

Point of View

The views on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one depicted as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represent this publication.

TO BE EQUAL

CLINTONOMICS HOLDS HOPE

By John E. Jacob

Remember Reaganomics? That 1980 combination of tax cuts for the affluent and wild spending on the military piled on budget deficits that serve as permanent brakes on the economy.

Now comes Clintonomics, something very different. It calls

for tax hikes, modest spending boosts to develop our human resources, and some infrastructure investments that can create some jobs now while laying the groundwork for future economic growth.

Those who have been critical about the relative modesty of the Administration's proposals

have to remember that its hands have been tied by the huge debt piled up over the past dozen years.

Under those conditions, any increase in spending to develop our human resources should be welcomed, especially when there will finally be more money available for community devel-

opment, Head Start, summer jobs, and childhood immunization.

The President's plan to extend the earned income tax credit would ensure that full time workers will be above the poverty line, and protected from the effects of energy tax increases.

Under today's fiscal re-

straints, the Administration has come forward with a good, forward-looking plan that I was pleased to note embodies some elements of the National Urban League's Marshall Plan for America.

My own preference would be to go full-speed ahead on that idea, earmarking a minimum of \$50 billion annually to sharply targeted infrastructure, training, and education programs that work. Incredible as it seems, \$50 billion really isn't much money.

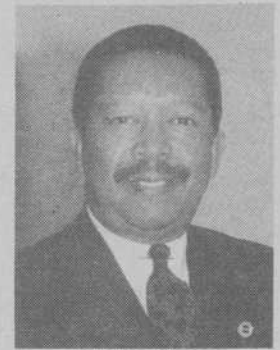
Properly targeted, it could be leveraged to have a great impact on our national life — bringing fresh hope to the poor and making a start on developing the world-class workforce we need if we are to be competitive in global markets.

The dilemma the President and his advisors face is that they'll never be able to tame the deficit monster unless the economy grows at a more vigorous clip — boosting the tax revenues to pay off the debt.

But the economy can't grow long-term without spending on training, job creation, and education and youth development programs.

The President's economic plan seems to be saying "let's cut the deficit by holding spending down and raising taxes, but even while we do that, let's make a start on the human resource investments critical to our future."

That makes sense to me.



JOHN E. JACOB

While there's plenty of room for disagreement about the exact mix in the Administration's economic stew — I'd go faster and heavier on human resource development spending — it's a sane move in the right direction.

What I can't accept is all the flak the Administration is getting for its tax increase proposals.

It's only fair that the beneficiaries of the tax cuts and economic policies of the 1980s that landed us in this mess should pay their fair share of the bill.

Even with the proposed tax surcharges, higher tax rates, and energy taxes, this nation is still undertaxed compared with other countries. Taxes take a smaller share of our national gross domestic product than in most other developed nations, including such trading rivals as Japan and Germany.

And the tax system is still tilted in favor of the better-off, since social security taxes take a higher percentage of the wages of low income workers.

As the nation enters into the great debate about the Clinton plan, it should keep in mind one central question: Will it help to bring us closer to an economy that is more fair, provides more opportunities, and makes us competitive again?

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

The Rodney King Case: One Year Later

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Several weeks from now will mark the first anniversary of the 1992 "Los Angeles Uprising." It has been nearly one year since the injustice in the trial of the Los Angeles police officers who were found "not guilty" in the brutal beating of Rodney King. Although the initial incident happened back in early 1991, the unjust verdict in the 1992 trial caused an unprecedented social explosion in Los Angeles and across the nation.

The very name "Rodney King" during the last year has grown to become synonymous with the struggle of African Americans and others for racial justice. Of course, the case of Rodney King and the subsequent miscarriages of justice are all too familiar to the African American community. The lat-

est celebration of African American History Month rendered a renewed opportunity for all Americans to be reminded of the continuing price that people of African descent have to pay in a society that refuses to purge itself of its historic racism and exploitation.

One year later the nation braces for another trial of the police officers who assaulted King, but this time the trial will be in federal court. Will there be justice this time around in the Rodney King case? Will there be another uprising in Los Angeles if justice is not done? What should all people who believe in equal justice do now concerning the unfolding drama once again in Los Angeles.

Last year the jury in the trial in state court had no African Americans. The trial now under-

way in federal court has two African Americans and one Latino American on the jury. No one can really predict how the trial will end. But one thing is for certain: "The United States is on trial in Los Angeles and the issue is ending the double standard of justice based on race and socioeconomic class."

Although this trial in federal court is expected to last at least two months, each day that goes by during the trial will serve to remind the nation that there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure equal justice in our society. No one wants to see more racial violence in Los Angeles or anywhere else in the country.

The simple reality is that there is a steady increase in racially motivated violence throughout the United States. The point here, however, is to emphasize the fact that as in the case of the beating of Rodney King, in many instances the increase in racial violence is performed by police officers gone mad with racial hatred and bigotry.

What should concerned people be doing the next six to eight weeks? We believe it is important for the entire nation to follow closely the details of this particular trial because it will hopefully provide a clearer view into the inner workings of our nation's judicial and criminal justice system. For too long our system of "injustice" has not engendered a broad public review.

Secondly, the United States Department of Justice needs to hear from hundreds of thousands of people demanding that justice be done in this case. During



BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS, JR

the past Administrations, the Justice Department exhibited little interest in prosecuting law enforcement officers who had been involved in racially motivated attacks. The Clinton Administration needs to forcefully speak out against all forms of social violence, and in particular racial violence. Yet, the Clinton Administration will not speak loudly on this issue unless there is a groundswell of public demand that justice be done in the Rodney King beating trial.

Lastly, in every community we should resurrect a sense of vigilance and steadfastness of commitment to "be thy brothers and sisters keeper." In other words, racial injustice simply cannot be tolerated. We must say boldly and directly to every level of government in our society that we demand equal justice and we demand it now. And this demand must be backed up by a revived and expanded civil rights movement.

Every generation is called to the challenge of life and there is not a more pressing challenge before us today than to renew our struggle for justice and freedom, not with idle rhetoric, but with an effective, organized and mobilized mass based "movement" of committed sisters and brothers in every state, in every community joining forces together toward the same long term goal: justice, freedom and empowerment for all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RESPECT IS DUE TO MY YOUNG NATION!

For those of you in need of an explanation, what I'm trying to say is that it's high time that someone expressed some appreciation for the accomplishments of our youth.

I'm not speaking of the accomplishments of our youth who are considered to be academically inclined (although much respect is due them also). In this case I'm speaking of the youth who did for themselves what those of the older generation could not do for them. They stopped the violence. My brothers in red and my brothers in blue took the time to see their black skins and said to one

another "KILL NO MORE." Anyone who cannot see the importance or the significance of such an act is truly a fool.

In a world where we see people get medals and awards for being taken hostage and coming home alive, or get their dumb asses trapped in an avalanche after being warned not to go out; in such a world of misplaced significance we should be standing in line to congratulate the young men and women who have decided that they will not kill each other despite the fact that there is an entire economy based on them doing just that. If you don't believe me, just check the sales of alcohol and (See Letters to Editor, Page 4)

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