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# DEMOS NAME FOUR NEGROES TO TOP POSTS LAUNCH BIG PROJECT

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# VOICE

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## "SELF HELP" PLAN LEADERS SELECTED

"WE'RE ON OUR WAY."

That was the enthusiastic and obviously optimistic comment of Lubertha M. Johnson following her appointment as project supervisor for "Operation Independence", the ambitious self-help community development plan for West Las Vegas.

"Nothing can stop us now from attaining complete success except our own lack of effort. Such a possibility cannot and will not be tolerated," Mrs. Johnson stated in noting that the program has been accorded strong financial and personnel assistance from federal, state and county agencies.

"In a three-mile square area such as West Las Vegas, where inadequate, over-crowded housing facilities contribute to markedly low socio-economic standards compared with the rest of the state, the social and health problems are necessarily greater than those existing in predominantly non-Negro areas," Mrs. Johnson pointed out.

"Through planned activities, developed in a system of local committees headed by responsible chairmen and assisted by professional personnel, we shall pursue 'Operation Independence' on many fronts," she said. "Programming will be offered in the following:

"INCREASED VOCATIONAL and educational opportunities along with family-centered social case work and child-care assistance; a special youth program directed toward present and potential school dropouts and after-school activities, such as tutoring; creation of library facilities, orchestral and choral groups, a Little Theatre workshop and academic courses; family counseling available to the total community, and educational and vocational training, including instruction in basic communications like reading and writing, at the adult level. In all, a wide presentation of opportunities for self-betterment."

Elaine Walbroek, executive-secretary of the Nevada Tuberculosis and Health Association with headquarters in Reno, was instrumental in obtaining a federal grant to help underwrite "Operation Independence" and recommended Mrs. Johnson's appointment as Project Supervisor. Mrs. Walbroek's organization will serve as trustee in administering the program under the joint sponsorship of the Nevada State and Clark County Welfare Departments, Nevada State Employment Service, Clark County Health Department and Nevada Southern University.

These agencies, constituting the Technical Advisory Board, have delegated members to serve on the Planning Board, including Mabel K. Woodruff, State Welfare Dept.; Charles W. Spann, State Employment Service; Evelyn Blake, County Health Dept.; J. David Hoggard, Attendance Officer, County School District; Harvey Dondero, Asst. Supt., Clark County Schools; Dr. Juanita White, Board of Regents, Nevada State Univ.; Dr. Charles I. West, Editor and Publisher, Las Vegas VOICE, and Robert E. Mullen, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Clark County, whose wife, Orangia, has been active in helping to launch the program.

OTHERS NAMED at a recent meeting to (See PROJECT, page 18)



LAUNCH 'OPERATION INDEPENDENCE'—Among those attending recent planning meeting for West Las Vegas community development project were (seated from left) Edythe Abington, Community Art chairman; Mabel K. Woodruff, Nevada State Welfare Dept.; Dr. Charles I. West, Health Program chairman; Charles W. Spann, Nevada State Employment Service, and J. David Hoggard, Attendance Officer, Clark County Schools; (standing from left) Myrtle Banks, Child Care chairman; Harvey Dondero, Asst. Supt. Clark County schools; George Jones, Project Secretary; Lubertha M. Johnson, Project Supervisor, and Robert Reid, Youth Coordinator. (See story.)

## Hughes, Meadows Set For National Conclave

Nevada Democrats placed four Negroes in strategic positions at their biennial conclave held at the Las Vegas Convention Center last week. Two Negroes were picked for two year terms on the State Democratic Central Committee, and two others were selected as delegates to the national conven-

tion in Atlantic City, N. J., this summer. J. David Hoggard, real estate broker, and school district truant officer, proved more popular among fellow Democrats than among Las Vegas school children. Hoggard was selected as chairman of the important Platform and Resolutions Committee, and was

reelected to the State Central Committee for a second term. Marjorie Elliott, tabbed by the VOICE as Nevada's best dressed female real estate broker, was elected to the Central Committee as the second Negro representative. The Rev. David Meadows, outstanding civic leader in the Reno-Sparks area, was designated as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Atlantic City.

Mrs. Sarah Hughes, longtime civil rights worker and labor union executive, became the first Negro woman delegate from Nevada to the National Convention. The selection of Mrs. Hughes was considered a great tribute to her personal (See DEMOS, page 3)

## FAIR PLAY GOOD DEAL FOR BARBER

BUSINESS IS BOOMING at the Modern Barber Shop in Madison, N. J., these days, but it was touch-and-go for a while as to whether white barber Peter Cattano's firm stand against the segregated haircut would force him to close down.

Although most of his customers are white, Cattano has been serving Negroes for 10 years. No one seemed to notice anything unusual until Drew University students began picketing "white" barber-shops recently, including Cattano's.

Cattano immediately wrote letters of protest to local newspapers, explaining that he had never refused to cut anyone's hair. He also tried to convince other barbers that cutting Negroes' hair, although technically more difficult and involving a whole new approach to barbering, was the right thing to do. And he cut Negroes' hair while pickets marched outside his shop.

His white customers disappeared. Business got so bad that Cattano seriously thought of selling his shop and moving.

But his Negro customers kept coming. Then, a few days ago, new customers—white customers—began coming into his shop. Most told him they approved of his stand. They had read about it in the paper and had driven perhaps 10 miles to get to his shop.

Wednesday, when business is usually the worst in the week, Cattano said he did "more than the busiest Saturday."

## NAACP BULLETIN

State Assemblyman Bernard Posin will address the general membership meeting of the Las Vegas NAACP, scheduled for Sunday, May 17, 3 p.m., at Kit Carson School, on "Civil Rights Legislation." Sunday's meeting replaces the regular second Sunday date due to May 10 having been "Mother's Day."



BERNARD POSIN