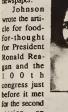
What some national leaders say about America's problems

By JOANNE J. FALLS Agricultural Extension Agent

Newspapers and magazines are enlightening to read because they contain articles which edu-cate us about vital issues that are facing our lives and our nation. at are

I found a wealth of informajohn an article written by David Johnson, a reporter in the Washington Bureau of The New York Times

newspaper. Johnson wrote the arti-cle for food



Falls

session on Jan. 25. Johnson's article consisted of interviews with some of our Great American Thinkers who were asked what advice they would give the President and Congress in laying out the nation's agenda for 1988 and beyond.

These are excerpts from what some of them said on various sub-jects. Concerning the illiterate underclass in America, Gertrude Himmelfarb, distinguished profes-sor of history, City University of new York, said:

"Twenty years ago, the one education issue that loomed large was the so-called students rebel-lion in the universities. Today we have experienced something like a revolution less visible, less dra-natic, but thick more important natic; but I think more important an intellectual revolution that has created almost a class isolated from the culture at large that is woducing its own language, its wn vocabulary, its own subjects, its own modes of study that has de the university an ivory

tower. In literature literary critics no longer address themselves to books in ways that are meaning-ful or illuminating to ordinary readers.... The culture is left root-less. It no longer has profession-als it can look to for guidance. It may that a counterrevolution is underway. Certainly the efforts of Education Secretary William Bennett to put education on the national agenda is evidence of that," Himmelfarb concludes.

Barbara Jordan, former Democratic representative from Texas and holder of the Lyndon Texas and holder of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Chair in National Policy at the Lyndon Baines John-son School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin,

"Our brains have been so bombarded with how on top of the world we are that we have failed to probe underneath the surface to look at the cancer which is caling from within a surface to look at the cancer which is eating from within. I know that among the candidates seeking the office of president most of them say we can't have any new taxes. Well, you have to get money from people who have money. And the only way these YOUR

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programs are going to be paid for is that the people who can afford to pay for them put the money up and hope that the return is going to be in their good interest. You can't nickel and dime. You are going to have to talk about bil-lions."

Concerning domestic pro-grams, Leroy Keith, president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, said

Congress and the president need to concentrate more on domestic programs, especially access to education for all Ameri-can citizens and financial assis-tance for access to higher educa-tion. We need to be working on cost containment on health ser-mices and we need to buse well vices, and we need to have wel-fare reform very desperately. If we don't we are going to have a burgeoning underclass and that's going to be as much of a national security problem as the prolifera-tion of nuclear weapons. I don't think this country can continue to grow and be economically viable with a large segment of its popu-lation being underserved and underskilled." vices, and we need to have welunderskilled



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