

# New African Nation Outlaws Polygamy

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast--A new civil code adopted by the Ivory Coast national assembly has abolished polygamy and contract marriage in this West African republic.

Its major effects will be:

1. To ban polygamy (the practice of taking more than one wife), described during parliamentary discussion as "a handicap to social

(EDITORIAL, from page 2)

Las Vegas. The project apparently was headed for success until strong opposition sprang up from within the local Negro leadership. The writer regrets that he was one of those "Doubting Thomases" who helped hinder that political venture. At the time, I lacked the political wisdom to see what I now believe to be imperative, as well as inevitable. I publicly apologize to those who worked so wisely along this political pathway to proper reward and recognition for our community.

My sincerity is backed by an offer to place the full facilities of this newspaper behind responsible Democrats willing to sponsor a revival of the movement to create a Democratic Voters League in West Las Vegas. I am now firmly convinced that West Las Vegas needs an organization that will work closely with the Democratic party and its established allies such as the Women's Democratic Club West.

After carefully observing the highly effective work performed by the Jackson St. Democratic headquarters under the indefatigable leadership of the Rev. Leo A. Johnson, we respectfully suggest that the local Democrats would do well to draft Leo and some of his equally enthusiastic aides in the recent campaign to serve as a nucleus for the new organization.

There is no one in this community more capable or more dedicated to useful political activity than Leo A. Johnson. The community needs this political program. We are confident that Leo can get it off the ground.

evolution and a contradiction of the principle of equality of sexes";

2. To make illegal contract marriages under which a prospective husband is, in effect, required to purchase his wife; and

3. To make widespread changes in the traditional "matriarchic" system under which descendants and inheritance pass throughout the maternal, instead of the paternal, line.

In addition, the new laws stipulate that every citizen of the Ivory Coast must have a patronymic (family) name, and one or more first names.

ALL FUTURE MARRIAGES must be by the mutual consent of the couple concerned, and celebrated by a civil authority. Divorce procedures will closely follow European laws.

To give the people time to adapt, a transitional period of up to four years is to be allowed. During this time, all names and marriages must be legalized by registration.



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