

As We Approach The Anniversary Of Our "Independence", July 4, Let Us Stand Up
And Be Counted - For Freedom!

JOIN THE NAACP TODAY

LAS VEGAS

VOICE

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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Thursday, June 29, 1967

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE LAUNCHED BY NAACP

Mrs. Sarah Ann Knight, Chairman of the Membership Committee of the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, announced the initiation of an all-out membership drive by her committee which begins today, Thursday, June 29 and will continue through September 29.

Announcement of the membership drive was made prior to the visit of NAACP Field Director of Region I George Howerton who met with executive board members of the local chapter Monday night at the home of local President, Attorney Chas. Kellar.

A WIDE area of local problems were discussed at the meeting and plans were formulated for attempted resolution of those problems. It is reported that Howerton will return to Las Vegas at a future date subsequent to the NAACP National Convention in Boston, at which time an action plan will be formalized.

In the meanwhile, it is believed the drive to increase the local Chapter's membership will result in not only a vastly increased membership but in meaningful participation of residents in the local chapter's future activities.

Applications for membership are available at Mrs. Knight's "Sarann's Cleaners", 1320 'D' Street; the offices of Attorney Chas. Kellar and Dr. Chas. West, both located in the West Owens Shopping Center; and from any of the committee members. A telephone call to Mrs. Knight at 382-1552 will furnish any information concerning the drive and will also assure you of immediate service in obtaining a membership card in the nation's oldest and most highly respected civil rights organization.

An Inspiration For All

Mrs. Elizabeth Watson, 89-year-old resident of Los Angeles, recently became a subscribing life member of the NAACP.

From her bedside at the Independent Square Senior Citizens Home where she is recuperating from a recent operation, she stated:

"One is never too old to become a member or a life member of the NAACP. We helped to build the bridges these youngsters are crossing and we should help them to maintain them. It is never too late to do good in life to help make this a better world to live in."

Her membership was purchased through the Southwest NAACP Branch, Henry Dodson, president, and Mrs. Dorothea Burns, life membership chairman.

Mrs. Watson, a former Bostonian, is the mother of local residents Donald Watson and Mrs. Katherine Watson Frederick, West Coast Region Life Membership Chairman.

Early VOICE Deadline

SO THAT employees of the Las Vegas VOICE may make proper observance of Independence Day (July 4), the newspaper will go to press on Monday instead of Tuesday next week. We respectfully request cooperation of advertisers and those wishing to place news releases of community interest by noting the advanced deadline for next week's issue of the VOICE.

Deadline for news releases will be 4 p.m. Friday, June 30. Advertising copy--Monday noon, July 3. Copy-ready advertising for which space has been reserved will be accepted until 5 p.m. Monday, June 3.

THE "SUN" HAS SAID IT FOR US

VOICE publisher Dr. Charles I. West has returned from the National Negro Publishers Association's convention in Cleveland and reports the meeting was very informative and, to him, most exhilarating.

The publisher will report on his trip in the next issue of the VOICE, but one of the mentions he has made of utter fascination to the editor is that Negro publishers now make reference to their publications as "Negro oriented news media".

The editor, bemused with this identification,

Bring Troubles From Under The Table

A member of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission recently criticized that state agency for "inaction and complacency" in the field of civil rights and job discrimination.

This brought a reply from the ERC chairman that the protesting member was "highly critical and impatient."

There was also a charge from the member and a denial from the chairman that discrimination exists in employment in Las Vegas, an allegation that had been made earlier by a member of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

The ERC chairman said that it was not discrimination, but a lack of qualified applicants that prevented employment of Negroes on a broader scale.

There are a few facts to be faced in the situation that led to the exchange of views.

In the first place, a tour of the various places that serve food and beverage in the Las Vegas area will disclose that Negroes serving as bartenders, cocktail and food waitresses and the like are a rarity.

There are more Negro busboys and "coffee" girls.

Yet, if one visits establishments in West Las Vegas, he will find Negro bartenders, food and cocktail waitresses, as well as managers and owners.

As a matter of fact, one can find Negroes performing many tasks in West Las Vegas with no counterparts on the east side of the railroad tracks.

This gives rise to the questions:

Fools Resort To Violence To Our Shame

The nuts are loose again.

There is no more appropriate name for the persons who fired six shots into home of local attorney Charles Kellar and who have vandalized his office several times in recent months.

These vicious acts come at a time when coolness and reason must prevail. They contribute nothing but tension to a situation already tense enough.

And we might add that the majority of residents of our community condemn such acts because they do not believe in visiting such horror upon a fellow human being.

Mr. Kellar, it is true is a somewhat controversial person but that gives no one cause or justification for endangering his life and that of his wife and children by such unconscionable acts as firing shots into his home.

Why is Mr. Kellar controversial? Mainly because since he became a Nevada resident he has fought for what he believes to be right for his community and for his clients in the courtroom.

He has been referred to as a leader of his community, but that title was not conferred

upon him by the newspapers, or by any government official. It was conferred upon him through his election to various positions of leadership, in several organizations, by his fellows.

Indignities visited upon him therefore become indignities visited upon his friends, his neighbors and those whom he represents and who have elected him their representative.

It's purely insanity for anyone to believe that the answers to the questions Mr. Kellar has raised about justice, about equal employment opportunities, about fair housing, and all those issues commonly lumped under the heading "civil rights" can be answered by cowardly skulkers who fire shots from the darkness.

These are questions of great import to those in whose behalf he raises them and to us all--all of us that is who aren't willing to ignore them and hope they will go away and are seeking right and just solutions to the great problems of our times.

It would have been much easier, and more profitable, no doubt, for the victim of this latest

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Are the qualifications for these jobs different in West Las Vegas than they are for similar positions in other parts of the city and on the Strip?

Or have those who perform these duties in West Las Vegas establishments failed to apply for jobs in establishments in other neighborhoods?

The answer to the latter question is that they have, but they haven't been hired, the officials of the Culinary Union, the ERC chairman and others notwithstanding.

Just as important, however as the physical facts is the policy revelations that have been made in current ERC procedures.

It certainly is unwise for anyone to state that a problem does not exist in our area. It is not only unwise, but it displays a willingness to close ones eyes to some obvious truths.

The fact that there has been no publicity about unrest, or acknowledgement of it by the ERC, isn't evidence that unrest doesn't exist.

The ERC has failed to encourage a healthy, public dialogue and thus has conveyed the impression that it believes that all is sweetness and light and well and good. Healthy public dialogues give those with grievances the chance to air them, to obtain redress from wrongs, and most important, they are evidence that the formal agencies of government care about their problems and will take action to obtain solutions.

Healthy public dialogues and meaningful and correct action supply the safety valve in situations that could otherwise become explosive.

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