

"A SHADE OF DIFFERENCE"

BLACK - ~~WHITE~~ - JUSTICE

LAS VEGAS

Voice

Vol. 5, No. 23

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, June 8, 1967

NAACP TO PRESENT HOUSING SPECIALIST



Floyd C. Covington, Equal Opportunity Specialist for the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, will be guest speaker at the regular monthly meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Sunday afternoon (June 11) at 3 o'clock at Doolittle Recreation Center.

Covington has been employed by the federal government in the capacity of Intergroup Relations Advisor for the ten Western States for 17 years, and following the 1965 Watts riot, he was assigned on special detail in November of that year as FHA Coordinator, working in the State Service Center in Southeast Los Angeles.

PRIOR TO his governmental appointment, Covington served as Industrial Relations Secretary for the Los Angeles Urban League and then held the position as Executive Director for the Los Angeles Urban League for 19 years.

The Housing Specialist is highly trained for the demanding positions he has held. His formal education includes an A.B. Degree in Sociology and Economics obtained from Washburn College, Topeka, Kansas, and a Master of Arts Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. During the tenure of his Los Angeles assignments, he took additional graduate work from the University of Southern California and the University of California in Los Angeles; and the Rose Croix College in San Jose, California.

His activities in community service during his association with the Urban League and YMCA in Los Angeles is legendary. He has served on various Committees and Commissions for the State of California, as well as the City of Los Angeles, and of various national and community organizations.

Robert Johnson, Housing Committee Chairman of the local NAACP Chapter, makes no over-statement when he suggests that rarely will Las Vegans have such a privileged opportunity to hear an authoritative and knowledgeable address on Housing--one of the last major bulwarks of bigotry extant in the United States today--as they will at Sunday's NAACP meeting.

VICTORY US SUPREME COURT HOUSING LAW RULING

LOS ANGELES, (MPB)--The United States Supreme Court in a ruling May 29, 1967 denied the right of a state government or lesser agency, to set up laws in defiance of the basic laws contained in the Constitution of the United States, even when acting under the guise of a "mandate of the people". A five to four decision nullifying Proposition 14, a popular election enactment intended for the repeal of The Rumford Act, outlawing racial and minority group discrimination in the sale and occupancy of certain real property.

Previously, The Supreme Court, had outlawed the restrictive covenants practice. The Rumford Act, a legislative move, substantiated the court edict. The popular vote election in 1964 was regarded as having put an end to all previous enactments relating to the exclusive right of disposal at open sales, by property owners.

Discrimination Costly \$43 Million Funding Lost

COLUMBUS, Ohio - (NPI)--Funds for \$43 million in construction projects in the Cleveland area have been cut off by federal agencies which found that building contractors have not complied with nondiscrimination orders.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge Joseph P. Kinneary of Columbus ordered the State of Ohio to deal only with construction firms that promise not to discriminate in their workforce.

NAACP officials said that jurist's action could serve as a "break-through" for Negroes in every state where discriminatory employment practices are seen.

Target of the federal agencies' action are six craft unions which have few Negro members. The sheet metal workers, pipefitters, electrical workers, operating engineers, and plumbers unions have long been accused of racial discrimination in Cleveland.

Contractors who deal with the federal government are supposed to sign a nondiscrimination clause. They failed to comply, apparently bowing to union pressures.

"Federal funds will be withheld until the contractors comply with the government's program to assure employment to Negroes and other minority groups," an official of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance said. As a result, several buildings at Ohio educational institutions and scientific installations are being left uncompleted.

MEANWHILE, Judge Kinneary entered into job bias battle when he ruled that Ohio could not enter into contracts with four companies for the construction of a \$12.8 million medical science building at Ohio State University because of discriminatory hiring practices permitted by contractors.

The State had contended it was not responsible for discrimination against Negroes by craft unions awaiting contracts to construct the building--financed by state and federal funds.

However, the judge ruled the State had the primary responsibility for insuring that Negroes have equal job opportunities on all public works contracts. He forbade all state officials from entering into such contracts until they can

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Howard Conviction Stuns Community

By Alice Key

THE CLIMATE in West Las Vegas is considerably warmer than the thermometer indicates. While residents, in a state of shocked disbelief, were still trying to understand how a jury could possibly return a verdict of 1st degree murder calling for a life sentence with no parole against Thomas Howard, came the even more stunning report of the disposition of the Ricks case.

Let us review these cases together. Howard and his wife, Barbara, were arrested and charged with the slaying of police officer William Fortye on October 28, 1966. That officer Fortye is dead is the only proven fact. The indictment against Howard charged him with "premeditation and wilful malice aforethought" meaning he deliberated the murder of the officer. All the evidence is to the contrary. Fortye pulled the Howard car over as the couple were homeward bound from an evening out. As usual, the officer had his police dog with him. Mrs. Howard testified that her husband and Fortye engaged in an altercation when he called her an obscene name. There is no question that Howard was attacked by the dog--he suffered 35 dog bites, but in a battle for survival, he lived to be charged and convicted for premeditated and wilful murder. Mrs. Howard is scheduled to stand trial for Fortye's death in September.

Police Officer William Fortye and his dog, and his abusive language to residents of West Las Vegas were not unknown, yet there was understandable regret in the community for the incident and sincere sympathy for the bereaved widow and children. However, it was generally felt that this was clearly a case of self defense, if there ever was one. Obviously, the District Attorney's office did not agree. The Howards' attorney, Charles Kellar, said that District Attorney George Franklin informed him that "it was not in the public interest not to try the case". Is this to be interpreted that public sentiment is the deciding factor in whether a case should or should not be tried?

THE REALLY frightening aspect of the case is the report that in all the time the jury deliberated, there was never a question of deliberating the evidence; only whether to recommend a life sentence or the death penalty was the hang up. Attorney Kellar stated this is the information he has gathered from talking to the

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NAACP Asks Police Probe By Att. General's Office

HOUSTON, Tex. - (NPI)--The NAACP has asked the U.S. Attorney-General to launch a "vigorous investigation" of local police who "engaged in a vengeful and destructive rampage" against students and property at Texas Southern University during a five-hour riot on May 17. The organization charged that "students were pulled out of dormitories, forced to lie on grass strewn with glass from gun-shattered windows, all the while subject to verbal and physical abuse."

Meanwhile, Cleve McDowell, spokesman for the campus NAACP chapter, demanded the release of all students jailed and compensation for personal property damaged by police during the riot.