

# BOX SCORE ON LYNCHING

LAS VEGAS

# Voice

Vol. 5, No. 3

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, January 19, 1967

## State's 54th Legislature In "Colorful" Opening



By Alice Key

Amid the moderate "pomp and circumstance" formalities which dignify opening ceremonies of such occasions, the 54th session of the Nevada Legislature began Monday with no overt attention paid to the circumstance that, for the first time in the State's history, a Negro was sworn in as an elected representative to the Assembly; a Negro was employed in the State Senate; a Negro invoked the opening prayer in the Senate; and a representative of a Negro newspaper was given formal press accreditation to cover the legislative session.

WOODROW WILSON, one of nine Assemblymatic representatives from Clark County Assembly District No. 4, is the first Negro to serve in Nevada's State Legislature. As a Republican, he is a member of the minority party. Inasmuch as the count in the present Assembly is 21 Democrats and 19 Republicans, as a Negro, he possibly feels that this is practically a majority count for a member of a real minority group.

The Nevada Legislature permits an unfamiliar (to this observer) but very warming practice of permitting legislators to have relatives, or guests, with them at opening ceremonies of the session whom they later introduce to the assemblage. Assemblyman Wilson may have set a new high for opening day personal well-wishers. Aside from his lovely wife, Nora, Mr. and Mrs. J. David Hoggard, Sr., and their grandson, Keith, were there to, figuratively, hold his hand while he took the oath of office as was the writer who, despite being a staunch believer in the two-party system as long as they're both Democrats, was bursting with nationalistic pride in Woodrow Wilson as he became Assemblyman in fact.

Rev. V. C. L. Coleman who accompanied Rev. J. L. Simmons from Las Vegas to the Capitol for the latter to deliver the invocation at the formal opening of the State Senate had expressed his best wishes and prayers for his parishioner, Assemblyman Wilson, before the Senate's opening ceremonies which transpired at the same time as that of the Assembly.

IN THE SENATE Chambers, Mrs. Eleanor



Assemblyman Woodrow Wilson (standing) in photo left is pictured with colleague, Assemblyman Frank Young minutes before opening ceremonies of Legislature, Monday. Eleanor Walker, Minutes Secretary of the Senate is pictured at her desk in photo above--in background is Leola Armstrong, Secretary of the Senate.

Walker, of Las Vegas, quietly and efficiently pursued her duties as Senate Minutes Secretary as though Negroes had been attaches of the Nevada Senate forever. Mrs. Leola Armstrong, Secretary of the Senate was responsible for Mrs. Walker's employment there. All employees of the Senate must be sponsored by a Senator, and Mrs. Walker was sponsored by Clark County's Senator Floyd Lamb, chairman of the Senate's powerful finance committee.

There was some disenchantment among legislators (particularly in the upper house) over committee appointments. Woodrow Wilson's appointments were to the Education, Social Welfare and Military and Defense committees of the Assembly which were eminently satisfactory to the freshman Assemblyman.

Unquestionably, this 54th session of the Nevada State Legislature is going to be a highly interesting and controversial one, and it will bear watching, monitoring, and (as always should happen) constant reminding to elected officials from constituents that "Remember, you've got to run again".

PERSONALLY, THE most impressive bit about the whole thing was the extraordinary performance of Mrs. Armstrong as Secretary of the Senate. It was, as it always is, sheer delight to see a perfectionist in action. As Senate President, Senator Mahlon Brown pointed out in nominating her for re-election to the post she has held through several administrations, "I don't know what the Senate would do without her".

### Jo Mackey Council

REGULAR MEETING of the Jo Mackey Neighborhood Council will be held Monday, January 23, 7 p.m., at 500 Miller (Aloha Trailer Court). Guest speaker, Fred French will introduce members of the new Credit Union. Raymond Blankes (Chamber of Commerce NLV) will also speak.

## ☆ EDITORIAL ☆

**Read And Weep, But  
Keep The Faith, Baby!**

**We Got Work To Do -  
Big Work And Fast!**

by C. I. W.

ONE HUNDRED eighty-six Republican congressmen voted 186 to 0 to flush Powell down the hopper. There was not one single GOP representative who thought Adam Clayton Powell should be given a fair trial before the lynching. Not one Republican appeared to think that a Negro congressman should be given his Constitutional Right of a trial before verdict.

The GOP vote clearly indicates that a non-Caucasian is hiding somewhere in the wood-pile. In plainer language, something stinks on Capitol Hill, and it has a strong stench of racism.

The Democrats voted 126 for and 119 against seating the 12-term Demo representative from Harlem. The aroma of race prejudice is just as strong among the Jefferson-Jackson partisans as it is among the party of Honest Abe.

THE ANTI-AROMA gets more nauseous when the voting trends are analyzed by States. Eight (8) of the hard-core Southern States followed the Republicans in united condemnation of Adam. The Demo representatives from Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and West Virginia voted unanimously for the Powell lynching.

Louisiana, Maryland, Florida and Kentucky, each cast one vote (only) to give Adam Clayton Powell a fair trial before the hanging. Missouri had only two Democrats who voted to seat Powell, while Texas voted 15 to 6 for the lynching.

Nevada's one vote was in favor of hanging the Harlem Dandy before the trial. Walter Baring, as expected, cast his vote against Powell.

All Republicans of all 50 States were joined by all but a dozen of the Southern Democrats in the vote against giving Adam Powell the seat in Congress to which his Harlem supporters had elected him for 12 consecutive terms.

THE VOTERS of Powell's Harlem Congressional District have exclusive right to designate the person they choose to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives. Other elected members of the Congress have absolutely no voice in making the selection for the Harlem voters. They also had no legal right to deny Powell his elected seat in the Congress.

Our Constitution prohibits verdict without fair trial. Adam Powell has not had any trial.

Our halls of justice operate upon the premise of "innocent" until proved "guilty".

Powell was held 'guilty' in the eyes of bigoted Congressmen and was lynched in exactly the same barbaric custom used so frequently in the South in dealing White justice to Black men alleged to have abused Whites.

ADAM CLAYTON Powell was hanged without trial because he was a Negro who got to be too big in White America. When one analyzes the vote of his fellow Congressmen, it is impossible to equate Adam's fate with anything other than racism.

Powell has not invented anything new in the way that Congressmen have lived high at public expense. Other Congressmen, for a hundred

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