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# Rev. Bennett Renamed Vegas NAACP President

## Local Seminar Launches Drive For Realistic State Rights Law

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### GOVERNOR PLEDGES "STRONG APPEAL" TO LEGISLATURE

STRONG PLEAS for the necessity to "create a climate for acceptance" of the 1964 Federal Civil Rights Act and to enact "realistic" civil rights legislation on the state level featured Mayor Oran Gragson's Conference on Equal Opportunity at the Hotel Tropicana last weekend.

VOICE publisher Dr. Charles I. West, moderator of the wrapup session, expressed the opinion: "It is obvious, and also imperative, that effective steps be taken on the local, state and national levels to create a climate for acceptance" of the new Federal law. "The methods best suited to bring about tranquil compliance are what we seek in discussions such as these."

Gov. Grant Sawyer, making a brief appearance during the luncheon break of the day-long seminar, said he believed "the time is right for enactment of realistic civil rights legislation at the January session of the state legislature" and that he intended to make a "strong appeal" for passage of such legislation.

In his opening remarks, Mayor Gragson pointed out that "the NAACP did not initiate this seminar. We thought it was time for others to take the initiative, with all due respect to the NAACP. We are here to offer assistance and guidance and to seek the same from the NAACP. We recognize that organization as the leader in the civil rights movement and we want to work with it to bring about a better community."

Rev. H. Clyde Mathews of Reno, chairman of the Nevada Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, said the objectives of his agency was:

- 1) To inform the public of opportunities made available by the 1964 Federal Civil Rights Act;
- 2) To acquaint the public with provisions of the law;
- 3) To bring together the best minds in the state to work out solutions to civil rights problems.

"LET US WORK today to lighten tomorrow's burdens," the Rev. Mathews said. He was introduced by M. William Deutsch, chairman of the Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission, which served as the host organization for the Mayor's conference.

Deputy Director John L. Binkley of the State Advisory Committees Division of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights said that his agency was delegated to investigate and research the total subject of civil rights and report its findings to the President and Congress.

Binkley prefaced an outline of the more significant provisions of the new Federal law with the statement that, "This is the first state in which we have held a conference where the minority groups constitute less than 10 per cent of the total population. We have had only seven previous seminars, chiefly in southern states, where the percentage of minorities is quite high."

J. K. Heilborn of the U.S. Commission's Community Relations Service explained that his (See SEMINAR, page 14)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MR. GOVERNOR—State Athletic Commissioner Jimmy Gay (left) congratulates Gov. Grant Sawyer on occasion of his 46th birthday at gala Hotel Sahara ball marking finale of Nevada centennial celebration. Others on hand for affair benefitting John F. Kennedy Memorial Library fund were (from left) Mrs. Anna Bailey, Mayor Oran Gragson, Mrs. Dottie West, Mrs. Betty Sawyer, Dr. Charles I. West, Mrs. Bea Bryant, Mrs. Hazel Gay and Mrs. Sondra Reid. (See additional photo and story page 6)

### Record Turnout for Branch Election

REV. MARION D. BENNETT, pastor of Zion Methodist Church, was elected to a second two-year term as president of the Las Vegas Branch.



YOUNG DEBATERS—These are two of teams that recently engaged in debates at Kit Carson School on varied topics. All members of Herschel Williams' sixth grade class, upper photo shows (from left) Darryl Taylor, Velton Queen, Vickie Porter, Ernestine Tubbs, Veomia Hopkins; bottom photo (from left) Linda Lane, Joan Qualls, Lafayette McMorris, George Washington and Joe Lee Robertson.

of the NAACP at last Sunday's biennial election meeting at Kit Carson School. The Rev. Bennett defeated attorney Earle White, Jr., 135 to 88.

All other candidates for office were unopposed, following disqualification of nominees for the offices of first vice president and secretary, and summarily elected by unanimous acclamation. They include:

Marjorie Elliott, first vice president; V. W. Atkins, second vice president; Henry J. Moore, treasurer; Muriel Simpson, secretary, and the following 22 members of the executive committee (listed alphabetically): William (Bob) Bafley, Myrtle Banks, Eileen Brookman, John H. Buckley, Arthur Devore, H. P. Fitzgerald, J. Q. Hall, J. David Goggard, Lubertha Johnson, Robert P. Johnson, Charles L. Kellar, Lamar McDaniels, B. Bernice Moten, Joe Neal, Maggie Pearson, Clarence Ray, Robert L. Reid, Veneda Strickling, Dr. Charles I. West, Jimmy White, Rev. I. W. Wilson, Woodrow Wilson.

Rev. Leo A. Johnson, nominated for first vice president, was disqualified on the grounds he had failed to renew his membership within the prescribed 30 days before nomination. He missed eligibility by two days.

Mrs. Mary Bishop also was disqualified as a candidate for the office of secretary because her application for membership did not reach the secretary's office until after the deadline of Oct. 9 although she presented a receipt for a membership dated Oct. 1.