

VOICE READERS COMPRISE A \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

West Vegas Democrats Produced Huge Landslide

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

REV. LEO A. JOHNSON deserves the thanks and commendation of the Democratic Party for his excellent organizational work in West Las Vegas during the recent political campaigns and elections. The VOICE congratulates Leo and his corps of tireless workers for engineering the most overwhelming Democratic landslide ever produced in this community—perhaps the top performance in the history of Nevada politics.

West Las Vegas voted 34 to 1 for President Lyndon B. Johnson, giving him a plurality of 4000 votes over his Republican opponent. The turnout for Senator Howard W. Cannon also was fantastic, resulting in a 3500 vote plurality.

Precinct 60B, which voted at Kit Carson School, compiled some sort of a record by giving LBJ a 183-0 shutout. The other precinct voting at Kit Carson, 60A, went for the President by 215-1. Precinct 34, voting at Madison School, was second only to 60B in its support for the Democratic nominee on a percentage basis with a 248-1 count.

Precinct 83, with headquarters at Matt Kelly School, came up with a 137-0 shutout for Senator Cannon. Precinct 60B was almost as effective for the senator with a 167-1 count.

It is quite likely that West Las Vegas Negroes voted for President Johnson and Senator Cannon at better than a ratio of 100-1, because their Republican opponents picked up most of their votes in "fringe" precincts containing quite a few white voters.

We also wish to express our warm personal thanks for the splendid support accorded other VOICE endorsees, especially Justice of the Peace-elect Jim Brennan. We regretted having to oppose the "choice" of the Nevada Voters League in the JP race, but found it impossible to do otherwise under the circumstances. It was the first time an endorsee of the Nevada Voters League failed to carry the Westside.

PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ELECTION, activity at the Jackson Street Democratic headquarters was buzzing around the clock day after

ferentiation in the camp and ceremonies and of women's social position: upbringing, marriage, economic status (including division of labor and property), and political and legal status. This paper is written with admirable clarity and objectivity concerning the respective roles of men and women. The section on economics is noteworthy in its recognition of the part that climate, physical strength, and sentiment play in the economic roles of the sexes, a dimension often neglected in studies of this sort.

In her essay on women's participation in African political organization, Annie M.D. Lebeuf takes the reader on a Cook's tour of a score of African kingdoms, with a few whistle stops for a glance at "kinship" type political systems. Forms of feminine authority are defined as women's effective exercise of power and their fulfillment of functions associated with the power structure, and close attention is given to the role of women as co-rulers of states in the person of queen mother or the king's sister. Although the emphasis on state government seems disproportionate, the author notes that little is known of the role of women in government in nonstate societies.

Anne Laurentin's "Nzakara Women" (Central African Republic) presents a complex picture of life in a kingdom made up of peoples of differing tribal origin, from precolonial days to the present. The actors through whose eyes this transition is seen are five women, whose biographies cover a span of almost a century. Except for the first, these were obtained firsthand by the author, a physician practicing in the Ubangi area. The reader is given a vivid impression of differences in privileges, obligations, and expectations of nobility, commoners, and slaves in precolonial days; the "level-

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day. Ike Rome apparently never slept. He was in and out of Leo's headquarters from daybreak to midnight. His red T-bird, carrying Cannon banners, was seen cruising the streets day and night.

Louise Henderson and Lillian Fennell never seemed to leave the headquarters. Lorenzo Calhoun went from his job directly to the Jackson Street office and back to his job with little, if any, rest. The Rev. John Simmons worked with the vigor of a youngster. It was highly stimulating to see "Mr. Westside Democrat" back in the saddle and riding the political trails again, as he did for more years than any of us can count.

Shirley Kleinpeter and Exie Thompson also were nearly permanent fixtures at headquarters. Also very much in evidence were Joe Neal, Leroy Matthews, Sylvester Fennell, Gertrude Woods, Gloria Rome, Armstead Sims, Curtis Wheeler, Dave Edward, Jimmy White, Ethel Davis, Catherine Bass, Houston Cole, Clarence Johnson, Marion Benford, Hayward Lewis, Norman Jones and many others whose names now escape us.

All were ready and willing to do their bit at any time—and all did it well.

On election day, it did our hearts good to see Bob Bailey ride herd on the self-styled "professional politicians" who tried to grab off the credit that rightfully belonged to Leo Johnson and his aides. We salute Bob for a job well done.

We also salute Sgt. Lyles, who used his twenty years of military experience to good advantage in the organization and direction of the motor pool which shuttled more than one thousand voters to and from the polls. We herewith promote the sergeant to the rank of "general" for his strategy and well-disciplined operation.

More than one hundred workers rallied to Leo Johnson's call and carried out their assignments with tremendous effectiveness. The VOICE regrets that the names of all those who contributed to the project are not included in this testimony. Nor should the local business places and churches that lent their facilities to the campaign be overlooked.

Hats off to the Rev. Leo Johnson and congratulations to the Negro community for a magnificent display of civic responsibility and patriotism!

Sheriff's Office Deserves Ware Case Probe Support

THIS NEWSPAPER IS SATISFIED that the Clark County Sheriff's office is making every effort to apprehend the cowardly culprit or culprits responsible for apparent acts of terrorism against the local family of a Negro Air Force man presently stationed in Virginia.

We also are certain that Sheriff Ralph Lamb and his deputies are taking every precaution to assure the safety of Mrs. Isabella Ware and her four children, whose home at 1861 Ringe Lane has been the target of rock-throwing, water damage and gunfire during recent weeks.

The VOICE arrived at these conclusions after a thoroughly courteous and painstakingly complete briefing on the situation by Sheriff's Sgt. Roy Stinedurf. Therefore, we would respectfully suggest that the Negro community "play it cool" until the Sheriff's office completes its investigation. Nothing concrete can be gained by violent reaction to such outrages.

Las Vegas Voice

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AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

CONTINUING OUR EXAMINATION of the role of women in the emerging nations of Africa, we here present a review by Phoebe Ottenberg of WOMEN OF TROPICAL AFRICA (Femmes d'Afrique noir) appearing in the current edition of "Africa Report", a non-partisan journal of African affairs published monthly in Washington, D.C. WOMEN OF TROPICAL AFRICA, 315 pages and approximately \$5, was translated by H. M. Wright from the French of Denise Paulme, the editor, and published in London, England, by Routledge & Kegan Paul.

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This translation of "Femmes d'Afrique noir" is another episode in the Battle of the Sexes, African Theater. The component essays by women anthropologists are presented as "a first attempt to fill a serious gap" in knowledge concerning African women, specifically those of French-speaking areas of the continent. In fact, the volume is an important contribution in that material previously unpublished or available only in scattered sources is now presented to readers in two languages.

From a critical standpoint, however, the book has two basic flaws. First, the various essays are addressed to different audiences, some being systematic, scholarly, and economical in presentation and others verging almost on the propagandistic. The second flaw, closely related to the first, is symptomatic of the growing pains of anthropology as a discipline. The early explorers' days of male chauvinism were inevitably followed by a wave of feminism, ripples of which appear in this book. One would hope that by now, with studies of either males or females by definition involving both sexes, anthropologists of either persuasion would be reconciled to studying people.

Denise Paulme's "Introduction" takes as its task the laying of popular stereotypes about customs thought debasing to African women and the pointing out of features common to the women of widely divergent cultures: nomadic pastoralists, agriculturalists, and members of complex stratified societies. In her synthesizing function, the editor is given to broad generalizations for African society as a whole but too often is carried away by the chef's prerogative of seasoning her statements with a bouquet garni of examples from many different societies. In her long, detailed paragraphs, in which the subject may change several times as an idea is developed, it is often difficult to tell precisely what she is talking about.

Monique Gessain gives an account of the role of women among the Coniagui and Bassari in Guinea and Senegal as a link in the matrilineal descent and kinship structure, particularly as pivots between men in the practice of revenge. The position of women is illustrated in the stages of the life cycle. This essay ties together the work of earlier French writers and recent research by the author and Robert Gessain, making excellent use of autobiographies to show the intricacies and vicissitudes of men's and women's roles in modern life.

Marguerite Dupire's paper on the pastoral Fulani WoDaaBe, or Bororo, of the Niger presents a striking account of the women of this group, centering around discussion of sex dif-