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Key NAACP Officials Ignore State Rights Bill Conference

LAS VEGAS

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Voice

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RIGHTS BILL CONFEREES--Among those who attended meeting last Saturday sponsored by Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission to discuss provisions for proposed Nevada Civil Rights Act were (seated from left) Bill Deutsch, SNHRC chairman; David Hoggard, Dr. Charles West, (standing from left) Charles Kellar, chairman, local NAACP Legal Redress Committee; Eileen Brookman and Bob Bailey, chairman, Nevada Commission for Equal Rights of Citizens. Meeting was called primarily to consider NAACP recommendations for incorporation in bill prepared by SNHRC for submission to State Legislature but no such recommendations were offered. Subsequent meeting last Monday for same purpose also failed to produce any NAACP recommendations. (See story.)

Human Relations Group Rebuffed

REPEATED ATTEMPTS by the Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission to cooperate with the local NAACP in framing a mutually acceptable Nevada Civil Rights bill for submission to the State Legislature have been rebuffed by key NAACP officials.

Members of the SNHRC, many of them also members of the local NAACP Executive Committee, were at a loss to understand why neither the Rev. Marion Bennett, president of the Las Vegas NAACP branch, or Charles Kellar, chairman of the branch's Legal Redress Committee, saw fit to attend a meeting held last Monday to hear their recommendations.

An earlier meeting (last Saturday) called for the same purpose was attended by Kellar but also failed to produce any recommendations. Both meetings followed a conference held a week ago Monday between SNHRC, NAACP and Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens officials, members of the Clark County Legislative Council and State bill drafter Russ McDonald.

At the first of the three meetings, SNHRC chairman Bill Deutsch announced that his organization had prepared a proposed State Civil Rights Act based on the better features of laws already in force in other states. But he said the bill would not be presented to McDonald for final writing until the recommendations of the local NAACP officials had been received for incorporation.

AT THE MOST RECENT meeting last Mon-

day, it was finally decided to withhold submission of the SNHRC bill to McDonald until Bob Bailey, chairman of the Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens, talked to Gov. Grant Sawyer in Carson City this weekend and returned with a copy of an administration bill already sketched out by McDonald.

Members of the SNHRC attending last Monday's meeting in Las Vegas City Hall in addition to Chairman Deutsch were Lubertha Johnson, Eileen Brookman, the Rev. Father Caesar Caviglia, the Rev. Rick Mawson, David Hoggard Sr., Dr. Charles West and Executive Secretary Mike Dawson. Also present were City Commissioner Harry Levy and Police Lt. Richard Dunn.

When the Rev. Bennett was re-installed as president of the local NAACP branch last Sunday, he announced that he had appointed a committee of three to confer with Gov. Sawyer in Carson City today (Jan. 14). He named new vice president Margie Elliott, former branch Labor and Industry Relations Committee chairman James Anderson and himself.

Joe Neal, newly installed member of the Executive Committee, immediately challenged the president's authority to send such a committee to Carson City at the branch's expense without the new executive committee voting on the question. The Rev. Bennett, as chairman, refused to permit discussion on the point. Neal (See RIGHTS, page 12)

NAACP OFFICERS INSTALLED--Officers of the Las Vegas branch, NAACP, for 1965-66 were installed last Sunday at Kit Carson School. Upper photo shows (from left) Marjorie Elliott, 1st vice president; Rev. Marion Bennett, president; Henry Moore, treasurer, and Rev. Jerry Furr, installing officer. Lower photo shows 13 of 22 executive committee members installed (seated from left) John Buckles, Charles Kellar, James Hall, Arthur DeVore and Joe Neal; (standing from left) David Hoggard, Woodrow Wilson, Eileen Brookman, Veneda Strickling, Rev. I. W. Wilson, H. P. Fitzgerald, Robert Reid and Bernice Moten. Other new officers not shown include V. W. Atkins, 2nd vice president; Muriel Simpson, secretary, and board members Bob Bailey, Myrtle Banks, Lubertha Johnson, Robert Johnson Lamar McDaniels, Maggie Pearson, Clarence Ray, Dr. Charles West and Jimmy White. (See story.)

New NAACP Officials Installed by Rev. Furr

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS of the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP were formally installed last Sunday at a meeting held at Kit Carson School. (See photo this page for names of those installed.)

Installation officer was the Rev. Jerry Furr, who addressed the meeting on "Freedom", a topic on which he is particularly well informed. It will be recalled that the Rev. Furr was one of several white ministers in Mississippi who were virtually run out of the state several years ago because of their sermons on freedom and equality.