

POVERTY WAR ON

LAS VEGAS

Voice

Vol. 5, No. 4

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, January 26, 1967

EDITORIAL

Justice Not Always Just

By Chas. I. West

IN REVIEWING the circumstances which led to the shocking and arbitrary action of the Congress of the United States against Representative Adam Clayton Powell, it occurs that Powell's case is not a singular one where legal practice of "more than one way of skinning a cat" has been implemented. The situation is reminiscent of methods employed several decades ago in "getting" the most notorious gangster of that era, with the only similarity peculiar to each instance was involvement of police officials in both cases. The great difference between the two is that, in the case of the gangster, exposure of the involvement would certainly have led to the prosecution and conviction of the mobster on a greater charge, wherein, exposure of involvement of others in the, Powell case would, just as certainly, have vindicated the Harlem Congressman.

THE NAME Al 'Scar Face' Capone is synonymous with 'gangster' in American legend, and American jargon.

The entire nation knew that Capone headed the syndicate just as certainly as Pope Pius headed the Catholic Church.

It was a matter of common knowledge that Capone had his finger in just about every illegitimate business that operated in Chicago back in the 1920 period. Scarface had a damn long finger that reached from Chicago all the way to New York and Miami. Al Capone was known to be the wheel that made the rackets turn.

The police certainly knew far more details concerning the operations of the Capone gang than the common people knew. However, Capone had to be brought to justice for income tax violations. The fuzz was so deeply involved in Capone's operations that he was immune to prosecution for his organized gangster crimes.

THE CHICAGO fuzz was sharing in the Capone profits and if they pulled the cover off of him, they would have exposed their own involvement in organized crime. It was close to impossible to find anyone with courage enough to admit their involvement in the protection money which the gang paid to the police.

The people who handled the 'ice' (payoff money to the police and politicians) would rather be caught dead than testify that they were involved in the deal.

The wheels who received the tainted loot would slap their mothers before they would testify in Court that they had received a penny from the mob.

Members of the mob who knew what was happening had more sense when they were fools to spill their guts to the law.

ADAM CLAYTON Powell found himself in a position of indefensibility when the alleged 'Bag Woman' sued him for libel. There was not a single witness stupid enough, nor courageous enough to take the stand in Powell's defense. It was exactly the same situation that existed in the Capone era.

No policeman, nor elected official, was going to admit that he had received any loot from the 'bag' who sued the Harlem Congressman. It was even less likely that anyone connected with the New York rackets was going to lay his head on the chopping block by testifying that he had given money to the alleged bag broad for delivery to

See Editorial, page 2

BUSINESSMAN VICTOR IN COURT RULING



Jury Trial For Hudson

Joe Hudson, proprietor of Western Auto Supply located in the West Owens Shopping Center, was notified by his Attorney of record, Robert Reid, that a unanimous decision of the Nevada Supreme Court held that "persons convicted in Municipal Courts of incorporated cities and towns are entitled to a jury trial upon appeal to the District Court.

A LAS VEGAS detective arrested Hudson July 24, 1965 "for contributing to the delinquency of a minor" in the now defunct Black Orchid, licensed and operated as Restaurant and Tavern (with separate entrances) and adjacent to Hudson's own place of business. The minor was Hudson's 12-year-old son, Barry, with whom the businessman was dining at the time of the arrest.

Brought into Municipal Court on the Charge, Hudson demanded a jury trial which was denied. He then took the matter to the Nevada Supreme Court on writ of prohibition seeking to prevent Municipal Court from hearing the case without a jury. Writ was denied. Subsequently, Hudson was tried and convicted in Municipal Court and given a maximum possible sentence--six months in the City Jail and \$500 fine or, in the event of no payment, an additional 250 days.

THE CASE was then appealed to the District Court and a demand made for jury trial in the District Court. Judge Clarence Sundean entered an order holding that one is not entitled to a jury trial upon appeal of a Municipal Court Appeal and set the case down for trial.

Thereafter, a writ of prohibition was sought from the Nevada Supreme Court. The Court's decision was filed on January 23, 1967 ordering the District Court to set the case down for trial by jury the same as in any other criminal case originally commencing in the District Court.

The implications of this decision are far reaching. Whenever anyone is convicted in Municipal Court on a plea of Not Guilty, they can appeal to the District Court and get a jury trial in the District Court.

BOB TRIMBLE IN HATCHET MAN ROLE

By Alice Key

AFTER THREE DAYS of hearings before Judge John Sexton in a suit filed by Maurice Morgan against Executive Board members of Operation Independence charging he was fired as Director of the O.I. Manpower Program because he was white, the case was continued until 9:30 a.m., January 30.

Morgan is seeking an injunction to prohibit Operation Independence from hiring a "replacement" and is joined in the suit by Francis O. Edwards (who also lays claim to having been fired as coordinator of the Program) and the Nevada Catholic Welfare Bureau.

Presently, I am unclear as to what reasons Edwards might give for his "termination" since he is a Negro. Apparently he just goes along with the package deal. However, the local "Great White Father", Bob Fahey, assistant director of the local office of Nevada Catholic Welfare Bureau, explained, during his testimony, that the Catholic agency filed with Morgan and Francis "because if Operation Independence is allowed to discriminate against a white man, it will open the door to every prejudiced white employer to slam the door in the face of Negro applicants". Having registered that blatantly self-righteous propaganda right where he wanted to give it the most exposure, Fahey sat smugly contented on the witness stand as counselors for the plaintiffs and defendants approached the bench, at the Judge's invitation, to agree on a date to resume the hearings.

THE LEGAL issue to be resolved in this very peculiar case is whether or not Morgan and Edwards were ever hired for the positions from which they claim to have been fired. It is hoped that that key point will eventually arise in the hearings, but in the meanwhile, David Canter, attorney for the plaintiffs has been allowed the widest latitude in attempting to discredit Operation Independence and the Negro Community, which is just exactly the motivation for the suit.

It is no secret to readers of the VOICE that Bob Fahey has campaigned assiduously to have Operation Independence displaced as delegate agency for local Poverty Programs. The VOICE, on more than one occasion (Jan. 20, April 21, July 14, July 21, 1966 issues of VOICE), has noted efforts of Bob Fahey to replace Operation Independence with Catholic Welfare Bureau's Political Action Leadership (PAL) Committee as delegate agency for local Poverty Programs. In each case, the VOICE has pointed out that Operation Independence had been delegated because it had been an organized self-help group before there was even an Anti-Poverty Bill.

Operation Independence came into being under the Kennedy administration. Originally, it was not an incorporated group but comprised of interested individuals working with the Nevada Tuberculosis and Health Association, a privately endowed organization, all concerned with statistical facts that 40% of the total State ADC case load was located in the West Las Vegas area. Its original concept was a Community Self-Help Program, and one of the prime issues of the program was the development of leadership from persons IN THE COMMUNITY. This Self-Help Program was not a closed one. Any person, organization, or agency wishing to participate were more than welcome.

WEST LAS VEGAS was established as a (See TRIMBLE, page 4)