

EDITOR'S MAILBOX

Las Vegas, Nevada
December 18, 1967

To the Editor:

Tuesday, December the 12th, I attended the funeral of Henry Feltus, who was brutally slain a few days ago. Henry was a friend of mine and many other West Las Vegas residents.

On the day of Henry's funeral a public official declared war on the owners of Ruben's Supper Club, whom I have known for several years.

I am not saying that our public officials should not be zealous in the performance of their duties; in fact, that should be the rule of thumb. However, the procedures to be followed should be the same in every case, and not relegated to one particular area or segment of the community because of one isolated incident.

I object to physical violence in any manner and firmly believe that any party or parties, committing such an atrocious act, should be punished to the full extent of the law. Nonetheless, this should be done by DUE PROCESS OF LAW, and not governed by the hasty actions of those in authority on the basis of the dictates of their emotions.

From what I have read in both local papers, a public official appeared on television to express his opinions and issued statements concerning his feelings and the feelings of at least one other elected official as to why he felt Ruben's liquor license should be revoked.

All of the above mentioned took place before going through the proper procedures. For example: failure to notify other city and county officials before revealing publicly his intentions; failure to hold a "show cause" hearing before actually closing the doors of Ruben's establishment, which I am told, by a person who happened to be in Ruben's at the time it was shuttled, this occurred Friday, December 15, around 4 PM.

Regardless of the severity of the charges, this was an outright miscarriage of justice. No person, or persons, in authority have the right to wreck a man's reputation, business, or well-being on the basis of their personal feelings alone.

I have been told by several friends, both white and Negro, who have visited Ruben's, that they have been harassed by local police on several occasions. Some of the incidents occurred when a prospective patron was about to enter the establishment, and others when the patron was leaving the premises. In fact, one friend related a story of a police car actually following him home, and shining his flashlight on him as he walked from his car to his apartment. Another practice, which seems unfair to me, is the refusal of some of the cab drivers to bring fares to or pick up fares at Ruben's.

These inequities are just as bad as the accusations which have been leveled at Ruben's. I happen to be a patron of Ruben's on occasions. I have met many fine people there, including doctors, engineers, school teachers, real estate brokers, salesmen, public officials on state, local, and federal levels; in fact, you might say people from all walks of life. I believe, in this instance, Ruben Bullock and the honorable Assemblyman Woodrow Wilson are victims of circumstances beyond their control. The events which transpired on their premises could have happened anywhere else in town.

It was regrettable that a life was lost, but it could conceivably have happened on the parking lot of Caesars Palace, the Frontier Hotel, or any of the other Strip hotels for that matter. Las Vegas is a rapidly growing city and statistics have proven that crime will inadvertently increase in proportion to the growth of an area. But let's not push the panic button until we have investigated every aspect of the charges on a fair basis. If we are going to follow proper procedures, we should go all the way.

Don't rundown the "Little Man" and look the other way when the "Big Man" cuts a caper. (Let's let it all hang out.)

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THE COLLEGE STUDENT SPEAKS

By DORIS BROWN
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

"Black power"--threats or blessing?

The president of a leading Negro college fraternity and a campus newspaper have come up with opposing views on that question.

Dr. Lionel H. Newson, Atlanta, president, Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, declared that the achievement of quality education will require white and black participation and commitment "in spite of our 'black power' advocates."

Addressing the fraternity's Founders' banquet in New Orleans, Dr. Newson said he did not agree "with some of the methods now being imposed by some civil rights advocates."

AT THE same time, "we must accept their goals, if they are for full equality in the American way of life," said the president of the fraternity, which has initiated more than 30,000 men into its 330 chapters.

"Why destroy the colleges and universities that have made it possible for the Negro to raise himself to the point of respectability?" he asked.

"If 'black power' means to burn and destroy the cities, then those Negroes who have been and will be elected mayor of municipalities will only inherit the ashes of their destruction rather than the fruit of their labors. We cannot accept their methods if they are based on violence and destruction."

Dr. Newson went on to declare that the American educational systems must provide quality education for all people alike if the nation is to survive as a world power and leader.

ANOTHER VIEW of black power was found at North Carolina College, Durham, N.C., where a series of campus interviews revealed students' identification of the idea with equality, rather than racial dominance.

Most students interviewed in the latest issue of the college's "Campus Echo" saw the slogan "black power" as did junior Francis L. Majette, a history major, of Murfreesboro, N.C.

"Black power to me is the allocation or distribution of power to the Negro on the basis of his actual population representation," Majette told the student newspaper's "Inquiring Reporter," Miss Esther Silver.

"Black power, to the Negro, means being able to function economically, socially, and politically in the country as a black group dedicated to all-out unity."

* * *

TO SOME, the breakdown of the family and community institutions is a widely overlooked explanation of much recent civil turmoil.

That, in fact, was the view expressed by this writer in a recent column.

But Edmund Leach, provost, King's College, Cambridge, sees things differently.

The social anthropologist finds the family and older generation to be the root of society's troubles.

"Far from being the basis of the good society, the family, with its narrow privacy and tawdry secrets, is the source of all our discontents," he said.

"The family looks inward upon itself. There is an intensification of emotional stress between husband and wife, and parents and children."

Society, he said, has failed to create a world fit for young people to live in. The result of this failure is a "rabid hostility" toward the young, who react by looking unconventional, he indicated.

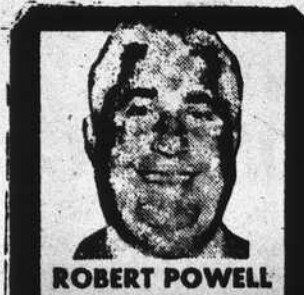
The family needs changing, Leach adds, and "we should not get upset if symptoms of this change are already appearing."

* * *

TALENTED NEGROES and Puerto Ricans should be drawn into Brooklyn College, even though their scholastic records might be poor, according to a special faculty committee of the college.

The panel accused the college of practicing "de facto segregation," and its students, of going to college merely because it's the expected thing to do.

Less than five per cent of the college's full-



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DEMO WOMEN WEST SET XMAS PARTY

The Las Vegas Women's Democratic Club-West will hold their Christmas party on the 23rd of December at the home of club President Lula Vera White.

In keeping with the spirit of the holidays, the only admission to the party is a toy which will be turned over for distribution to Operation Independence. We're looking forward to seeing all members, old and new for an evening of fun and party spirit.

The time is 9 o'clock, the place 513 Frederick Ave., the date, December 23, 1967. Please label toy, boy or girl.

Older Americans Group Assess '67 A Good Year

The Doolittle "Self-Help" group whose activities are under the very capable supervision of Miss Lillian Carter, in reviewing the progress of the group, reports the past six months' activities have been so rewarding, they modestly mark 1967 as a very successful year for these Older Americans.

As Community helpers, members of the group made over 550 Disposable Pads for Cancer patients, 100 hospital shirts for civilian Vietnam casualties, 75 ditty bags for the Red Cross and Armed Forces, and 36 large stockings for babies born near the Christmas holidays.

The group, also, made many beautiful articles for themselves and friends during their craft classes, and are especially proud of the Christmas items which included lovely Christmas corsages.

The group will climax the year's activities as luncheon guests of the Silver Slipper, Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 1 p.m. The party will end at Doolittle Recreation Center where members will sing Xmas carols and exchange gifts.

These Older Americans will also appear on local television, Christmas morning, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m.

time undergraduates are believed to be Negro and Puerto Rican. Youngsters who make it into the institution by having good high school grades "come to college because it is expected of them," rather than to advance knowledge or themselves, according to the committee.