

# Point of View

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## TO BE EQUAL

# THE JOBS SUMMIT - STILL NO ANSWERS

By John E. Jacob

The leading industrial powers of the world met in Detroit to discuss the global crisis, exchange ideas, and perhaps even come up with some solutions. They discussed jobs and exchanged ideas, but no solutions are in sight.

The Europeans suffer from very high unemployment rates, which economists say is caused by such generous social benefits that employers want to limit hiring and laid-off workers don't want to trade their high unemployment benefits for work.

Americans have lower unemployment, at least as officially compiled. But our wages are low compared with the Europeans, and our social safety net is in shreds.

So each side looks to the other for ideas.

The Europeans say they have to look at the American way, that they can no longer afford to pay high wages and

high social benefits and still remain competitive.

And the Americans say they can't afford the deep social fissures caused by inadequate benefits and a widening gap between the haves and have-nots.

So we're interested in some of the aspects of the European system that work — universal health care that's not tied to the job, better education and training, and apprenticeship programs that ease the transition from school to work.

At the end of the Conference, there seemed to be general agreement that both sides should prepare their populations for the lifetime learning and flexible skills that enable people to hold good jobs in a time of fast-paced technological change.

The Clinton Administration has been consistent in typing together its push for expanded trade, better schools, skills training, and reforms in the health

care, welfare, and unemployment systems.

It deserves credit for integrating these concerns into various legislative packages, and for recognizing the global dimensions of the problem.

But no solutions are in sight, a lot of important issues went undiscussed.

The "low" U.S. unemployment rate, for example, is nothing to brag about. Joblessness is close to seven percent of the workforce and would be a lot higher if temporary and part-time workers who want full-time jobs were counted as unemployed.

And the racial dimension of unemployment was ignored. African American unemployment has consistently been two to two-and-a-half times the white rate for as long as anyone can remember.

That suggests that effects of a chain of discrimination that begins in elementary school and

continues through layoffs of professional and skilled workers.

I also wonder about the popular solution that excellent education and training is the sole answer to the job deficit.

After all, a lot of skilled people are walking the streets without jobs. Without sufficient demand to increase sales of goods and services, jobs for even highly skilled people won't be there.

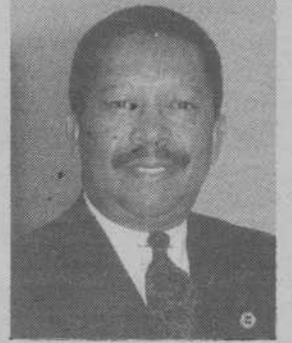
And no one wants to talk about the reality facing many of the unskilled. Many are unprepared to hold skilled jobs and some are not likely to acquire the necessary skills.

No society in history ever had a workforce composed solely of professionals and skilled technicians. There will always be a need for jobs for people who can't or don't master higher skills levels.

And even if we are headed toward a super-skilled society, that's still far in the future. What

about a super-skilled society, that's still far in the future. What about the people who today want to work and can't get unskilled jobs that pay enough to allow them to create families and live decently?

We won't get solutions until the people who attend those international conferences know more about what the people in the streets are going through.



JOHN E. JACOB

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am deeply concerned about the question of Great Black Leaders. Do great black leaders drive Mercedes, wear Rolex watches, and their followers can't pay rent. Do great black leaders erect enormous churches when their followers are homeless. Great black leaders we are in need of. Do great black leaders have banquets at lavish hotels, and their followers go hungry. Do great black leaders send their children to Ivy league schools while their followers can't afford to send their children to high school. Do great black leaders mean that they are leaders of the great black middle class. Do the great black leaders get \$100,000.00 loans? Do great black leaders have celebrity for profit golf tournaments when their followers can't afford a basketball left alone a set of golf clubs and. Isn't misleading a person fraud?

Sincerely,  
Guillermo Tomás

★ ★ ★

Year after year; week after week the black officials, elite, intelligensia, media, spokespersons, organizations, sport stars, entertainment stars, professionals, business persons, the rich,

the powerful, the influential, ministers, etal. put forth much rhetoric but the deteriorizing Black condition yet continues. It would appear something is amiss. If we conclude they're all giving of their utmost then it's more tragic and worse.

Is it possible that in spite of all the good, etc. they're doing it's not enough? Is it possible that they're collectively in error and really don't have the message? Is it possible there's enough collective charlatan in them, whereby, no real victory for Black people can ever come? Is it one of all of these that's making us losers in America and the world?

Black Leaders come  
And Blacks leaders go;  
Yet bad conditions remain  
And will continue so!

By the very nature of things, the greatest responsibilities, on us, blame and guilt must be laid at the door of those mentioned above. For simply, it is they who have the wherewithal, office, title, position, authority, money, power, influence, education, basically overnight, etc. to change our collective worsening condition; basically overnight. While it's not for me (a nobody,

(See Letters, Page 4)



## POLITICAL POINTS

By Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams



## POLITICAL POTPOURRI

Incredible! That's the only word to describe the vast amount of political activity that has been taking place lately. For that reason, I'll try to mix as much of it together in this writing so you'll be able to keep up with the latest political happenings. Here are a few.

First, it looks like the ink on the retirement documents has not dried completely and the retirement has just started for respected former police official Wilber Jackson, however, we may see him back in action. With many viewing the political race locally for sheriff as the most important race in the '94 elections, strange things are transpiring. It was confirmed by Jackson himself that he has been approached. I must add though, that talking to Jackson myself, I realize he is consider-

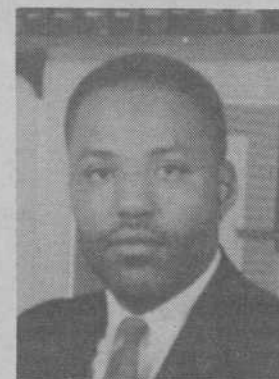
ing a run for this office. First of all it takes money to run for office and if he decides to do it he will have all the cash he needs. He showed me the dollar figure that a unnamed group has offered him to run, clearly indicating money will not be a problem. Combine that with the crop of candidates we have so far, Jackson's retirement may be short lived.

Next, check the mileage between Las Vegas and Washington D.C. that county commissioner Yvonne Gates has clocked lately. Gates, spending plenty of time in DC, is actively lining up her ducks to make the run for U.S. Senate in a couple of years. Her activity which includes preparing local attorney Karen Bennett to slide into her commission seat has caused some concern to the camp of Harry Reid.

Also look for City Council-

man Ken Brass to pass on what could be a tough and nasty race next year to hold on to his council seat. Look for U.S. Commerce Chairman Ron Brown who will be in town next week, to close a deal that has been in the works for sometime, that will send Brass to DC to work as Brown's assistant. Look for campaign signs to pop up next spring bearing the name of Community Peace organizer Elgin Simpson to run in the City Council race seeking the seat now held by Brass.

WAAK-UP President Marzette Lewis is going bonkers these days at North Las Vegas City Councilwoman Mary Kincaid. It seems Kincaid promised Lewis and others that she would not seek another term, but would instead run for Lt. Governor. In return Kincaid would back a young candidate selected by Lewis. Now that Kincaid has pulled out and changed her mind



Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams and is running for reelection, this has angered Lewis to the point that she has decided to enter the race herself. Look for plenty of fireworks in this one.

And it's not like UNLV needs more problems, but some university regents and UNLV officials have violated some serious regulations, including some against Dr. Paul Meacham. With hopes that the information not falling in the hands of the press, some regents and powerbrokers are pushing to set Meacham in the position of president of UNLV. Meacham's resignation was just a start.

Speaking of resignations, the Rev. Jesse Scott is working on his. With Scott's long history and experience work- (See Political Points, Pg 4)

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