

Bob Bailey, Chairman of the State of Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens, has taken an unequivocal position in his determination to correct present employment inequities existent in the Nevada Hotel and Casino Industry.

IN A LETTER to Southern Nevada Hotel and Casino licensees, Bailey warned that, if necessary, he will resort to the mechanism of the State Equal Rights Law and even the Federal Equal Employment Commission to end job discrimination in the Industry.

The ERC Chairman has every justification for such a militant attitude. He is also entitled to the unqualified support of the entire West Las Vegas community and, indeed, of all responsible Nevada citizens.

That there is job segregation in the hotels and casinos is obvious to the most casual observer once it occurs to him that he never sees

anything other than a white face in the great majority of the job categories.

It is becoming increasingly untenable to Negroes and other minorities that, in a city which constantly points up its great economic growth and wave of prosperity, unemployment among minorities remains a critical problem.

NO LONGER IS IT necessary to study a sociological report to learn the calamitous results of prolonged and unrelieved unemployment. Current events throughout the nation are infinitely more edifying than a ton of definitive sociologists' reports.

That any industry would flagrantly disregard the mandate of the people, and more significantly, flaunt its scorn of legislation designed to insure protection of the people's moral and legal rights is insupportable.

Bailey's action in notifying the Hotel and

Casino Industry in Nevada that it, too, must comply with state and federal statutes, is not an impulsive move. Because the operators apparently have made no steps toward fulfilling promises made two years ago to change their hiring policies, Bailey has, correctly, exercised his duty as Chairman of the Equal Rights of Citizens Commission in issuing a warning to those operators that unless what he terms as "affirmative action" is taken immediately to change the industry's hiring policy, he will take action.

In a statement to the VOICE, the ERC Chairman expressed regret that, almost without exception, Negroes, invariably have to resort to the spectacular to force recognition of their grievances and initiation of a working program toward resolution of their problems.

The VOICE agrees.

LAS VEGAS *VOICE*

Vol. 4, No. 18

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, May 5, 1966

Challenge Hotel Job Discrimination



BOB BAILEY



REV. BENNETT

In a letter to Southern Nevada hotel and casino operators, Bob Bailey, Chairman of the State of Nevada's Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens, called for "affirmative action" immediately on the part of the Industry's heads to correct present inequities in equal employment opportunities.

BAILEY POINTED OUT that it had been two years since a threatened demonstration had been averted through the intervention of the Commission and a series of meetings between representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and hotel owners or their representatives. He said the NAACP had agreed to call off, or postpone, such demonstrations "pending the development of a realistic and meaningful change in hiring policies".

The Commission Chairman said that the Negro community is disillusioned because of unfulfilled promises made at that time, and that the patience of the people had come to an end.

Al Bramlet, Culinary Workers Union leader, was also sent a letter by Bailey informing Bramlet of the action he (Bailey) had taken. The letter to Bramlet stated that the unions which represent the majority of the segregated job categories had not fulfilled their commitment made at the time of the crisis.

In both communications, Bailey warned that unless immediate change in hiring policies was initiated and brought to the attention of the Commission within 30 days, he would take the case to the Commission and "request the members of the Equal Rights Commission to make a full-scale investigation into the practices of the personnel and policy-making echelons."

REACTION TO THE story of the ERC Chairman's ultimatum to the Industry released in the local dailies on Tuesday, was immediate.

A great deal of interest, among West Las Vegas, was expressed concerning a statement from the Executive Secretary of the Southern Nevada Resort Hotel Association quoted in the

Breakthrough

Through the efforts of Robert Trimble of the Youth Opportunity Center, Robert Louis Arrington, age 22, has been hired as Drilling Rig Operator and Mechanic, for Shaft Drillers, Inc., at the Nevada Test Site (Mercury). According to an AEC spokesman, it is believed that Arrington is the only Negro holding such a position with a Drilling firm in the United States.

Young Arrington, who is unmarried, is a native New Yorker, and attended school in New York. He received his mechanical training in the Marine Corps in which he served from 1961 to 1965; the last two years of his military service was in Viet Nam.

Robert is the brother of Detective Andrew J. Arrington, Jr., of the Las Vegas Police Department.

Review-Journal.

Gabe Vogliotti, Executive Secretary of the Association, according to the R-J story, stated that last December the Association had passed a resolution to practice equal opportunity employment.

Rev. Marion Bennett, President of the local branch of the NAACP said that, in view of the Association's declared intent and that five months have gone by since the resolution was passed, it was indicated that Negroes should exert every effort to assist the Association in acting on their resolution.

The NAACP President said that at the organization's meeting, Sunday, a campaign will be launched to recruit Negroes to make applications in every job category hitherto closed to them. Rev. Bennett further stated that it is not necessary to wait until Sunday's meeting. He suggested that those who have any experience as bell men, waiters, bartenders, cocktail waitresses, dealers, or in any of the job categories, should immediately begin to make applications for positions. "It would be most helpful", Rev. Bennett pointed out, "if everyone applying for jobs would make a note of the date of application, the place of business to which they applied, and the name of the person to whom they spoke or were interviewed by, and bring that information to him so that the NAACP organization will have a clear and meaningful record."

Rev. Bennett said that this is everybody's crusade; that it is incredible that a city is having a boom-town economy on one side of town and a grave economic depression on the other. "Jobs", he said, "are the answer."

Commission Chairman, Bob Bailey, had stated in his letter to hotel and casino operators he regretted that "it seems indicated that I must use the mechanism of the State law and, if necessary, the Federal Equal Employment Commission to help resolve this problem."

VOTERS LEAGUE

Date To Remember

Community interest in an organized political force for West Las Vegas was evidenced by 43 persons attending the hastily-called meeting at the Elks Lodge on April 28 activating their memberships.

A mass meeting of community citizens will be held on Thursday, May 12, 8 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, corner 'E' and Jackson streets.

Purposes of the organizational reactivation meeting are:

- (1) Payment of at least 50¢ of annual dues-- (\$2.50 total may be paid in installments.)
- (2) Discussion of constitution.
- (3) Plans for the election of new officers in July.
- (4) Plans for voter registration drive.

HONOR AT THE TOP - - - By Alan Maver

BILL RUSSELL
WHO HAS HELPED THE BOSTON CELTICS SCORE A NUMBER OF TEAM "FIRSTS", SCORED AN INDIVIDUAL "FIRST" WHEN HE WAS NAMED THE TEAM'S NEXT COACH. HE'S THE FIRST OF HIS RACE EVER CHOSEN TO PILOT A MAJOR PRO TEAM.



AND FOR HIS DEBUT AS COACH NEXT SEASON, IT'S EXPECTED HE'LL BE ABLE TO USE THE PLAYING TALENT OF THE MAN WITHOUT WHOM THE CELTICS NEVER WON THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP. THE MAN WHO WAS VOTED THE MVP OF THE NBA 5 TIMES, ETC. - WE GIVE YOU, BILL RUSSELL, HIMSELF.

ALAN MAVER