

# Point of View

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## "ALONG THE COLOR LINE"

# BEYOND BLACK AND WHITE

By Dr. Manning Marable

Growing up in Dayton, Ohio, in the fifties and sixties, I lived in a world which was almost exclusively "black" and "white." My family's home was on the "black" West Side of town, where the

vast majority of African-Americans lived. Working-class white ethnics lived in the small wooden homes in East Dayton; the well-to-do whites lived in Oakwood and other affluent suburbs. We are vaguely aware that the white

community was subdivided into divergent and sometimes bickering neighborhoods. But we always knew that the basic racial division was between black and white.

A generation later, America

is rapidly becoming a diverse mixture of ethnic groups and languages. The Census Bureau recently reported that as of 1990, one person in seven among the nation's 230 million residents over the age of five, either grew

up or is currently speaking a language other than English. About 32 million Americans now consider English a "foreign language."

The largest single group of non-English language speakers are Latinos. Between 1980 and 1990, the number of Americans who speak Spanish in their homes over the age of five years jumped to 50 percent, from 11.5 million to 17.3 million. During the same decade, there was a sharp increase in the number of speakers of Asian languages: Chinese (1.2 million speakers), Tagalog, the main language of the Philippines (850,000), Korean (625,000), Vietnamese (510,000) and Japanese (430,000). The single fastest-growing language since 1990 was Mon-Khmer, spoken by Cambodians, who increased from 16,000 to 127,000, or 676 percent. The states with the



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highest percentages of citizens who speak a foreign language are New Mexico, with 34 percent, followed by California (32 percent), Texas (25 percent), Hawaii (25 percent), and New York (23 percent).

The influx of new immigrants from South and Central America, the Caribbean, Asia and Africa, has sparked a series of political and legal controversies. In the state of California, English-speaking residents are expressing anger and hostility about the growth of the Latino and Asian population. Last year alone, more than 300,000 people from foreign countries moved to California. About 300,000 undocumented immigrants in the (See Along Color Line, Pg 21)



## POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams



## SCHOOL DAZE '93

As the school bells begin to ring and the buses start to roll next week, it's just small signs that remind us that it's time to get serious about one of the most important values we can support and build on. The value of education. Education is the best investment we can make as a community to build long range progress and stability.

More importantly, education should not be something that we just let happen. But rather we should all be full participants in it's focus, direction, substance and fairness. Education, just like other factors that so greatly affect our lives, need our full participation and not our observation. By the same token, education just like all other factors that so greatly affect our lives, is affected, if not totally controlled by politics.

The majority of the policy that governs the educational process is set by the local school board. However, the Nevada State Legislature set overall policy for Nevada's seventeen school districts.

The just ended 1993 legislature dealt with a number of education issues that we should be aware of as the new school year kicks into gear next week. First let's look at the area of pupils. One of the most controversial bills from the 1993 sessions concerns the use of corporal punishment in schools. Senate bill 354 prohibits the use

of corporal punishment in public schools. The new law defines intentional infliction of physical pain or physical restraint as a disciplinary technique for pupils.

The bill also clarifies that corporal punishment does not include the use of reasonable and necessary force to prevent injuries to oneself or to others, to prevent the destruction of property, to take a weapon or to escort a disruptive pupil who refuses to go voluntarily with the proper authorities.

Also in the area of the pupils, the legislature also passed AB527 which was proposed by students from the Horizon High School South, which authorizes schools, with the approval of the state board of education, to establish alternative programs for the education of pupils at risk of dropping out of high school. AB427 which was proposed by Morse Arberry is also a new state law. This measure prohibits a student from carrying or possessing a beeper, portable telephone or any similar device on school grounds. A students may carry or possess such a device only with the written consent of the school principal.

Another area where new state laws were enacted is the area of school safety. The legislature dealt with emergency disaster drills, school buses, traffic control in school zones, as well as protecting students and personnel from assaults.

Some of these bills include Senate Bill 47 which authorizes schools to conduct drills to in-

struct pupils about appropriate emergency procedures in the event of a chemical explosion or natural disaster. Previous law required schools to conduct monthly fire drills. This measure allows school districts to substitute up to three disaster type exercises during the year in place of the same number of fire drills. AB75 expands the penalty for certain crimes committed on school property. The new law provides that possession of a dangerous weapon while loitering, trespassing, vandalizing, or creating any other nuisance on school grounds increases the offense from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor.

Along the same lines, AB192 proposed by your truly, requires the board of trustees for each school district to establish procedures to be followed by police officers when arresting pupils on school grounds during school hours. The policy also must address conditions under which a school's chief administrative officer is notified about an arrest. In the area of curriculum, AB643, now law, requires the superintendent of pupil instruction to establish pilot programs to develop internships to train pupils to serve as apprentices in businesses. The internships must be designed for pupils in grades 11 and 12 and must allow the pupils to earn academic credit. Also AB578 requires the state board to establish a course of study in adult roles and responsibilities to prepare pupils for their potential roles as par-



Assemblyman  
Wendell P. Williams

ents and as members of family groups. Child abuse was also considered and AB529 requires districts to establish a program of instruction relating to child abuse for pupils in kindergarten and grades 1-6. The program must include instruction regarding the types of child abuse and the methods to recognize, report, prevent, and stop abuse.

A number of bills were also enacted addressing educational reform. Two of these measures deal with site-based management. Site-based decision making is an approach to educational reform that allows an individual school to make it's own decisions concerning finances and curriculum. SB91 and AB290 both addressed this concept.

These are only some of the new laws affecting education that you should be aware of. If you would like more information on these and others, drop a line at the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice.

And finally, don't miss the big Back to School fair on Saturday August 21 at the Martin Luther King Center, hosted by the MLK Committee, the Marable Manor Resident Council and the Kappa League. Free school supplies, haircuts and more. The address is 1316 Morgan Street. Don't forget, knowledge is power - pass it on.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Several times the Citizens Area Transit has advertised in the Sentinel Voice seemingly encouraging black people or patronize their bus service.

The reality is that their service is the only one in existence so do we really have a choice?

Approximately fifty percent of the drivers appear to be black but that is by no means a sign that racism is not alive and well within the company as well as in it's treatment of black riders.

We've been struggling with

this company for months over a simple issue like bus drivers adhering to their company policy of calling ahead to connecting bus lines and asking those lines to wait the prescribed five minutes for a connecting line.

The attitude of the director when confronted about it's drivers' failure to honor their own company policy has been sexist as well as racist.

The entire system appears to need a simple mathematical (See Letters to Editor, Page 4)

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