

POINT OF VIEW

TO BE EQUAL

Time to beat the street

By Hugh B. Price
President

National Urban League
Throughout the country cities and suburbs are recording significant declines in rates of juvenile crime—and, by doing so, placing in sharp relief that the most effective way to solve the crime problem is not just to “get tough,” but to be compassionate, too.



HUGH B. PRICE

Nothing better illustrates that than the stunning progress the city of Boston has made in reducing juvenile crime in recent years.

From 1993 to 1995, Boston's juvenile arrest rate for aggravated assault and battery with a firearm fell by 65 percent. From 1990 to 1995 juvenile homicides there fell by 80 percent — and since July, 1995, no juvenile has been killed by gunfire.

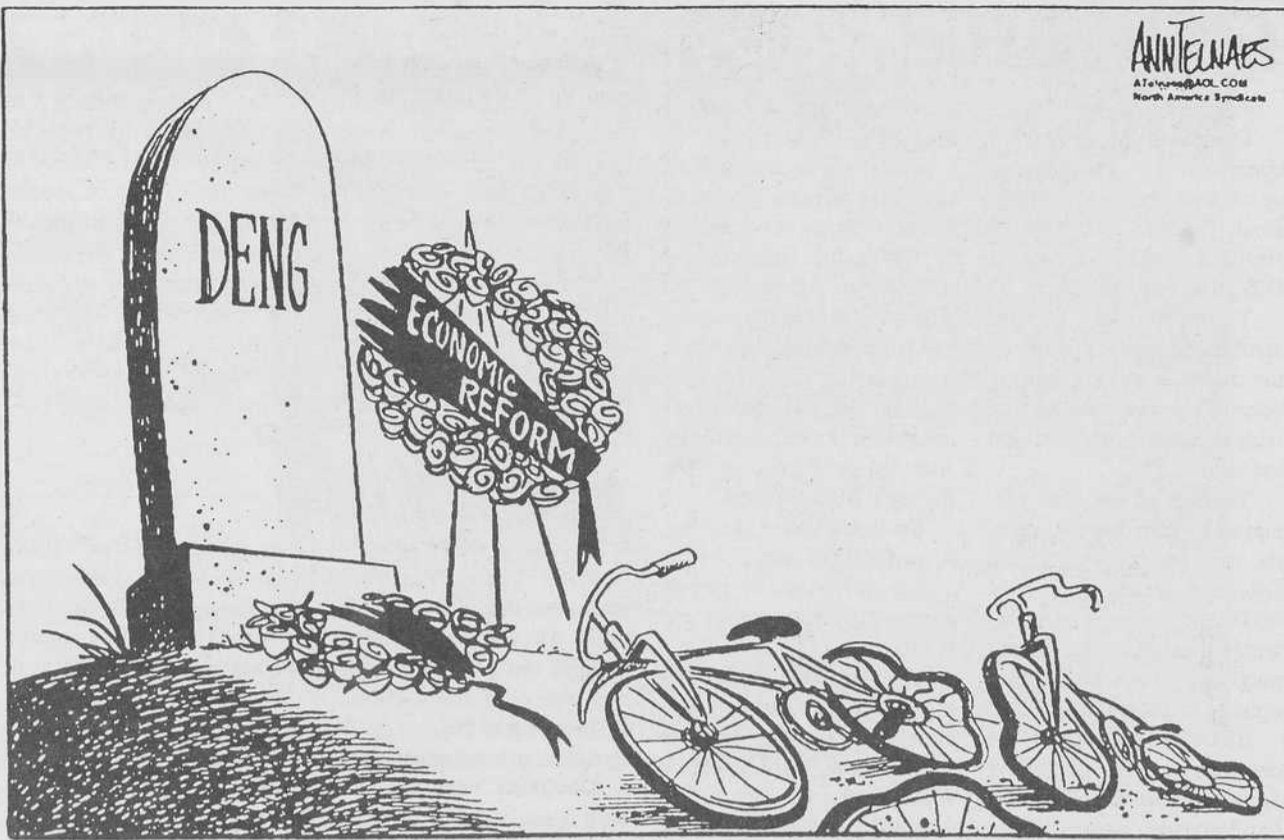
Those statistics, and the story of how Boston achieved them, brought President Clinton to the city last week. He wanted to use its success as proof that his own \$495-million proposal to combat juvenile crime can work. The President's program would give localities \$200 million to develop juvenile crime task forces and hire new prosecutors to focus on those crimes. That's the get-tough part.

But Mr. Clinton also

proposes devoting \$75 million to preventing juvenile crime and reducing truancy, and another \$60 million to create 1,000 new after-school programs that will involve young people in recreation and enhancing their academic skills. That's not just compassionate, it's eminently practical.

Studies have shown that the peak time for violent youth crime, drug usage and teenage sex is right after school, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

And, as the President pointed out, America's juvenile population is booming — our school enrollment is already at 52 million — which means that unless we give young people viable alternative to crime, “our country is going to be living with chaos, and my successors will ... be trying to keep body and soul together for people on the streets of



ANNIE...
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these cities.”

Such a bleak environment of rising juvenile crime seemed about to overtake Boston, according to Frances Kenney Moseley, until public agencies and private organizations discovered that by reaching out to each other, they could better help the city's young people.

Mrs. Moseley is head of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, Inc., one of the players in the public-private partnership. That partnership includes the Boston Police Department and the city

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A chance for gaming to give some back

Dear Editor:

Shame, shame, what a shame, the Las Vegas gaming industry only made \$7.4 billion dollars last year. It would take over a lifetime to count that much money using ten dollar bills. Even so, the greedy barons of gaming seem to want us to feel sorry for them because they did not fleece the customer for more!

Now, I'm not against the gaming industry for desiring to make more profit, but I am concerned about how this small group works so hard to hold on to it's wealth. Profits flattened out they say, but look at all of the major capital improvements that were initiated last year just along the strip. The “bankrupt” Stratosphere is still expanding a south wing, the Sahara is building a new tower and parking garages, Circus Circus completed its new tower, the Desert Inn is expanding, the Sands was imploded in order to grow again in a few years. Harrah's has a new tower wing, the Flamingo unveiled its new look last year, Caesar's has a new wing, expanded parking and other projects in the works, the Rio's new tower is nearly complete, Steve Wynn's Bellagio project continues to rise, the Monte Carlo is here along with New York, New York and the Orleans, and the Luxor's pyramid now has a shield of twin towers on it's northside. All of these projects total into the billions and subtracts from that “measly” \$7.4 billions dollars. So why the crybaby act?

The gaming barons are sensing that the local resident are seeing them grow richer while the poor stay poor.

Gaming simply does not share its wealth!

Do you understand that the thousands of maids, porters, restroom attendants, bellmen, and even restaurant and buffet employees do not earn enough to qualify to buy a home at the \$100,000.00 level, and that price is well below HUD's national figure for low-income housing.

Now, anybody can cry about negative situations, but contrary to that we'd like to submit a corrective action plan to the gaming industry and for the benefit of all Las Vegas.

First, let us just have the gaming industry donate one billion dollars to Las Vegas. Surely they can live on \$6.4 billion dollars, if greater gains can be realized in the future. Of this one billion dollar donation, let us give the non-management hotel/casino employees a 50¢ per hour raise and initiate a program to earn company shares for employees with three or more years seniority. Now let us fully fund and build at least one middle school and one high school. We still have lots of money

left; so now let us provide at least 10 grants of \$300,000 each to the 10 most active minority and charity groups based in Las Vegas. With such grants these community groups can afford to pay their hard-working, mostly volunteer, office staffs and researchers.

I will also allow them to initiate their “dream projects,” such as, child care centers, senior citizen centers, small hospices, homes for abused women and children and even care centers for AIDS victims.

Secondly, we must get the gaming industry to repeat the billion dollar gift every three years, unless annual profits fall below \$7 billion dollars. In less than 10 years, the hotel/casino employees would be able to afford decent homes. Schools will be improved. Local business owners will see growth as more dollars remain in the community. Major concerns about senior and child care will diminish rather than grow with the passage of time, and minority communities will begin to flourish and gain self-respect as well as overall

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THIS WAY FOR BLACK EMPOWERMENT

Some theories about conspiracy theories

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

The CIA crack-cocaine conspiracy, as reported originally by the *San Jose Mercury News* in California, has been endlessly debated. The debate is whether or not the CIA itself conspired to put drugs into the black community.

No one disputes that drugs are in the black community and have a disabling effect. The controversy is whether or not it was part of a CIA plot. Of course, if it was, that would be bad enough. But this whole obsession with whether or not there was a conspiracy leaves the black community feeling very vulnerable. And this kind of psychological impact, this fear that there may have been a conspiracy can be as disabling as any “conspiracy” itself. In other words, at the risk of seeming like a conspiracy theorist, there is a conspiracy to use conspiracies.

I was a guest on the *Rolanda* show recently to discuss this topic of conspiracies, and I pointed out that they often have more to do with effecting the way people think about things than they have to do with proving or disproving the truth about this or that incident. I know about this phenomenon very intimately because I've been the target of just these kinds of conspiracies.

For example, the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith and an organization called Political Research Associates, funded by Democratic Party activists, have conspired to misinform the public that I am part of a cult. I am not. But the cult label then becomes a way that people are led to misunderstand who I am.



DR. LENORA FULANI

I am not alone in this. For example, the conspiracy to label people as cultists was the major modus operandi used against the MOVE organization in Philadelphia and the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. People have different opinions on the question of whether there was a government conspiracy to destroy these two groups.

I've talked with many Americans across the country on white and black radio about this issue. But whether or not there is a “smoking gun” the fact is that there was a conspiracy by the Cult Awareness Network, the local media and the FBI to label the Branch Davidians a cult which then became the excuse for violating their constitutional rights and murdering 86 people. The MOVE situation, which took place seven years earlier, had a similar modus operandi.

Believing in conspiracies is often talked about as something that “crazy” people do. But while people may not like the word or the “conspiracy” in particular to control and manipulate how people see things in society is what goes on in Washington, DC every day of the week.

High paid spin artists in government from both major parties spend hours each day “conspiring” to come up with a spin on various events. When the presidential candidates go into a debate, their handlers have already conspired to figure out what they want the

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