today.

Nor can we in the U.S. be smug, for racism is still alive and well in our own country. Daily, there are new incidents of ethnic strife, of discriminatory outrages, and of trampled civil rights.

And of course, the curse of poverty is still with us. In the midst of a Christmas season with stores full of shoppers and advertisements portraying a cornucopia of gifts, many millions of Americans are cold, hungry, and homeless.

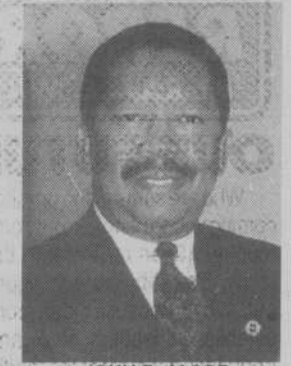
But this is a season of hope, not a season of lamentations. It is hope that carried people through the most difficult times, and enables them to overcome.

I see signs of a new, hopeful approach these days, even as our problems mount and suffering continues.

Part of that hope appears to derive from the advent of a new Administration. Not that people are looking to president-elect Clinton as a saviour, but expectations are high that new leadership and new approaches will help to restore our economy.

At the very least, people are hopeful that their new leader will create a new climate of racial tolerance and respect for diversity.

But perhaps the most hopeful sign of the season is the spreading spirit of determination among African Americans to



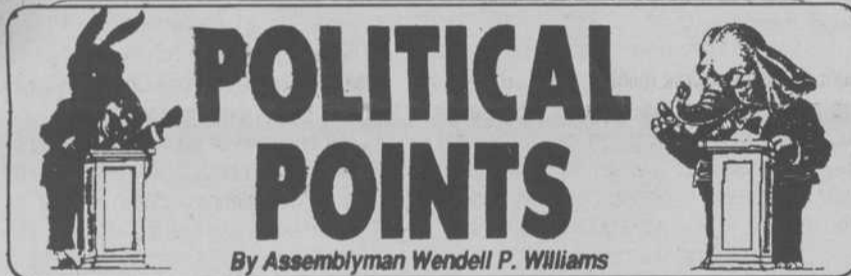
JOHN E. JACOB

tackle the root problems of our communities. As I travel about the country, I have been struck by the tremendous grass-roots activity that is taking place, from citizen safety patrols to clear out the drug dealers and reclaim the streets, to citizen action groups aiming to make the schools more responsive to our children's need.

There is a new focus in the African American community on saving our children and on preparing them to become skilled, productive 21st century citizens.

So amid all the world's strife and sorrows, hope remains alive.

Let us all do our part in spreading the blessings of this Christmas season of hope and longing for peace and goodwill.



POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

THE FAT LADY IS IN THE HOUSE

If its one thing that the Rev. Jesse Scott has going into his upcoming fourth term as president of the local chapter of the NAACP, is an increase in community interest. A factor that has been very dismal for over a decade.

The challenge that remains ahead is a great one, the job of keeping this recent interest and transferring it into a productive situation. However, with the many potholes that took place in the recent election, that will be a very difficult task.

Along with new interest, comes a truckload of division in the community due to several very strange and questionable procedures that surrounded the entire process. To ignore the reality will be a grave mistake.

The NAACP, with its long history of addressing injustice and unfairness, must first look inside its own house and

answer the call for fairness before it can expect people to jump on a bandwagon to straighten out someone else's house. This should not be misunderstood as an indictment on any person, just a reality that is seeded deeply in what the NAACP should be about in the first place.

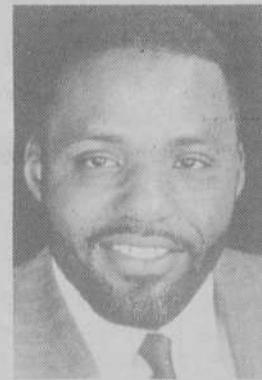
Congratulations and good luck to Rev. Scott. We must struggle together or fall together. It's too important to make the wrong choice. Credibility and character goes far beyond any single election. On this one the fat lady is singing, but she's under a serious cloud of doubt and suspicion. We must all come together to work this out.

On another musical note, it looks like the Fat Lady is ready to blow the tune "Will the real leader please stand up." As you know there is an ongoing struggle between State Senator Joe Neal, a twenty year veteran of the Nevada Senate and State Senator Dina Titus who is completing her first term in the Ne-

vada Senate.

The struggle is over which of the two will be selected by their democratic peers to serve as their leader in the upcoming 67th session of the Nevada Legislature. Since the Republicans outnumber the Democrats 11 to 10 in the 21 member body, the official title for the position the two are seeking is "Minority leader." A position that is historically given to the Senator with the most seniority, and of course Neal has 16 more years than Titus.

However, on this past Tuesday the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice spoke with seven of the ten senators who said that their votes were going to Senator Titus. Five of the seven, said Senator Neal's 20 years of service in the senate didn't amount of Titus' degree of skill and ability to move the caucus in a progressive direction. This move on Titus' part brings serious question to the importance of seniority opposed to political



Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

savvy. Several of the senators also were reluctant to support Senator Neal because of doubt they had due to Neals campaigning for Republican Senator - Elect Sue Lowden who knocked off Jack Veggiels who beat out Neal last session for the post of minority leader. They felt that Neal's support of Lowden was selfish and self-serving and hurt the chances of the Democrat to control the Senate.

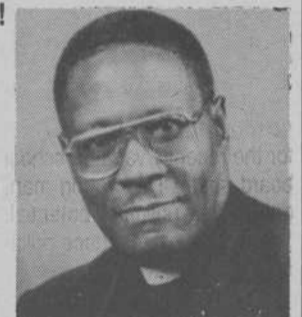
Finally, the Fat Lady is tuning up for a new twist in the issue of the Las Vegas Clark County Library District. Plus, the "highly accountable" gang at the district has been asked to hold a Town Hall meeting at the West Las Vegas Branch. We just know the "Accountable to You" group won't refuse the invite and request.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



EITHER PUT UP OR SHUT UP!

During the NAACP Branch election held on Sunday, December 20, 1992, many people were saying, and rightfully so,

that the NAACP needs to improve the quality of its services to its members. A cry goes forth (See NAACP & YOU, Page 4)

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