

Point of View

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TO BE EQUAL

JOB TRAINING CAN BOOST ECONOMY

By John E. Jacob

The U.S. economy is trying to beat powerful global competitors with one hand tied behind its back.

We're losing ground because years of underinvestment and the tragic waste of human resources are coming back to haunt us.

Along among the world's top industrial nations, we are the one with the falling bridges and crumbling roads ... the one with failing schools ... the one with huge numbers of people who don't have the skills and the education to be productive.

If you look at our rivals around the world, you find that Japan and Germany are making those people investments.

They stress education and skills. They have broad child development programs. They have world-class schools. They have apprenticeship training and skills development programs.

Their governments and the private sector work together to back those efforts. Not because they are bleeding hearts, but because they know it is in their national interest.

They act on the correct assumption that the leaders of the

new world economy will be the countries that develop their people.

If we're going to compete successfully, we'll have to act on that, too. Government, industry, and the not-for-profit voluntary sector need to be part of such an effort.

Industry needs to do more to train its people. It now spends many billions on training. But if you put the numbers under a microscope, you find that the exception of the largest and best corporations, very few companies do any training at all and most of the rest have two kinds

of training — safety training mandated by law, and continuing management training for executives.

That's beginning to change since the Total Quality Movement has begun to take root. But it's not changing enough and it's not changing fast enough.

That is why the Clinton Administration should follow through on its campaign promises to revamp worker training programs.

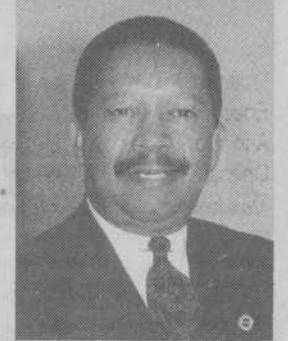
I know there is strong opposition to a training tax and to federal subsidies, but they will be necessary since employers,

especially small businesses, are reluctant to train workers in skills that make them attractive to competitors. So a neutral, outside entity is necessary to ensure that workers get the skills required by today's economy.

America should also consider adopting apprenticeship training systems as those are common in many countries.

In Germany 60 percent of all workers go through high quality apprenticeship programs, and private sector job training is strongly supported by government. In Japan, employers work closely with local schools to develop needed skills and small companies get subsidies for on-the-job training.

There's no reason why such approaches shouldn't work here in America. Certainly the need is great. I served on the Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, which called for setting educational performance standards that would qualify young people for skilled jobs and

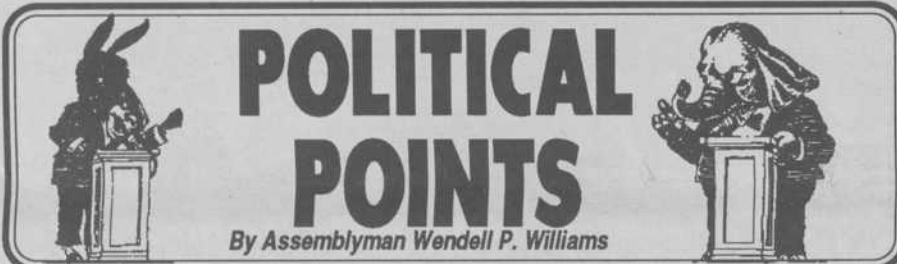


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establish a comprehensive system of technical certification for a wide range of occupations.

There are signs that support for such a system is growing, as employers and policy-makers realize the failing of a system in which high school diplomas don't necessarily mean work-readiness, and non-college youth get few opportunities to acquire advanced technical skills. Nor do we help youngsters bridge the gap between school and work.

The major initial workforce development effort should target out-of-work, non-college young people, equipping them with the training skills to contribute to the economy and to help take their place in what has to become a world-class workforce.



POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

The 67th session of the Nevada state legislature is now history, becoming the second longest legislative session and most expensive. The Nevada legislature has sixty-three members, forty-two assemblymen and twenty-one senators. Of this number, three are African-Americans, Senator Joe Neal, Assemblyman Morse Arberry and Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams. The following is a wrap-up of the legislation proposed by Nevada's African-American state legislators and the outcome of that legislation.

Senator Neal

Committee assignments - Transportation, Natural Resources, Human Resources and facilities.

SB 42 Employers and Employees - requires employer to provide applicant for employment with copy of application and reason for denial upon request of applicant - died in senate commerce.

SB 43 Arrest - Limits time certain warrant of arrest remain valid - died in Senate Ju-

diary Committee.

SB 44 Resort Hotels - Requires state gaming control board to investigate any strike which is ongoing and to submit report for distribution to legislature - died Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 93 Hospitals - Makes various changes and requires studies relating to health care - died in Assembly Commerce Committee.

SB 108 Radar Guns - Establishes standards for operation and display of radar guns - passed into law.

SB 140 Clark County - Creates advisory committee to study consolidation of Clark County and Las Vegas - died in Senate Government Affairs Committee.

SB 141 Public Utilities - requires that portion of money paid by customer to privately owned public utility be used to purchase stock in utility on behalf of customer - died in Senate Commerce Committee.

SB 148 Medical School - directs state controller to withhold portion of certain appropriation to university school of medicine unless proof is required

showing increase of minority students - died in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 178 Sunshine in Litigation - Prohibits certain actions by court and makes voidable provisions of settlement agreement which conceal information regarding civil action against law enforcement agency - died Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 179 Monosodium Glutamate - Prohibits sale of food containing monosodium glutamate at certain food establishments - died in Senate Human Resources Committee.

SB 180 Las Vegas - Increase number of members of Las Vegas City Council - died Senate Government Affairs Committee.

SB 387 State Finances - Establishes additional requirements for financial institutions in which public money may be deposited - died in Senate Finance.

SB 453 Metro - Requires sheriff of county, which has a Metropolitan Police Department be appointed by metro police committee on fiscal affairs - died senate Government Affairs



Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

Committee.

SB 520 Public Employees Retirement - Increase authority of public employees retirement board over retirement systems - died Senate Finance.

SJR 9 Lotteries - repeals provisions of state constitution which prohibits certain lotteries - died Senate Judiciary Committee.

SCR 57 Hazardous materials - Support efforts of committee on high level radioactive waste to clarify compensation and benefits due state for repository for high level radioactive waste - died

Assemblyman Arberry

Committee assignments - Chairman of Ways and Means, Vice Chairman of Commerce.

AB 329 Windsor Park - Makes appropriation to City of North Las Vegas for cost of relocating residents of Windsor Park - died in Ways and Means Committee.

AB 330 Sickle Cell Anemia - (See Political Points, Pg 4)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Having recently read "The Ray Willis Report" in the July 15 issue, he briefly mentions the National Rifle Association's (NRA) Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program. In his column, he describes the program as only working under the guise of gun safety. Guns and children have been an issue in our country for a number of years. In the not too distant past, the television news

program "60 Minutes" did a segment entitled, "Bang Bang, You're Dead" an excellent piece showing real life tragedies. When this story was aired, it said that over 365 children a year are killed in our country by guns, not intentionally or with criminal intent, but by their friends and siblings, and always by accident. I am sure the number of deaths (See Letter to Editor, Page 4)

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Betty Brown, President
Lee Brown, Publisher / Editor
Ramon Savoy, Advertising & Marketing Dir.
Lourdes Cordero-Brown, Office Mgr.
William G. Ramirez, Sports Editor
Willis Brown, Production Manager
Ulysses Palrose, Distribution
Don Snook, Graphics

Contributing Writers:
Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams
Ray E. Willis (CCSD)
Rev. Jesse Scott (NAACP)
James S. Tate, Jr., M.D. (NAARPR)
R. K. Brown
Gwen Walker
Kimberly Bailey

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