

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 represents this publication

TO BE EQUAL

JOB CREATION IS NATIONAL PRIORITY

By John E. Jacob

Remember when the Clinton campaign headquarters last fall was hung with hand-lettered signs proclaiming: "It's the economy, stupid."

That simple slogan was there to remind everyone in the campaign that the top priority had to be reviving the economy.

We need that kind of focused national attention on job creation today, because the economy will continue to stagnate unless there's an all-out drive to create more and better jobs.

Sure, health security is a must. So is controlling a runaway budget. So is welfare reform. And a dozen other urgent policy mandates have a rightful claim to be among the top three or four national priorities.

But unless we create more and better jobs, we'll just see poverty and hardship continue to grow, urban decline will accelerate and there won't be enough tax revenues generated to fund health security and other reforms.

One place to begin educating the public about the job crisis is to stop peddling misleading statistics.

The official unemployment rate is just under seven percent — high enough to stimulate concern, but not high enough to spark immediate action on the necessary scale.

But the true jobless rate is closer to double the official rate, since the government counts as employed anyone who worked at all in the previous month, even

if that "work" amounted to a couple of hours baby-sitting.

And that seven percent rate doesn't include discouraged workers who have given up the fruitless search for jobs. Nor does it count part-timers who really want full-time work.

And don't buy the myth about nearly two million jobs a year being created — the vast majority are part-time or temporary, low-wage, no benefit positions.

Meanwhile, layoffs continue. Virtually every day brings news that another large corporation will trim its payroll and lay off thousands, often tens of thousands, of workers.

According to a Fortune magazine story, every business day since the start of the year, an average of 2,389 American

workers learned they would be losing their jobs.

Young people, especially African American and minority youngsters, are especially vulnerable.

A smaller percentage of young people work today than before the onset of the last recession. That's not supposed to happen — this far into an economic recovery period there should be more, not fewer, working young people.

In this context, it is ridiculous to talk about an economic recovery or even about the many new jobs being generated.

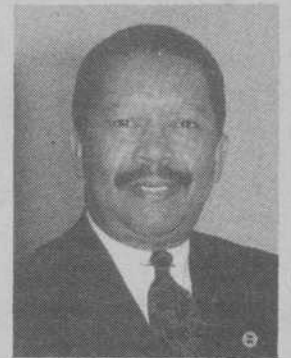
Young people seeking entry-level positions and adults seeking full-time jobs that pay a living wage are not finding work, while people are losing decent jobs at

recession-level rates.

Continued high unemployment and the social problems it breeds are the price we pay for government's refusal to create the job and training programs required to get the people working again.

When Congress passed the federal budget it ditched the Administration's economic stimulus package, which at least promised some mild creation effects.

Failing that, and with the job outlook worsening, Congress and the Administration should be turning to the Urban League's Marshall Plan for America as a blueprint for revitalizing the



JOHN E. JACOB

economy.

The Plan would create jobs through infrastructure programs which would include hiring and training the long-term jobless. And it's training and education programs would prepare people for the more demanding skills requirements of today's economy.

We've got a real jobs problem here in America, and fixing it has to be our top priority.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

An autopsy of the Clark County Coroner's Inquest system reveals a terminally ill patient suffering from delusions of justifiable homicide.

To continue this archaic procedure can only undermine what little respect Las Vegas has for our outdated justice system. To even state that all 61 police homicides were justifiable is an insult to people's intelligence.

External examination of the process by which all police shootings are labeled "good shootings" is quite simply so preposterous it evokes mockery. From the time of death to the inquest

itself the entire spectacle is saturated with conflict of interest, impropriety, and out and out perjury by Police Officers. Oh well, nobody is perfect but these guys are not even close.

The latest police shooting blunders only point out the incompetency of Metro, to shoot up a home with women and children inside is displaying a blatant disregard for public safety. To break into a home without a search warrant and terrorize citizens reminds me of what my family went through in 1939 Nazi Germany. I am saddened beyond words.

Sincerely, Larry Kepler

**WE WELCOME ALL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams



BLUE LIGHT SPECIALS

BLUELIGHTSPECIAL#1
Attention! KMart shoppers, for the next thirty days you'll be able to get special savings by making all of your purchases now because we're shutting down after we get all pre-holiday and after holiday dough. That's right, after over twenty years at the Rancho-Washington location, KMart is shutting its doors in January to open a new store in Summerlin.

Now any business has the right to close or move as they see fit, however most do so with some show of appreciation to the community that has provided it survival throughout its existence. At least this is the feelings of a number of community citizens led by Larry Weekly. At the end of next week, KMart will trot some of its big wigs to town to meet with Weekly and others to hammer out this issue.

However, two things should be kept in mind; first, it's a perfect opportunity to get African-American busi-

ness people involved in whatever incoming business decides to locate at that corner. Secondly, now is time for the community to activate a strong move to redirect those dollars that have been sent at the Rancho KMart to businesses in the West Las Vegas community. And one of the best places to start is directing the huge number of people from the community that has been using the KMart pharmacy to now start using the Ultracare Pharmacy located at 1212 West Owens Ave. The West Owens pharmacy seems to be one of the best kept secrets in town, and it shouldn't be. The pharmacy is owned and operated by Dr. Thomas Gbenidio and has now been opened for six months. The location is convenient and is open six days per week. Dr. Gbenidio says that he can meet and guarantee prices as low as any one else in town. It is easy to transfer your prescription and the pharmacy will even deliver if transportation is a problem. Give'm a call at 647-1925.

BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL #2
Beyond a showdown of doubt

U.S. Senator Carol Moseley-Braun is a blue light special for Las Vegas this week. The outstanding senator rides into town on the shoulders of people like Hiram Rhoades Revels who became the very first African-American to serve in the U.S. Senate. Revels of the state of Mississippi was elected in 1870 to fill out the uncompleted term of the noble Jefferson Davis. Free-born in North Carolina, he has studied at a Quaker seminary in Ohio and at Knox College. As a minister of an Army chaplain in Mississippi Revels set the stage 122 years ago for the performances today by honorable senator from Illinois who in 1992 became the first African-American female to grace the chambers of the U.S. Senate. You can bet that she understands what passing the torch is truly all about.

BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL #3
Count on Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice to live up to its slogan "The Truth Shall Set You Free." In the September 30, 1993 edition of the Sentinel-Voice in this very column entitled "Thinking



Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

For Ourselves," the predicted has now become the truth. In speaking about Senator Carol Moseley-Braun I wrote the following statement: "Anyway, don't be surprised, however, to see a certain city official lapping u behind us. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun next month when she visits Las Vegas. They will even move to get the senator to their house or some other possible site to host a "big shot" reception in her honor. This won't make one single difference in the lives of African-American women who need help right here in our city, and who will believe after sister Carol heads back to the nation's capitol." That was back in September, and wouldn't you know it, our own mayor if hosting a \$500,000 per person reception for Senator Braun at her home. Career politicians are so predictable aren't they.

Attention! KMart shoppers get your \$500.00 blue light special at Jan Jone's house.