

# NEGRO DEMOCRATS SPLIT

LAS VEGAS

# Voice

Vol. 4, No. 13

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, March 31, 1966

## THE CONVENTION STORY



### Rebels Win- White Elected

Democrats, famous for knock-down drag-out convention brawls, were apparently over zealous to live up to that reputation last Saturday. The Clark County Democrats went into their act in the opening scene of their biennial convention with more than a thousand party 'actors' attendance.

COUNTY CHAIRMAN Gene Matteucci opened the convention a few minutes after 10 a.m., Saturday morning. The Rev. John L. Simmons was asked to lead the convention in prayer. The Reverend prayed for divine guidance and tranquility in conducting the business at hand. He petitioned God to heal all self-inflicted wounds and to mend all fallen fences of Clark County Democrats.

Apparently, the volume on the Public Address system was turned down too low for the man upstairs to get the message. Immediately after the salute to the flag, Chairman Matteucci announced that convention business would not begin until the report of the Credentials Committee was brought back to certify the delegates.

As the Chairman began to call the names of persons selected by him to serve on the Credentials Committee, hell broke loose.

After the gendarmes had restored order and everything (and everybody) was under control, the convention got down to the business at hand.

A compromise was quickly negotiated between the forces of the 'rebel' group and the old guard incumbents. An equal number of appointees from each group was named to the Credentials Committee. Tony McCormick, floor leader for the Negro delegates and Mrs. Gwen Weekes were among those appointed to the committee.

The convention recessed for several hours while the certifying group went into session. During the long committee session, the bird dogs of both factions were busy getting their ducks in a row. The combined distance covered by the politicians of both factions (Incumbents and Rebels) would easily have been enough to circle the earth with miles to spare.

ON THE NIGHT BEFORE the convention, the Negro delegates and several of their community leaders held a pre-convention caucus to map their strategy for the convention. The group assembled at Doolittle Recreation Center. They voted to abide by a unit rule (all delegate votes cast in a block). Mrs. Sarah Hughes and Rev. Prentiss Walker went on record as dissenting to unit rule.

The Negro delegates, at the pre-convention caucus, selected those persons whom they wished (1) appointed to the four convention committees, (2) to be delegates to the State Convention (May 6-8, Winnemucca), (3) to be representatives on the County Central Committee. They also named their choice for a candidate for Vice-Chairman. (A candidate was also selected for the 2nd Vice-Chairman in case more than one Vice-Chairman was accepted at the County Convention.

Dr. Charles I. West was designated as the choice for Vice-Chairman, and Robert Reid was (See CONVENTION STORY, page 2)

## Spring Comes To VOICE A Little Late This Year



WOULD YOU BELIEVE the VOICE paid Seagram Distillers Company to run this picture of their "Miss 100 Pipers"?? ? ? WOULD YOU BELIEVE the Truth--that we held up heralding the advent of Spring until we received permission from the Company, to use her picture? THIS is the VOICE's harbinger of Spring--Miss Wynonie Price, Seagram's "Miss 100 Pipers". (Confidentially, when Managing Editor, John West, first saw Miss Price, he heard a thousand pipers).

## Neighborhood Council Plan Outlined

Following the Governor's appearance at a community wide meeting last Tuesday, several meetings are being held this month which will launch the Neighborhood Council Project.

According to J. David Hoggard, Program Assistant for the Economic Opportunity Board, these first meetings are to open discussions and provide a forum on any problems in the area. Persons residing in designated areas will select three neighbors to serve as a nominating committee.

The nominating committee of each group will report to the next meeting of the council their choices of neighbors to serve as officers of that particular council. They will also choose candidates to serve as members of both Operation Independence and the County-wide Economic Opportunity Boards. At the second meeting of each council the temporary officers will accept further nominations from the floor, a complete slate of candidates will be presented at the third meeting on a ballot at which time residents of the council area will elect their officers and representatives.

Persons residing in each of the elementary school zones in West Las Vegas are strongly urged to participate in this program. This affords the residents of each area the opportunity to be in from the beginning to make suggestions and decide on a plan to accomplish neighborhood needs. Action on any problems concerned by the Anti Poverty Act of 1964, which the council decides has priority will be promptly forthcoming.

Earlier this week nominating committees were chosen for the Westside, Kit Carson, and Jo Mackey Neighborhood Councils. Meetings for Highland, Matt Kelly, and Madison Neighborhood will be held at those schools on March 31, April 1, and April 5 respectfully--all meetings are scheduled for 7:30 P.M.

At the meeting of the Westside Neighborhood Council on Monday of this week, Mrs. Ethel Pearson, Mrs. Virginia James, and Mr. Thomas Wilson were chosen as the nominating committee. They are expected to report at the next meeting, Monday, April 4, 1966 at 7:30 P.M. This council meets at Operation Independence, 325 Jefferson.

### FULL CITIZEN PARTICIPATION URGED

The Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County is charged with the administration of all "war on poverty" programs in this area. In order (See COUNCIL, page 9)

## KNOCK! KNOCK! Opportunity Is Here

OPERATING ENGINEERS will accept applications for its Apprenticeship Program beginning tomorrow, Friday, April 1. Applications will be accepted throughout April and May at the Apprenticeship Office located at 1111 Las Vegas Blvd., So. . . . Age Limitation--18-27--Education Requirements--High School Graduate or Equivalent. If accepted, Beginners will earn 70 per cent of Journeyman's wages (equal to \$3.61 per hour) with increases every six months until full Journeyman's scale is reached.