

Point of View

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TO BE EQUAL

THE BOSNIAN QUAGMIRE

By John E. Jacob

Like most Americans, I am torn about what our government should do to end the slaughter of innocents in Bosnia.

There is the emotional tug of wanting to send massive force to impose peace. The insane orgy of murder and rape cannot be allowed to continue. A civilized world has to stop it.

The memory of Nazi Germany's genocidal murder of Europe's Jews while the world silently watched is a constant goad to action.

But there are other considerations clamoring for attention. Should we allow media coverage to determine foreign policy? After all, this world has many Bosnias and we don't hear about

them.

And African Americans contrast the concern about "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia with the worldwide indifference to it when it was practiced against blacks by white South Africa.

Another consideration is whether we can do anything constructive, or whether American intervention will just prolong the civil war and allow the violence to continue.

Some observers point to the Balkan's heritage of ethnic and religious hatreds whose roots go back to the Middle Ages, and say it's likely to continue no matter what the world does.

Apparently the governments of European countries share that view since they won't stop the

fighting in their own backyard.

Whatever President Clinton decides, he is faced with the public's doubts that there are compelling national interests at stake that would justify such a commitment of troops and resources.

Those interests were present in the Persian Gulf War, when we fought for oil and for the principle of preserving the integrity of nations — both identifiable national interests that most Americans believed worth fighting for.

There's another factor that worries me most. Whether justified or not, American intervention could lead to another Vietnam — an endless war in a hostile environment.

The Clinton Administration faces a serious political dilemma too — it was elected to renew the faltering American economy and put it on a long-term growth trajectory.

But if it becomes enmeshed in a nasty war in the former Yugoslavia, the economy and the Administration's most precious goals may go down the drain.

Going to war in Bosnia may doom the president's domestic agenda, just as Vietnam doomed Lyndon Johnson's Great Society.

It's tempting to think that surgical air strikes or arming the Bosnians will be enough. But our Vietnam involvement began that way — arming the locals

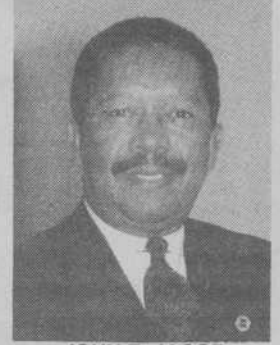
and sending limited numbers of troops, and that escalated to the point of no return pretty quickly.

So when all is weighed, this may be, as many say, the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time.

But that doesn't mean we can just sit on the sidelines. In the absence of willing allies to stop the fighting, we can still take the lead in pressing for a total embargo on the Serbs and other aggressors.

And we should be clear about identifying "ethnic cleansing" with the crime of genocide and insist on its punishment. The UN ought to amass evidence of the war crimes and eventually hold an international trial.

Serbia and, if the evidence warrants, Croatia and other guilty



JOHN E. JACOB

new nations, should be barred from the UN and from international bodies until they turn their war crimes offenders — including their leaders — over to the designated UN body. And stiff embargoes should be applied to Serbia and any other aggressor.

The U.S. can join that UN effort to punish the guilty, even as it avoids becoming ensnared in the Bosnian quagmire.

Bosnia presents the president with the most painful challenge of his young Administration, and it will take courage to steer a course that is both morally and practically sound.



POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams



"INSIDE THE FRONTIER"

On September 21, 1991, 550 workers at the Frontier Hotel walked out on strike after the hotel's owners and managers, Margaret, Tom and John Elardi, began a active campaign of surveillance, intimidation and harassment. The 550 workers did not walk out because they did not want their jobs, nor did they walk out because they were lazy, worthless, mean or noncooperative. The workers simply grew tired of working without a contract. In fact, the workers at the Frontier had been without a contract since June 1, 1989. The National Labor Relations Board has issued a complaint charging the Frontier engaged in "surface" bargaining with no real intention of reaching an agreement.

If one would only follow the action outside of the property, the real issue that is transpiring inside the resort would be totally missed. If one is not

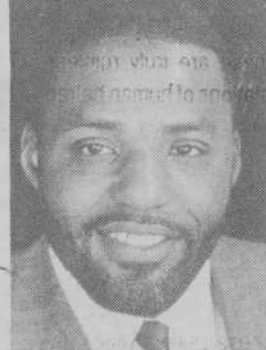
careful, some would have you to believe that the core issue is the action of distressed workers on the picket line and not why they are out there in the first place. It should also be remembered that holding a gaming license is not a right but a privilege and should be treated as such.

Again those 500 or so employees that walked out of the Frontier back on September 21, 1991 did not do so because they wanted to beat up tourists or spend their days and nights parading up and down Las Vegas Blvd. In fact it was the activity that was happening inside the Frontier that caused the walk-out. On the inside of the resort the company has illegally stopped contributions to the workers pension. Cut the workers' health plan. Fired workers for supporting unions. Cut wages from .50 cents up to \$4.00 per hour compared to wage rates for other union Strip workers. Eliminated seniority and other job

protections. Not only is this disagreement not good for the workers, but it serves no good for Nevada or Nevada's future. The 20-month long strike at the Frontier Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip is now one of the longest ongoing strikes in the nation. This strike is damaging Nevada's national reputation in gaming and as a family vacation destination.

However, there may be some hope yet. On last Monday Governor Bob Miller called the two sides together at the State Capital and got the two sides to agree to hold fact-finding sessions beginning June 7th in Las Vegas.

No doubt this thing has to end soon, plus we must put assurances in place to protect both the gaming industry and workers. Violations of workers rights are violations of fundamental human rights. Currently in the U.S. there are currently 27 million working people who do not have medical insurance.



Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

In the real world it is psychological murder to deprive a man or woman a job or an income with fair conditions. In substance you are saying to them, they have no right to exist.

The problem inside the Frontier is not just a Frontier or union problem. It's an American problem, it's a Nevada Problem, a people problem, a family problem and it's our problem. Whenever there is a conflict between human rights and property rights, human rights must always prevail.

Don't let the actions outside the Frontier cloud and overshadow the real issues here. It's what has happened inside the Frontier and what continues to happen that is the real issue. And the real issue is people and people's lives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON

My Fellow Americans,

This is the season of America's renewal.

Already, in the first few months of this new Administration, we have restored an active purpose to the presidency and renewed America's commitment to change and progress.

After twelve years of national drift and economic decline, we have begun to chart a clear path to grow with my New Directions economic plan designed to create jobs, boost incomes, move

our economy from consumption to investment and reduce our deficit dramatically.

The investments in my economic plan embrace priorities that will raise the living standards and profits of workers and businesses for the long-term: rebuild America's infrastructure; commit resources and attention to the education and training needs of our students and workers; and restore vital incentives that reward productivity, profits, innovation and investment.

The Clinton budget — the (See Letters to Editor, Page 4)

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