



The hall rang out with chants from both sides of the abortion issue as rally-goers filled to capacity the Portland State University hall Friday night to mark the 10th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade

Supreme Court decision. The Rally for Reproductive Rights was sponsored by the Community Clinic Defense Coalition and the PSU Women's Union. [Photo: Richard J. Brown]

State of Black America-1986 released by NUL

The present economic recovery has failed to reach Black America where the income level now is lower than it was at the start of the 1980 recession leaving it in the grips of the most severely depressed economic condition of the post-war period. John E. Jacob, President of the National Urban League (NUL), declared Thursday, Jan. 23, as he released the NUL's annual report on the status of Blacks, *The State of Black America—1986*.

Speaking of the mood within Black America, Mr. Jacob said, "There is a growing movement within this community that emphasizes doing more for ourselves. And it is not a movement of despair, but rather one of high hopes born out of the conviction that while we cannot change some circumstances, there are many things that we can do to set our house in order."

Mr. Jacob pointed to growing community activities in the areas of teenage pregnancy, education, crime and the plight of female-headed households, but he also warned that there are clearly definable areas in which government assistance is "indispensable such as hunger, poverty and unemployment."

"A major challenge in the coming year will be to reorder national priorities, for we can't allow people to suffer more—they've already been driven to the wall by earlier cuts in survival programs that helped increase poverty and hunger in this rich land," he added.

To deal with unemployment—and specifically Black male unemployment which Mr. Jacob said has had a "devastating" effect on Black America—he proposed 1) the establishment of a National Youth Employment Program that includes education, training and work components; 2) a Universal Employment and Training System that would guarantee the unemployed productive work and the skills training necessary to obtain and hold a job; and 3) the establishment of a full employment policy that would have a multitude of elements including macro-economic policies and tax reforms that stimulate expanded economic activity and encourage maximum use of the less skilled and educated workers.

Describing the Reagan administration's civil rights record as "voodoo civil rights," he said that while professing to be supportive of civil rights, the administration has shown by its deeds that it is actually against civil rights and deserves the observation of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights that it has "the worst civil rights record of any administration in more than half a century."

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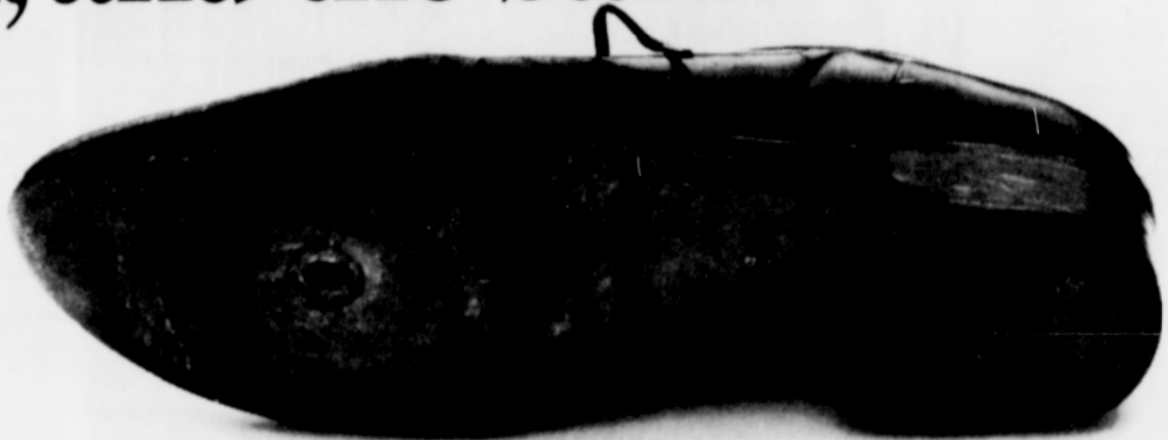
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