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WE SALUTE the GREAT EMANCIPATOR on the 156th ANNIVERSARY of HIS BIRTH



**Abraham
Lincoln
1809
1865**

Hateful Proposal in the State Legislature

IF ABRAHAM LINCOLN, depicted at the left in his marble shrine in Washington, D.C., today appears to be nodding his head in even deeper sorrow at man's inhumanity to man, we ask you to consider the hateful proposal initiated in the Nevada Legislature last Monday.

Republican Assemblyman James Wood of Reno, aided and abetted by his Democratic colleague from Fallon, Eric Palludan, introduced a joint Assembly-Senate resolution that would pave the way for legalized discrimination in the sale of private property in Nevada!

The resolution, AJR 20, calls for an amendment to the state constitution that would, in effect, make it possible for anyone to refuse to sell a house to someone else because he didn't like the potential buyer's race, religion or how he wore his hat.

Cloaked in language that makes a mockery of the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and

Lincoln's own Emancipation Proclamation, the resolution is dishonestly described by Assemblyman Wood as "more of an equal rights measure than any that have come across the board in some time."

The proposal is, in fact, directly opposite to such a description!

Little wonder that Honest Abe's head seems to be drooping in greater sorrow today. For it was this martyred president who helped found the Republican party to which Assemblyman Wood claims allegiance. And it was the silver mines of Nevada that helped finance the cause of justice in that horrible Civil War that was fought and won to preserve a Union in which all men, regardless of race, religion or national origin, could not be deprived of their God-given rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We, too, bow our heads in shame and sorrow along with the Great Emancipator.

Rights Bill Under Heavy Fire

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COMMISSION OK'S, LOCAL GROUPS RAP PROPOSED STATUTE

NEW DENUNCIATIONS of an administration-backed, bi-partisan State Civil Rights bill by two Southern Nevada groups, following fast on "reluctant" endorsement of the measure by the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, poses a threat to passage of any civil rights law during the present session of the State Legislature.

At separate meetings conducted here last Monday, the Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission and the executive committee of the Las Vegas NAACP, voted unanimous condemnation of AB 159 as "utterly meaningless" in its present form. Both groups formally requested Gov. Grant Sawyer, Assemblyman Mel Close Jr. (D-Clark), chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, and Bob Bailey, chairman of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, for an opportunity to "play a part" in putting together an "effective" bill.

Committees representing the two local groups met last night (Feb. 10) to draft a "mutually acceptable" substitute bill. At the suggestion of Las Vegas Mayor Oran Gragson, who attended Monday's SNHRC meeting, the new bill will be presented to the legislature by the NAACP, with the endorsement of the SNHRC.

In answering the local group's protest against possible enactment of AB 159, Gov. Sawyer said he would be in Las Vegas tomorrow (Feb. 12) to confer with "all interested parties."

Rev. Melvin Pekrul, president of the Clark County Ministerial Association, was asked if he would submit the NAACP bill to his organization for possible endorsement. He said that he would do so and together with the Rev. Welles Miller, another prominent member of the CCMA, expressed the opinion that his group would advocate a stronger bill.

MONDAY'S ACTION by the two local groups followed the "reluctant" endorsement of the present bill in Carson City on Sunday by chairman Bob Bailey, Las Vegas realtor; secretary Tom West, Sparks, and University of Nevada professor James Hulse, Reno, of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission.

Bailey told Assemblyman Close's judiciary committee at a public hearing on the bill Monday that his commission was endorsing AB 159 "with reservations" pertaining to certain sections of the measure and served notice that it would ask for additional legislation in the area (See RIGHTS, page 11)

Reid Joins Clark Legal Aid Society

ROBERT L. REID, prominent West Las Vegas attorney, is one of four new lawyer members who have joined the Board of Trustees of the Clark County Legal Aid Society this year according to Executive Secretary Geraldine E. Stephens. The others are Jack G. Perry, Douglas R. Pike and Harry M. Reid.

Mrs. Stella Fleming of the Clark County Relief Society also has been accepted as a non-law member, bringing to 19 the total number of trustees.

Recently installed officers of the board are Franklin N. Smith, president; L. T. Jones, 1st vice president; W. Own Nitz, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Lynn Claiborne, secretary,



OPERATION INDEPENDENCE BOARD--These members of Operation Independence Advisory Board recently met at their 1165 Balzar headquarters to discuss administrative functions of local "self-help" project. Seated (from left): Georgia Jones secretary to director; Sgt. Robert Trimble, Mrs. Harriet Robinson, Co-Chairmen Earl Brunner and Robert Reid, and Mrs. Lubertha Johnson, O-I director; standing (from left): Monroe Williams, Rev. Leo Johnson and J. David Hoggard, Sr. Board appointed a committee consisting of Dr. Charles I. West, Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Hoggard to negotiate with affiliated Nevada Tuberculosis & Health Assn., headquartered in Reno, to make Operation Independence a self-governing body within six months due to local nature of project.

and Richard Bryan, treasurer.

Purpose of the Legal Aid Society is to help those without sufficient funds to pay for private counsel in civil cases only. Most members of the Clark

County Bar Association have volunteered their services to those qualifying for assistance.

New offices of the Society are at 214 Maryland Parkway. Appointments may be

made through Mrs. Stephens by calling 384-9916. The board of Trustees meets monthly to consider cases submitted by the executive secretary and to determine policy.

Ministers Back "Fair Housing"

CITIZENS OF GOOD WILL throughout Clark County will be invited to participate in a program to encourage equal housing opportunities for persons of every race, color and creed under a project to be launched this weekend by the Clark County Ministerial Association.

Direct appeals will be made from the pulpits and rostrums of churches of all denominations and synagogues during the weekend to support the right of all citizens to purchase and live in houses of their choice.

Pledge cards also will be distributed for signing by those who believe in the principle of "fair housing." The pledge reads in part:

"Trusting in Almighty God, I sign this Open Housing Covenant to transform my belief in brotherhood into a reality in Las Vegas. I believe that any family should be free to choose

its place of residence. I will welcome neighbors on a personal basis, without regard to race, creed or country of origin."

Rev. Robert Brashares, pastor of First Methodist Church in Las Vegas and chairman of the ministerial association's Community Relations Committee, said the project was originally inspired by the "bombing" of a Negro family's property in a predominantly white neighborhood here last summer.

Following a special meeting of the ministerial association at which the implications of this atrocity were discussed, it was decided to initiate the equal housing drive this weekend.

"We hope and believe this project will awaken all citizens of good will to the harm that could befall our community by a repetition (See PLEDGE, page 6)