

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

EDITORIAL

It's Up to You on June 8



AFRICA in Today's World

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

(We came across a cleverly-written commentary on the African scene by George Goodman in a recent edition of the Los Angeles Sentinel and thought our readers would enjoy reading it. It appears below.)

Not so long ago, Zanzibar and its tiny little sister island, Pemba, were romantically known as the spice islands (especially by housewives). They were quaint little vegetable patches, plopped-down in the Indian Ocean just for growing cloves.

But a bloody revolution washed away the popular image of happy little brown people, clove-picking in the sunshine, and press pundits were prompted to predict that both would become the "Cubas of Africa."

But, according to many western visitors, and one scholar in particular, a totalitarian state has not yet been established.

All of sudden little people became impatient with mis-representative politics, which in the island's 1963 elections gave blacks 13 parliamentary seats to represent 85,000 people, in comparison to the 18 for some 72,000 Arabs.

On January 12, 1964, the black majority took the government by force, and along with it, the lives of 7,000 Arabs. A U.S. missile tracking station was dismantled, and its technicians and its Arab-sympathizing State Department officials were shipped back to the mainland.

Months later, Presidents Julius Nyerere of Tanganyika and Abeld Karume (Zanzibar) announced that the two nations would merge to form Tanzania.

Still the grumblings continued, and some lamented that Communism would soon engulf Tanga, also. But, according to the visitor, American civilians are still welcomed on the island. Shops and clubs are opened to the tourist trade. Of course, there have been some changes.

Rickshaw pullers no longer strain under the heavy load of Europeans. In fact the government burned the carts. And now, the bars are filled with young revolutionaries, plotting the downfall of Portuguese Angola, and South Africa. The wealthy clove traders are gone.

Names of landmarks have changes, too, and what was the King George VI School is now Patrice Lumumba College. All of this prompts gloom forecasters to say, "We told you so!"

Then people of that persuasion would suggest that black politicians gather in Johannesburg, or better still, just content themselves with picking cloves.

HISTORY REVEALS that governmental stability weakens and crumbles when too much power is permitted to wind up in the hands of too few people. And political deterioration usually is accompanied by moral and mental decay.

When registered voters neglect the privilege of exercising their political franchise they contribute toward placing too much power in the hands of too few people--often well-organized minority groups with special reasons for voting as they do.

Democracy is based on the principle of majority rule with due respect for the rights of minorities. Our republican form of government was founded on this democratic principle. In order to preserve this foundation, it is necessary for a majority of voters to express their preference at the polls. When a majority of the electorate fails to vote, the democratic principle is nullified and the stability of our republican form of government is jeopardized.

In last week's Las Vegas primary election to select final candidates for important municipal offices in the June 8 general election, the democratic principle WAS nullified when more than half of the city's registered voters failed to go to the polls. A minority of the electorate decided for everyone who would be the two finalists in contests for two city commission positions on June 8. This was not "democracy at work." It was "democracy in decay."

IN WEST LAS VEGAS, for instance, for every registered voter who cast a ballot last week, two failed to show up at the polls. This was a miserable way for a predominantly colored community to pay its respects to those martyrs who sacrificed their lives in an effort to win the vote for Negro citizens of Alabama, Mississippi and other Southern states.

Almost 4,000 Las Vegas Negroes passed up the chance to exercise this greatest of all civil rights that Southern Negroes are struggling so desperately and so courageously to win for themselves. In the eyes of those valiant crusaders in Selma, Ala., and elsewhere in the Deep South, there are 4,000 traitors to their cause in Las Vegas, Nev.

The results of the May 4 primary clearly demonstrated that voter apathy is harmful to truly democratic representation in government in more ways than one. Although there are three Democrats in our city for every Republican, it is now possible that four Republicans and only one Democrat will sit on the city commission on July 1. Regardless of the fact that city offices are decided on a non-partisan basis, it certainly would not be equitable representation for the minority party to occupy four of the five seats in our local governing body.

WHO WILL DENY that the makeup of the present city commission, which includes three Democrats and two Republicans, is a much more equitable arrangement?

If we view the membership of the present commission from a position of religious affiliation, we find it presents an almost ideal inter-denominational composition. The five incumbents include one Catholic, one Jew, one Mormon and two Protestants. However, if we project the results of the primary election, we are confronted by the possibility of a new commission of three Mormons and two Protestants--hardly an equitable composition.

Uncle Sam Aids Youth

A LOCAL QUOTA of 100 young men for membership in the national Job Corps has been set by the Youth Opportunity Center at 629 Las Vegas Blvd. North.

Young people aged 16 through 21 who are largely unemployable because they lack education and job skills to move ahead will be placed in Job Corps centers where they can develop skills and self-confidence. Applicants are carefully screened and must be willing to work hard to improve themselves.

Qualified young men who would like a chance to help themselves are urged to get in touch with the Youth Opportunity Center as soon as possible. It's a great opportunity.

It would seem appropriate to inquire if our City Hall is to continue as a well-balanced administrative headquarters for all the citizens of Las Vegas or if it is to take on the appearance of a Republican-controlled tabernacle of so-called Latter Day Saints?

THE ANSWER is up to the voters of both major political parties and followers of all religious faiths. The 4,000 westside voters who stayed away from the polls on May 4 can help set the picture straight by voting on June 8.

And if we seem indelicate in calling attention to the possibility of a Mormon-dominated city commission, may we refer to the sorry fact that the Mormons themselves created a situation of much greater indelicacy when they accepted the ridiculous doctrine that Almighty God cursed Cain with a black skin for slaying his brother, Abel, and that all colored people, as descendants of Cain, are therefore unworthy to become priests in their church?

In requesting the national NAACP to pass a resolution asking nonwhite nations to deny entry to Mormon missionaries, the president of the Salt Lake City chapter pointed out that the church's "priesthood policy tends to make the Negro race look inferior."

We agree. But we also insist it tends to make Mormon doctrine look not only "inferior," but downright "silly," as well.

Sen. Bible Also Laments State's Poor Vote Record

"RECENT FIGURES supplied to Congress on voting patterns have some illuminating sidelights," Sen. Alan Bible said recently. "The major problem they bring out--the low percentage of Negroes voting in several Southern states--has been discussed at length in the news. But I think there are some percentages that should be of concern to Nevadans, too."

"To put it bluntly, Nevada's voting percentage is among the lowest. Only 13 other states have lower percentages. This looks even worse when we note that our neighboring states of Utah and Idaho enjoy the highest voting percentages in the nation."

"The latest Bureau of Census estimates give Nevada 244,000 voting age residents. Of these, only 67 per cent were registered to vote in last November's Presidential election--and only 55 per cent actually voted. Compare these figures with Utah's 77 per cent voting and Idaho's 76 per cent voting, plus Idaho's astonishing 94 per cent registration."

"In Nevada, certainly, there are no obstacles to voting. There are no qualifying tests, no red tape barriers, no discouragement. The fact that barely more than half Nevada's eligible voters go to the polls must be blamed, then, on public apathy."

"This situation should be of concern to all Nevadans. Sound, effective and representative government depends on an informed and active electorate. Voting is more than a right. It is a responsibility. The 55 per cent figure becomes a challenge. It is a challenge to our educational system, our press, our public officials, our political parties and to each individual of our state."

"I hope all of you will join me in accepting that challenge. We must give new emphasis to that old slogan, 'Vote as you please, but vote,'" Sen. Bible concluded.

LAS VEGAS
Voice

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