

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

EDITORIAL

NAACP Election Poses Challenge to Membership

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

EXACTLY WHO IS RUNNING for the presidency of the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP. (Come to think of it, exactly who is RUNNING the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP?)

These questions are more complex than they may appear due to the confusing activities of a self-styled "professional expert" on any subject under the sun who apparently has had little to do for the past two years but stick his nose in other people's business.

Actually, there are only two official candidates for the branch presidency. One is the incumbent, a minister. The other is a brilliant young law graduate. Remaining to be determined is just where and how "Mr. Expert" fits in the picture.

"Mr. Expert" is not a candidate for ANY office in the coming branch election, but he has presented himself to the community as one who is being deprived of some nebulous right to continue running the affairs of the local NAACP.

About two weeks ago, "Mr. Expert" circulated a very "pinkish" propaganda sheet in the form of a cartoon throughout the community. Although childishly contrived and obviously the product of an immature mentality, it did reveal some interesting facts about its creator.

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districting activities by public officials which tend to perpetuate segregated schooling.

IN SUMMATION, Ashford presented two challenges to the young people present. He urged them to prod their parents to become increasingly active in the NAACP movement and keep parents informed of educational system shortcomings. And he urged them to encourage Negro dropouts to return to school so they will be prepared educationally to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Ashford received a standing ovation when he finished.

Mrs. Ruby Williams, Area chairman for the Queen Contest, announced that the beauty pageant has been scheduled for Denver, Colo. She said rules for the contest are available to all branches.

The first day afternoon session was devoted to workshops on "NAACP Structure and Policy" and "The War on Poverty", an explanation by Althea T. L. Simmons of the new NAACP reorganization program and Dr. Hutcheson's address to branch presidents.

Congressional Field Director William Williams conducted "The War on Poverty" workshop. Williams, who also is in charge of Area economic advancement and opportunity, reported that his agency and a UCLA survey team are conducting an intensive study to determine how anti-poverty funds available can best be used to eliminate economic deprivation in Southern California. The result of this study will be available to the Las Vegas branch.

A MOST IMPRESSIVE and inspiring report came from Attorney Sheats of Pasadena, which included his suggestion that NAACP activities be given full publicity. Sheats further advised parents to seek elective or appointive positions on school boards so that they could have a say in policy-making. He pointed out that since parents must pay taxes to support educational systems, they should not hesitate to file taxpayer lawsuits against discriminatory practices by school boards.

Sheats also called for increased Negro participation in all phases of the annual Pasadena Tournament of Roses Pageant. He urged all NAACP branches to exert pressure so that more Negroes are represented at all levels of the pageant program--from directive positions and parade participation down to refreshment vending.

Delegates were advised to make certain that programs and resolutions adopted at branch meetings are fully exposed to the public through the media of mass communication, including local newspapers and TV and radio stations.

This vicious smear sheet depicted only one of the two candidates for the branch presidency --the young attorney--and it depicted him in a most unfavorable, possibly libelous, light. The characterization was, to say the least, utterly irresponsible.

But the most significant part of the "message" the circular apparently was designed to convey concerned a poor soul being ground into the dust by a booted foot.

THE MOST LOGICAL interpretation of this touching portrayal is that the maligned candidate and his supporters are trying to wrest control of the local NAACP away from the "fallen knight." Now this is truly baffling, for nowhere to be seen is the president of the local branch. And the guy biting the dust looks suspiciously like "Mr. Expert."

The local branch of the NAACP is supposed to be headed by the elected president. But the current president is not included in "Mr. Expert's" cast of characters. No one is whacking up on the president. The guy getting the boot appears to be "Mr. Expert." Are we to assume, therefore, that "Mr. Expert" considers himself the real boss man of the local NAACP? If not, why does he try to give the impression that there is a conspiracy afoot to oust HIM from control of the Las Vegas branch?

So much for that. More important is the truly frightening fact that our community is being subjected to propaganda of this type by characters of questionable background.

The VOICE has authentic, documented records of the past performances compiled by a couple of the "false prophets" in our midst. These records are not very favorable, to say the least, but we have refrained from revealing them in the hope those involved would become discouraged in their efforts to assume total control of community leadership.

UP TO NOW, our purpose in withholding this information has been solely to protect the community from embarrassment. Perhaps we have made a mistake. We can only hope that we will never see the day when we shall regret this policy.

One thing is for sure. Our hand is being forced--and forced hard. We don't think it is necessary to elaborate.

Another "for sure" thing is that members of the local NAACP branch can seize a golden opportunity to place the affairs of their organization in responsible hands on Sunday, Dec. 13, when they elect officers for the next two years. The election meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. on that date at Kit Carson School.

We are most fortunate to have a highly qualified candidate running for the office of president. This candidate was one of the deputy marshals who helped organize and produce that most stirring TV spectacular of all time--the March on Washington. Many of you saw that great mass demonstration of togetherness. And anyone who saw it had to be thrilled and proud and amazed by the intricate planning that held those half million or more persons in such impeccable order.

Earle White played a major role in the Washington miracle. His talents are now available to us.

Earle White richly deserves an opportunity to serve as president of the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP. He has our wholehearted endorsement.



AFRICA in Today's World

By CHARLES I. WEST, M.D.

WILL THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA shy away from communism and carry out its end of a \$338 million bargain for industrializing the African nation? The United States is betting \$187 million it will, despite disquieting circumstances that would make a Las Vegas gambler leery of becoming involved.

The \$187 million comprise the total of loans and guarantees the United States has agreed to make for harnessing the Volta River with a gigantic power dam and building a modern aluminum smelter plant.

Ghana's president, Kwame Nkrumah, has shown his gratitude by calling the United States "fascist imperialist" and permitting his country's controlled press to conduct a "hate America" campaign, much of it reading like the fulminations of the Red Chinese press.

Ghana became independent of Britain in 1957 with more promise of becoming a Western-oriented nation than most other former African colonies. But it has become a one-party country apparently headed for a militant type of socialism.

In the face of those developments, U.S. lending agencies and the World Bank are providing the promised money for the Ghana dam and smelter projects. Under their commitments, the Export-Import Bank and the Agency for International Development have disbursed \$14 million to date. The World Bank has disbursed the equivalent of \$24 million, mostly in foreign currencies, for the Volta Dam.

The State Department, the lending agencies, and Kaiser Industries, which will build the aluminum smelter, say they are confident Nkrumah will follow the capitalist line, as far as the Volta projects are concerned, and live up to his end of the agreements.

THEIR REASONING IS BASED on these considerations and assumptions:

1--Ghana has earmarked \$98 million of its own money for the Volta Dam, indicating its interest in the project designed to move the country from a cocoa economy to an industrial economy.

2--Nkrumah's anti-American mouthings are for African ears. His ambition is to be Africa's big man and the people of the Dark continent's one-time colonies like to hear "imperialists" attacked.

3--Confidence that the people of Ghana are not anti-Western, despite their leader's pronouncements, and would react against Nkrumah if he took any action to hold up the Volta projects, for half a century a Gold Coast dream.

Around the State Department, there is heard a familiar refrain--that if the United States pulls out of the Volta projects, Russia will move in, as it did when the United States withdrew its backing of the Aswan high dam on Egypt's Nile River.

State Department officials also say that American loans, as well as grants, are a symbol of American assistance to all of Africa and that if the United States withdrew from the Ghana projects, it would be a breach of faith.

Another State Department argument is that the United States must show the world it is willing to help backward nations even if they don't line up with American foreign policy.

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