

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

EDITORIAL

Laxalt Lacking in Key Quality

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

IN ANNOUNCING his candidacy for the governorship of Nevada last week, Lt. Gov. Paul Laxalt spoke of many things he would do if elected to the state's highest executive office. However, we failed to note any mention of what he intended to do about protecting the civil rights of minority groups.

Paul Laxalt is strangely silent on the subject of civil rights when he talks politics. The man is either blind to the obvious or he just opens his mouth before he opens his eyes. Apparently, he is ignorantly unaware of the many problems faced by Negro, Indian and Mexican residents of Nevada or unconcerned about the seriousness of these problems.

While it is true that much progress has been made toward solving these problems under the sympathetic administration of Gov. Grant Sawyer, the road ahead is still longer than the road already traveled. Unless the head of state provides strong, constructive leadership to the legislature, as well as moral guidance to the citizenry, minority groups in this state will be denied some portion of their constitutional rights. How can the Lt. Governor aspire to our gubernatorial chair and remain oblivious or indifferent to this undemocratic situation?

Until the time comes when ALL citizens of this state are automatically accorded their full rights, there can be no true democracy in Nevada. Just as long as any resident of this state is denied equal opportunity, in any area of human endeavor, Nevada can not be truly proud of its prosperous economy--because ALL citizens of our state are unable to enjoy the fruits

of that prosperity. This sorry situation is emphasized by the fact that the average Negro family has an income \$3,000 below the overall Nevada average.

Until Paul Laxalt is big enough to make a sincere, public statement concerning his position on civil rights, he is too small to be considered for the governorship of this state. And unless he can honestly pledge his best effort toward assuring full freedom, equal opportunity in both employment and education, and equal protection under the law for ALL citizens of Nevada regardless of their race, color or religious persuasions, he is not even qualified to seek the state's most important public office.

No man is worthy of such high honor and responsibility unless he is imbued with the spirit of true democracy and is determined to be guided by that spirit in his every thought and deed. Paul Laxalt has been found lacking in this respect on many occasions.

Teachers, Principals

Guests of Newspaper

THIRD ANNUAL PARTY -- West Las Vegas school teachers, their principals, spouses and friends were guests of Las Vegas VOICE publisher Dr. Charles I. West and his staff at a gala champagne party at Ruben's Supper Club last week. It was the third straight year for the fall affair, now firmly established as one of the top events on the Westside social calendar, and marked two full years of uninterrupted publication for this weekly newspaper. Photos on the opposite page show some of those who attended. First row, from top to bottom and left to right, (1) Mrs. Grace McGlothen, Mrs. John Walker, Miss Marjorie McGill (rear), Miss Jean Lehto and Miss Carol Meninger; (2) Mrs. Rita Scheiner, Mrs. Mary Gilbert, Mrs. Robert Reid, Mrs. Andrew Arrington and Mr. Robert Reid; (3) Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Curtis Hall, Mrs. I. W. Wilson and Mr. Curtis Hall; (4) Mrs. Richard Williams, Mr. Williams, Mr. Robert Johnson and Miss Joyce James; (5) Miss Carol Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Dear, Mrs. Coye King, Mr. King, Miss Gloria Williams and Miss Fredna Bowie; (6) Mr. Henry Miller and Mr. John Fry. Second row, from top to bottom and left to right, (1) Miss Celeta Hunter and Mr. John West; (2) Mr. Sidney Bishop, Miss Carita Harbert, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Carter; (3) Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hodges, Mrs. Herbert Freeman and Mr. Freeman; (4) Mr. John Walker, Mrs. Sue Walker, Mrs. Laurine Brunner and Miss Julia Brown; (5) Mr. Leonard Mason, Mr. Joseph Whittaker, Miss Celeta Hunter, Mr. John West. Third row, from top to bottom and left to right, (1) Mrs. James Snyder, Dr. Charles I. West and Mrs. West, Mr. Ralph Denton, Miss Leta Haupt, Mrs. Bryn Armstrong and Mr. Armstrong; (2) Mr. Alber Bowen, Miss Beverly Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller and Miss Mary Bowen; (3) Mrs. Lubertha Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Onward Abington, Mrs. J. David Hoggard Sr. and Mr. Hoggard; (4) Miss Tatiana, Mr. Robert Johnson, and Miss Dee Dee Lynn; (5) Mrs. Maggie Pearson and Mr. and Mrs. George Cook. (See 'Who's Who', page 6)



AFRICA in Today's World

By DR. CHARLES I. WEST

RECURRENT CHARGES that the United States government is "doing nothing" to discourage the Republic of South Africa from pursuing its ignoble policy of strict racial segregation (apartheid) are far from true.

Although this country has shied away from imposing unilateral trade sanctions on South Africa, largely because such drastic action could inflict serious harm on many American importing and exporting firms and some segments of American industry, the United States has strongly supported the collective efforts of the United Nations to convince South Africa of the error of its ways.

Just recently, the United States pledged \$75,000 to a United Nations fund set up to educate young blacks from South Africa in foreign countries under a year-old Security Council resolution condemning the Verwoerd government's racial policies.

MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, we have learned that sales to South Africa of a marine patrol aircraft--the Atlantic 1150--has been vetoed by the United States. It is believed the veto was exercised through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Manufactured under the supervision of the French Breguet concern, the Atlantic 1150 was one of the aircraft that particularly impressed South Africa's minister of defense, James Fouche, and other high-ranking defense officials, at this past summer's Paris Air Show.

The Atlantic 1150 is a twin-engine aircraft that carries a crew of 12. It has a maximum range of 5,600 miles and can fly for 18 hours at a patrol speed of 195 miles an hour.

Responsibility for the direction and financing of the construction program is held jointly by the United States, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and West Germany. Specifications for the Atlantic 1150 were selected by the NATO Armaments Committee.

Much of the plane's electronic equipment comes from the United States. So far, 20 of the aircraft have been ordered by the French Navy and 20 more are being built for West Germany.

THE UNITED STATES VETO is in accordance with a policy not to sell arms to South Africa. It comes at a time when relations between the two countries are strained following the cancellation of a visit to Johannesburg by the carrier Independence after South Africa made it clear that no Negro crewmen would be allowed on shore.

Prime Minister Hendrik F. Verwoerd also said recently that Negro personnel would not be allowed at United States satellite-tracking stations in South Africa.

The United States veto of Atlantic 1150 sales to South Africa apparently caused deep disappointment in Pretoria and Johannesburg. It also indicated that this country may be hardening its attitude toward the Verwoerd government, which is facing a serious economic crisis.



**ONLY YOU CAN
PREVENT FIRES!**

Willie Mays and the 'New' Birmingham

BY ROY WILKINS

The city fell away under the wings of the rising plane and almost before we could begin analyzing the "new" Birmingham, Willie Mays hit his 500th home run against the Houston Astros.

Willie Mays came from the "old" Birmingham. He lives now in fabulous San Francisco and doors are open to him in a hundred cities. When he plays in Houston they come to watch him from Brownsville and Galveston and Dallas and Ft. Worth and all in between. In New York, Shea Stadium is filled with the faithful who remember him from Coogan's Bluff.

But this superb athlete, this warm and unpretentious human being who reaches into the hearts of his fellow men everywhere, came up from the Birmingham in Alabama that told him from birth that he could not do it.

A Birmingham city ordinance forbade competition between white and Negro athletes. The law was based firmly upon the assumption that Negroes were inferior and must be kept separate. Of course, there had been Negro-white competition in far-off places like Big Ten and Ivy League football. A few Negro athletes had won medals for the United States in the Olympic Games. One such, Jesse Owens, had won four medals in the 1936 Berlin games and had scored an even bigger triumph for his country when Hitler refused to shake his hand.

Birmingham Kept Eyes Closed

But Birmingham would not permit such heresy within its borders. When it was discovered that the Harvard track team, scheduled for a Birmingham appearance, had a Negro member, Birmingham sent Harvard the word. Harvard, as one would expect, kept its track team in Cambridge.

So, 15 years after Jesse Owens had made Birmingham's local law a badge of provincial ignorance, Willie Mays packed his bats and left Alabama for Minneapolis, New York, San Francisco and the world. Some Southern cities (with an eye to the box office) were beginning to use Negro ball players. Not Birmingham.

Here in the fall of 1965, the Birmingham white people who have decided to turn from a disaster course are selling their "new" city. Things are happening that never happened before. Measured against Grand Rapids or Ithaca or Des Moines these things are merely token, but against what Birmingham was they are significant beginnings.

(See WILKINS, page 4)

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