

Everybody Knows The Benefit For Chuck's All American Boys Club At Sugar Hill Is Saturday, March 19

LAS VEGAS Voice

Vol. 4, No. 10

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, March 10, 1966

Clark High School "Incident" Fact Finding Committee Report

By Alice Key

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE news media who attended the Press Conference held at the Clark County School District Office, Tuesday morning, to hear a report and recommendations from a special Fact-Finding Committee appointed by Dr. David A. Sands to investigate the February 25 Clark High School "incident" were considerably smarter than this reporter if they left the Conference any wiser about what actually did happen at Clark High School.

Dr. Sands greeted reporters with an expression of appreciation for the tact, diplomacy and cooperation accorded the District by them, and then read a two-page summary of the Committee's report and recommendations prefaced by an introductory page of explanation as to the initiation of the Committee; its assignment and immediate objectives.

The introduction stated that on Monday, February 28 (following the "incident of Feb. 25) Dr. Sands appointed an ad hoc investigative committee consisting of Chairman Robert Bailey (Chairman of the State of Nevada's Equal Rights Commission), Reverend Marion Bennett (President of the local NAACP), Mrs. Reba Dolan (Regional Vice President of the PTA), Reverend Jerry Furr (Trinity Methodist Church), Rabbi Aaron Gold (Temple Beth Shalom - Human Relations Commission), Dr. Jacob Orleans (Professor of Psychology at Nevada Southern University) and Robert Reid (Attorney-at-Law).

THE SPECIFIC assignment of the Committee was (1) to determine the factor or factors which precipitated the incident (2) to determine what actually occurred (3) to determine what was done to prevent the disturbance from escalating into a more serious situation.

The immediate objectives of the Committee were to provide an objective picture of exactly what occurred in order that the school administration can take appropriate steps in connection with the particular incident and to increase the chances that no student or faculty member is unjustly accused of unsubstantiated behavior.

Now, in this writer's opinion, the selection of committee members was an excellent one, and I am totally convinced that the Committee made a thorough and exhaustive investigation. I accept, with little reservation, the Committee's "General Findings" report that "the incident of February 25, 1966, at Clark High School was clearly not a racial one", as I do "The Committee's interpretation of all the evidence gathered is that almost all the two hundred Negro and one thousand seven hundred fifty white students at Clark High School get along amicably, and that there is little, if any, friction between the vast majority of the Negro students and the teachers".

However, understandably, (but much to an inquiring reporter's frustration) the Committee's actual report of taped interviews with students, parents, and teachers were of such confidential nature, they are not to be revealed.

AFTER DR. SANDS presented the summary of the Committee's Report to the reporters present, he and Bob Bailey answered the probing questions put to them with all the skill and dexterity of a polished politician which, in fact, present day School Administrators, almost



BOB BAILEY--Nevada State's Equal Rights Commission Chairman and Chairman of School District's ad hoc Fact Finding Committee, answers reporters' questions at Press Conference Tuesday.

necessarily, are.

Neither Mr. Bailey nor Dr. Sands hedged the issue of an existing problem, however, and neither denied the probability of likely recurrences. Both agreed that this is a total community problem, not just that of the school district and frankly regretted no foreseeable immediate resolution of the problem.

Probably more than any other person in the room, with the exception of Bob Bailey, I felt the stark staring tragedy of the whole situation. This incident at Clark High School that eventuated into a full scale rebellion of Negro students, (and mostly girls) against the administrative and teaching personnel of the school may not have been predicated on racial conflict, but do the Committee members (all of them), the school administrators, the teachers, the society in which we live realize that, with rare exception if any, there is no Negro man, woman or child, even those few that are blessedly free of prejudice themselves who is ever for a moment free of race consciousness.

This is not meant as a refutation of the report of the Committee, nor is it meant to "white-wash" the actions of the Clark High School students who reveled in such a blatant display of defiance against authority.

No, this is more of an agonizing racial self-appraisal, and even, if you can understand it, a plea for help--not from the white society, but help from our own for our own. (See Editorial).

GOVERNOR SAWYER IN LAS VEGAS TOMORROW

GOVERNOR GRANT SAWYER is scheduled for three public appearances in Las Vegas this week-end as well as attend a meeting with other highway board members and highway department officials in a continuance of their annual series of conferences with county commissioners.

At 2 p.m., Friday he will address the

What Havoc A Little Front Page Goof Can Make

By John P. West

My esteemed, and, usually, capable and efficient Editor, Miss Key, has just informed me that as Managing Editor and "boss" of the VOICE, that all catastrophic mistakes in the newspaper are entirely my responsibility, no matter who is at fault and particularly when a "goof" of hers has such repercussions as did her announced date of the Chuck's All American Boys Club Benefit in the last issue.

Seriously, we owe our readers clarification, if not apology, for the confusion caused by the front page announcement that "Sunday, April 13" was a "must reserve" date for a Benefit for the Boys Club at Sugar Hill.

ACTUALLY, THE COMEDY OF ERRORS resulting from Miss Key's slip up on dates was such that no one's jaws could get too tight; certainly not mine. I was too delighted to know that so many people read the VOICE and took every word for gospel truth even if there is no Sunday, April 13 in 1966.

You'd never believe the chain reaction that mistakenly quoted date evoked. One social club canceled a regular meeting date in order to support the benefit; oh, all kinds of things went on. The fact that there was not enough communication between Bob Bailey of Sugar Hill, and Miss Key and myself as to when the action was really going to swing became unimportant when we realized we could cause that much confusion.

But I do want to say a word about this Benefit for the Boys Club which is definitely going to swing on Saturday, March 19 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Sugar Hill, and how it really came about.

Probably one of the nicest guys anyone will ever meet, anywhere, is Michael of Michael's Shoe Store in the Golden West Shopping Center. One day, we were sitting in the store chewing the fat with Mike and he made mention of the tremendous job Chuck was doing for the youth in this community. During the course of his dissertation in which he said frankly that "no one in this whole town was doing as much for kids as was Chuck," and that, "by Golly, if he survived the business reversal he was suffering, he sure was going to do everything he could to help keep the Club going."

Needless to say, this shook my Uncle Mex (Bob Bailey) and me up a bit to realize that we had overlooked the obvious fact that Chuck needed help although we were very aware of all the great things he was doing to try to mold our young boys into the kind of men we'd like to see them become. So, a Benefit for Chucks All American Boys Club was immediately scheduled. There is no charge of admission, no hustle, no fuss. Just all the money that is spent at Ann and Bob Bailey's Sugar Hill on Saturday, March 19 from four until 8 o'clock in the evening will be donated to Chuck's All American Boys Club--And I do mean ALL the money.

Do We Have a Date--And Is That Date Clear? Saturday, March 19, at Sugar Hill.

spring meeting of the Nevada Association of Secondary School Principals at the Las Vegas Convention Center on the subject of Nevada's commitment to education.

On Sunday, March 13 at 3 p.m., the Governor will take part in the formal dedication of a new \$250,000 multi-purpose building at the First Baptist Church of Las Vegas.