

Governor Sawyer Rejoins The Team

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LAS VEGAS

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Voice

Vol. 2 No. 4

Thursday, January 23, 1964

Nevada Voters League Looks Ahead

In recent years there has been a significant change for the better of the attitudes of many white Americans in viewing the problems of racial discrimination. This development has been evidenced in all parts of the country. In some more than in others. When I did not live in Nevada it did not sound so bad to hear the state referred to as "The Mississippi of the West." Now that I live here and have thrown in my lot with its future I am unhappy to know that there are such conditions here which justly entitle the state to be called "The Mississippi of the West." It is the duty of each citizen and certainly those citizens who have the responsibility of leading, whether they be Negro or white, to take affirmative steps to change these conditions.

The lot of the Negro depends upon the character of the leadership which the local population inspires. Where the people respond, the leadership will be dynamic while projecting concrete plans and programs. This will bring progress. Where people permit, leaders will obtain status for themselves and the approval of the local religious, civic, economic and political powers. The Negro masses will benefit but little in this way. In order for the Negro to make progress those already in power have to give up some of their power, whether it is political, economic or civic. The established order must share with the aspiring Negro. The total community, Negro and white, will still equal only 100%. The Negro must aspire to and insist upon first class status and a share in that 100%. The Negro leadership must in one fashion or another wrest from the persons now possessing that 100% a portion of it. In an expanding state like Nevada, where the economy is constantly growing and the numbers of people rapidly increasing, this is not so difficult. The task of the leadership must be to get those possessing the power in a frame of mind to respect minority aspirations and to accept as a moral duty to share the task of making it possible for all to achieve first class citizenship. The Negro leader cannot be satisfied merely with smiles and handshakes from the power structure. He must risk being called radical. He must risk being labeled, "a trouble maker."

Improvement of the Negro citizenry will depend on the character and quality of the educational and vocational opportunities available. Efforts must be made to see that even if the school is located in a predominantly Negro neighborhood it has the same equipment, the enriched program, the educational visual aides, the museum trips, spelling bees, playlets and the myriad other activities which expose white children to a better life. Negro children must be inspired by school officials to seek and engage in unaccustomed activities and to yearn for more education. Teachers with broader backgrounds, varied education and interest must be encouraged to teach in schools where the now underprivileged Negro must attend. The administrators of the schools must begin to acknowledge their obligation to make available to the Negro child the same quality of education and exposure available to the average white child. Vocational opportunities must be opened to all who qualify.

To achieve these ambitions all Negroes must register and vote. There is no greater leveler in a democratic society than the vote. Each vote, whether of the President, the Governor, the Mayor, or the boot-black, is equal on Election Day. The Voters League can and will act both as the political and civic arm of our community. Every Negro who can qualify must register and vote. The importance of our vote was demonstrated in the last Mayoralty campaign. When we register and vote 5,000 of our Westside citizens all the persons who would not give us an ear when we campaigned for the Civil Rights cause at the 1963 Legislative session will be listening. We will not have to seek them out. They will be coming to us. All the power in America, directly or indirectly, flows from the ballot box. Let us recognize this. Everyone who aspires to leadership must recognize that group strength will surpass anything he or she can do in-

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FRONT news PAGE release

U.S. Senator, Howard W. Cannon, of Nevada, member of the Senate Commerce Committee, has been selected as chairman of a temporary subcommittee to conduct an investigation of the pros and cons of the need to exact legislation to regulate the mail order sale of firearms. Senator Cannon said that, "We expect to explore this problem thoroughly. Every avenue of solution will be studied, but the solution must not be conceived in hysteria. It must be dictated by the voices of reason, and not emotion..." It must, to the extent practical, prevent possession and use of firearms by the irresponsible; but, in so doing, it must not encroach upon the rights and liberties of the responsible." ---- One month after the small island nation of Zanzibar was granted independence by Great Britain, an organization of native Africans, who call themselves "Freedom Fighters," executed a coup d'etat in a matter of hours. The lightning fast revolution was chiefly racial in its primary conception, but reflected strong overtones of Communism. Our State Department envisions this situation as a "Cuba of Africa", and expresses great apprehension that the ease with which it was accomplished could kindle revolutionary fires in other African nations, and open more doors for the spread of Mao-type Communism in East Africa, particularly. ---- 3000 students, and university employees of UCLA heckled, and hissed Gov. Wallace, Alabama, when he addressed the UCLA student body last week; during his address other students, under direction of CORE, conducted a protest demonstration outside the building. ---- The California Real Estate Association is taking carefully planned steps to set back California's progress in Civil Rights. This group is lobbying to nullify the Rumford Act (Fair Housing). The major California newspapers are opposed to this most undemocratic petition of the Real Estate Association. Roy Wilkins, NAACP Executive Director, announces that there are over a half million members of NAACP, and that the organization will depart from its former position of passive politics, and will engage its full potential in active political participation, including campaign support of "friendly candidates", and total war against the enemies of Civil Rights. ---- The Supreme Court has overruled a Federal District Court, and has struck down a Louisiana law which had required a race tag on all candidates for elected office. The high court branded the Louisiana statute as a "transparent device to arouse racial prejudice among voters, which made it unconstitutional. ---- Prime Minister Nehru of India, pioneer perpetrator of the middle-of-the-road policy of non-alignment in the Cold War, has been greatly incapacitated by a stroke which has left his left side partially paralyzed. ---- Alabama justice has recently flaunted its ugly image of racism by sentencing a white youth to 7 months in the Jefferson County jail, after conviction of slaying a Negro boy during the race crisis in Birmingham, last September, following the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church, which snuffed out the lives of four Negro girls. Circuit Judge, Wallace Gibson, delayed the pronouncement of actual sentence, so as to allow Larry Joe Sims' defense time to appeal, or apply for probation. The

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NAACP BULLETIN Labor Dept. Officials to Speak

Mr. C. R. James, San Francisco Regional Minority Specialist of the Apprenticeship and Training Division of the Department of Labor will speak at an apprenticeship meeting to be held at the Voters League Headquarters, 1301 "D" Street at 8:00 p.m., Friday, January 24, 1964. Mr. Bob Reynolds, Department of Labor Youth Opportunity Consultant is also expected to attend the meeting. All young men who are interested in obtaining apprenticeship information are urged to be present at this meeting. NAACP members and interested citizens are cordially invited.



Michele Freeman — Miss. Freeman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Freeman of 712 Kasper. She is a junior at Las Vegas High School and wishes to become a Registered Nurse. Miss. Freeman is a member of the Spanish Club and the Future Nurses Club. Her hobbies are singing and baton twirling.

NAACP RETAINS MENDOZA, FOLEY

Las Vegas Branch NAACP Executive Board in special meeting Saturday, January 19, at the Voters League Headquarters, 1209 D St., voted to retain the law firm of Mendoza, Foley and Gardner to represent Homer Williams and Ozell Heckard. The Board's action to give legal assistance to Williams and Heckard grew out of the alleged police brutality incident Christmas Eve. According to eye witnesses who appeared before the local NAACP, Williams was the victim of excessive force when arrested Christmas Eve. Eye witnesses charge that officer Robinson broke a nightstick over Williams' head while making a routine arrest on a disorderly charge. The incident attracted a large crowd of local citizens and was reported in the local Press as a near riot. Williams and Heckard are due to appear in the Municipal Court, 10 a.m., January 21. Wil-

liams was charged with disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest. Heckard who was released on Dec. 22nd from City Jail is charged with vagrancy with visible means of support.

Also arrested Christmas Eve, in connection with the incident, were Henry (Red) Williams manager, and Q.B. Bush, owner of the El Morocco. They were charged with interfering with officers, and resisting arrest. Williams and Bush, according to eye witnesses, were attempting to assist officers in controlling the crowd. Their trial is also set for the 21st and it is reported that they have retained private counsel, Robert Santa Cruz. In addition to furnishing counsel, Rev. Marion D. Bennet last week filed a citizen's complaint with the City Civil Service Commission requesting a thorough investigation of Chief Leo Kuykendall's administration. Rev.

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