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Negro History Week Programs Here Reviewed

SEEK HOUSING LAW Revised State Rights Proposal Includes "Fair Housing" Section

LAS VEGAS **10¢** Voice

Vol. 3, No. 7

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, February 18, 1965

AB-159 REJECTED; OFFER LEGISLATORS STRONG, NEW BILL

"FAINT HEART NE'ER WON FAIR-HOUSING LAW."

That was the sentiment of most Nevada civil rights leaders following a series of St. Valentine's Day weekend meetings climaxed by presentation to the State Assembly Judiciary Committee of new, strong recommendations for legislation prohibiting discrimination "in public accommodations, in employment or in housing accommodations based on race, color, religion or national origin."

The recommendations were submitted to the judiciary committee in Carson City on Monday in the form of a new state civil rights bill. The new bill is sponsored by the Las Vegas NAACP and endorsed by the Southern Nevada Human Relations Commission and other civil rights groups throughout the state, including leaders of the Reno-Sparks NAACP.

Patterned on a much weaker bill (AB-159) sponsored by the state Democratic administration and introduced in the Assembly by a bipartisan coalition two weeks ago, the new bill features a comprehensive "fair-housing" section. As originally introduced, AB-159 contained no provisions pertaining to discrimination in housing accommodations.

It was not immediately determined whether the new bill, drafted by Las Vegas attorney Earle White in collaboration with Charles Kellar, chairman of the Las Vegas NAACP Legal Redress Committee, would be formally introduced in the legislature as a substitute for AB-159 or used as the basis for suggested amendments to AB-159.

White said he thought it might be expedient to use the new bill as the basis for amendments to AB-159 rather than go through the time-consuming process of introducing it as a separate bill now that the legislative calendar is fairly well clogged with proposed new laws.

IN ADDITION to prohibiting discrimination in housing accommodations, the new bill expands the definition of "public accommodations" spelled out in AB-159, removes numerous exclusions and exceptions in the employment section of AB-159, and provides for a paid executive secretary to the Nevada Equal Rights Commission to facilitate investigation and processing of civil rights complaints.

Remedies accorded aggrieved persons under the new bill remain essentially the same as provided in AB-159. Complaints may be filed in any district court of competent jurisdiction or, in cases of alleged discrimination in public or private accommodations, submitted to the state equal rights commission for possible

(See NEW BILL, page 15)

Appointed



GEORGE WARD JR.
Urban Renewal Aide



RIGHTS BILL CONFERENCE—Shown at one of several joint conferences of local civil rights leaders held here recently to consider pending state civil rights legislation are (from left) James Anderson (back to camera), J. David Hoggard Sr., Rev. P. S. Walker, M. William Deutsch, City Commissioner Harry Levy, Mrs. Lubertha Johnson, Earle White (standing), Dr. Charles I. West, Rev. Richard Mawson, Charles Kellar and Mrs. Eileen Brookman.

Ward Gets "Renewal" Post; Retain Commissioner West

GEORGE WARD JR., special education teacher at Highland School, has been named by the Las Vegas City Commission to a three-year term on the Citizens Committee on Urban Renewal and Develop-

ment, while Dr. Charles I. West, VOICE publisher, has been reappointed to the Urban Renewal Commission an eighth straight year.

Ward, 35, has taught school here for 11 of his 23-year residence

in Las Vegas and was honored with the Outstanding Citizen Award of Nevada Savings & Loan Assn. in April of 1964. He is a graduate of Fifth St. School, Las Vegas High and the University of Arizona and

has done graduate work at Nevada Southern and Los Angeles State.

Dr. West is the only member of the Urban Renewal Commission who has served on the agency since its inception in 1957.

History Week Attracted Large Crowds

WEST LAS VEGAS' first comprehensive observance of Negro History Week attracted large and appreciative crowds to our churches and schools last week. The inspiring words and music of James Weldon Johnson's Negro national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing", rang loud and clear at various assemblages from Monday through Sunday.

Major credit for the success of the celebration goes to local Elks of Paran Lodge and Alpha Temple, who arranged and participated in most


of the stirring programs under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Helen Anderson.

"The Negro and Labor" was the theme of a Monday night program at Zion Methodist Church. Following a prayer by Zion pastor Rev. M. D. Bennett, the audience was welcomed by Paran Lodge Exalted Ruler Dr. Roy G. W. de Hay and Mrs. Anderson. Mistress of ceremonies Mary Bowen, Daughter Ruler of Alpha Temple then introduced Rudolph Lightfoot, who read a paper on "The Role of Negro Labor During Slavery" and Amos Knighten, who traced the history of "The Negro in the Organized Labor Movement."

A play entitled "The Fisherman" was presented by Gwen Weekes, Willie Neal, Monroe Phillips, Clarence Guice, Cleveland Cook, Johnnie Crockett and Joe Robinson, with Lula Knighten serving as prompter.

On Wednesday night at the Rev. I. W. Wilson's Bethel Baptist Church, "Youth Night" was celebrated. (See HISTORY, page 15)

**We Salute
GEORGE
WASHINGTON
On His Birthday
February 22**



WASHINGTON