

# Point of View

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## TO BE EQUAL

# CONGRESS IGNORES GROWTH, SOCIAL DEFICITS

By John E. Jacob

The national obsession with the budget deficit means we can make little or no progress on two other deficits that are at least as important.

For alongside the federal budget deficit is the growth deficit and the social deficit.

The growth deficit is the gap between how fast the economy is growing, and how fast it should grow in order to create more and better jobs for all our citizens.

For years we've been in a no-growth or slow-growth cycle. The best that most experts expect is growth in the 2-3 percent

range for this year and next — not enough to put enough people back to work.

That's why the economic stimulus part of the Clinton economic package was so important — and why it was so devastating when Congress cut it to shreds.

To end the growth deficit we'll have to invest in the productivity of our people by education reforms, training and apprenticeship programs, and targeting disadvantaged youngsters for help in developing their skills.

But those things cost money, lots of it. It would be money well

spent, since over time such investments return far more than their initial costs.

But Congress seems afraid of anything that adds to the budget deficit, and appears equally scared to raise the required revenues through taxes.

That concern though, hasn't stopped lawmakers from changing the Clinton Administration's tax proposals to provide some breaks for special interests, making up for lost revenues by further spending cuts in areas that have already been hit by cuts.

The result is that we're less

able to deal with the third deficit — the social deficit.

Reducing that yawning gap between affluence and deep poverty is essential to domestic peace and prosperity. But again, Congress resisted even overly modest Clinton proposals.

Part of the reason for the growing social deficit is the effect of a dozen years of deep cuts in programs that can bring opportunities to people.

For example, adjusted for inflation, federal funding for a wide range of programs geared to help low-income people has been cut by almost 40 percent

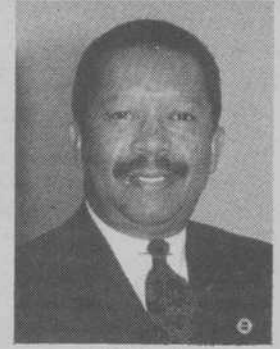
since 1981.

The biggest hits were in housing programs and in training and employment programs.

Other programs targeted to low income families suffered similar cuts. Outlays for low-income energy assistance, for example, were slashed by 54 percent; low income weatherization programs were cut by 32 percent.

And key urban programs whose target beneficiaries are low income neighborhoods, such as the Community Development Block Grant and the Community Services Block Grant were slashed by 31 percent and 47 percent, respectively.

So the obsession with the budget deficit has actually worsened the growth and social defi-



JOHN E. JACOB

cits, by constraining the federal spending that could alleviate both.

And that budget obsession stands as major barrier to passage of the Urban Marshall Plan for America, which would put the nation on a faster economic growth path while also helping to end the social deficit.

Important as the budget deficit is, Congress needs to find the political will to tackle the vital growth and social deficits.



## POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams



## "A DIFFERENT WORLD"

Make no mistake about it, getting a good education whenever and wherever one can, is overall the best personal investment that can be made. However, for African-American students, selecting to attend an African-American college or university will without a doubt, put them in a different world. A world that will continue to impact their lives long after they leave the campuses.

These schools provide a cultural campatability that creates an atmosphere conducive to black learning and leadership skill development that is missing on the predominantly white campus. For those who would question the last statement need only to think of leadership produced at black colleges such as Tony Brown, Rev. Leon Sullivan, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Dr. Benjamin Hooks, Roberta Flack, Richard Arrington, Amari Baraka, Marva Collins, Toni Morrison, Langston Hughes, Andrew Young, Lerone Bennett, Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Whitney Young and the list goes on and on.

Despite enrolling less than one out of every five African-American students, black colleges produce over 50% of black college graduates. This is even more astounding when it is realized that these schools enroll a large percentage of students who would not be accepted at other institutions. It's clear that black colleges have a special calling to reach the unreachable, teach the unteachable, embrace the rejected and be patient with the late bloomers. At the black university both the average and the gifted black student can be protected and developed equally. Black colleges in the past became mentors, surrogate parents and beacons imparting light to the hopeless. Today's colleges, with the same deliberation, have dared use their facilities to bring the potential of fragmented minds into useful fruition. Black colleges make the impossible possible.

For more than 100 years, black colleges have worked on the frontiers of the educational dilemmas facing America. It was in a climate of expectancy created at these schools that generations of African-American youths learned that they were

human beings and that no one could limit their horizons and their hope. It was in the crucible of these colleges that the great spirits of the American civil rights movement was shaped.

Academically, the African American college has a mission, to do for students something that is not available elsewhere. These institutions provide an African-American perspective on history, introduce an African background and provide a particular attunere to the academic needs of African-American students, including the remedial and preparatory. There is a willingness to go beyond the academic requirements to provide a rapport that may not exist elsewhere.

Socially, African-American colleges assist in dealing with the reality of racism in the world. At African-American colleges a student has the greatest of choice opportunities for self-expression and leadership without the racial factor coming into the picture. That freedom of choice is the hallmark of opportunity. Because of it, black colleges are a training ground for leadership.

Until recent times black colleges have been the only ave-



Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

nue for higher education open to the masses of black students. Through many difficult years and debilitating inequities, these institutions have preserved to emerge as the prime source of black professionals.

We must never let our black institutions fade away. Much has been taken from us as a people, but with black colleges much still abides. They represent excellence; they are our future.

Many of our local youth are attending and will be heading off to black colleges in a few weeks. A black college luncheon is planned for August 7th at Frank Hawkins Sports Lounge to help put some extra money in the pockets of these young people to help fulfill their dreams.

Please help support our youth by helping them raise money for one of the best investments we can make to Las Vegas, the nation, the world and education. Help them to help themselves and we will all experience "a different world."

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

July 10, 1993

Attorney General,

The Metropolitan Police Department's tactics of harassment and intimidation of the Warren and Garland families resemble those tactics used by the Nazi S.S. and the K.G.B.

These tactics include, but are not limited to, indiscriminate arrests, physical injury, false arrests, illegal interrogation, and threats. This should concern for everyone.

Patricia Warren's 17 year old son Erik, randomly chosen from a group of twenty males, minors and adults, was given a sobriety test and arrested for under the influence.

Debra "Warren" Burrell's son

Ronnie, received a broken wrist at the hands of a Metro officer at school, even though he was the attacked by a group of boys. They sent him home without assistance or parent notification.

Lynda "Warren" Garland, arrested and charged with battery, as the oldest, her mother had summoned her to mediate a dispute between the youngest daughter and a nephew.

Metro had been called by the daughter with allegations the nephew had struck her. Witnesses refuted this, officers accepted it, and the sister recanted.

However, when the same allegations was made against (See Letter to Editor, Page 4)

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