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COUNTY SCHOOLS FUTURE AT STAKE TUESDAY

WIDE BOND SUPPORT

LAS VEGAS

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Voice

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Thursday, April 30, 1964

SEEK TO ELIMINATE CLASSROOM DEFICIT

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

ALL SEGMENTS of the community today seemed united in support of the \$37-million school bond proposal that goes before the electorate next Tuesday. With only scattered opposition having been expressed, it is expected that issuance of the bonds will be approved by a substantial majority.

Funds derived from the bond sale would permit the Clark County School District to build and equip 20 elementary schools, five junior high schools, one vocational-technical school and 134 classroom additions to existing schools.

The building program is based on a student projection of 76,521 for 1967 and 85,065 for 1968. These predictions are considered conservative by school district authorities. They were made by the same firm that conducted master planning studies for the district in 1956, at which time the firm predicted a school population of 50,000 for 1964. Present enrollment is 50,250.

A \$21 million school bond issue approved by the voters two years ago is being used to complete construction and equipment of eight elementary schools, two senior highs, two junior highs and 18 portable classrooms.

Several of the proposed schools, including the 1,000-student vocational-technical school planned for the Whitney Mesa area, would be built on land obtained from the federal government at \$2.50 per acre.

It was emphasized by bond proponents that the school district has been building at a cost rate well below the national average. The last five elementary schools placed under contract in Clark County cost an average of \$11.62 per square foot compared with a national average of 22.85. The per pupil cost locally for the same five schools averaged \$704.32 against a national average of \$1,401.

Substantial savings over the national average also are shown in comparable figures for secondary school construction and per pupil costs.

It also was pointed out that if the district does not grow as fast as project—which is most unlikely—the entire \$37 million dollar bond issue would not be sold, but only that portion necessary to meet the actual population growth. Any bonds unsold after a three-year period would be automatically nullified and no additional bonds could be sold without another election.

Members of the Central Labor Council have voted unanimous endorsement of the school bonds. Council president Keith Hickman summed up the sentiment of his members by saying:

"The bond money, earmarked for school construction, will solve the classroom shortage problem for the next three or four years. We hope this will eliminate all double-sessions. The work which will result from passage of the bonds will put men to work who are now on our unemployment lines."



VEGAS TRIUMPH—Dr. Martin Luther King (center), leader of the non-violence movement in the civil rights struggle, is shown with Gov. Grant Sawyer (left) and Las Vegas Mayor Oran Gragson at speaker's table during annual Freedom Fund Banquet of local NAACP branch last Sunday at Las Vegas Convention Center. Dr. King delivered two stirring addresses during one-day stay here. (See story this page.)

Dr. Martin Luther KING Captures Heart, Conscience of Las Vegas

HE CAME! HE SPOKE! HE CONQUERED!

Every person with a sense of social justice who heard Dr. Martin Luther King deliver two stirring addresses here last Sunday had to be inspired to greater efforts in the civil rights struggle.

One of the truly great orators of this or any other age, the 35-year-old head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference completely captivated his two audiences with his dynamic, albeit self-effacing, appeal for renewed zeal in the battle for freedom.

"Listening to Dr. King in person was a most exhilarating experience," was the comment of Gov. Grant Sawyer, who eloquently introduced the much-decorated Baptist minister from Atlanta, Ga., at Sunday afternoon's Freedom Fund Banquet of the Las Vegas NAACP.

GOV. SAWYER'S SENTIMENTS were echoed

by numerous other dignitaries who crowded the 60-seat speaker's platform and the vast rotunda of the Las Vegas Convention Center. Mayor Oran Gragson of Las Vegas, who extended a gracious official welcome to Dr. King, said, "This man moved me as I have seldom been moved before."

In the afternoon, Dr. King called for fulfillment of "The American Dream," based on a continued striving for the "self-evident truths" outlined in the preamble to the constitution of the United States.

Later in the evening, at an open rally in the same hall, Dr. King electrified an even larger gathering with a dramatic reiteration of his promise from the Birmingham jail—"We Shall Overcome! We Shall Overcome!"

NOTABLE QUOTES by Dr. King included: "If a man hasn't discovered something he (See KING, page 14)"