

LAS VEGAS VOICE

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Grass Roots Protest Of O.I. Exec Board

As the VOICE goes to press, we learn a petition to the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County and to the San Francisco regional office of the Office of Economic Opportunity is being circulated in the community requesting that the Manpower Program be removed from the aegis of Operation Independence and operate under direct administration of the Economic Opportunity Board.

According to our information, the action was taken as a result of the rumored dismissal of Manpower Director George Gant by members of the executive board of Operation Independence.

The arbitrary and, believed to be, illegal action by the board members is said to have incurred the ire of a considerable number of grass roots citizens in the community for whom Operation Independence programs are designed, and who, apparently, felt that the handful of individuals who are presently dictating policy and action of O.I. have completely overlooked their responsibility to the needs and desires of the community they are supposed to represent.

Already past our deadline, we are unable to furnish particulars on this heartening turn of events. Our own knowledge, however, of the inept, bungling, and destructive methods of the present O.I. Board chairman and his cohorts is sufficient to applaud the action of the petitioners. We, too, are sick to death of the situation where selfishly motivated individuals, with cruel disregard for the welfare of the people, continue on their reckless course of destroying everything and anything so many try so hard to build. We say "Bring on the petition - get a million signatures."

When the people speak, theirs is the voice that is heard.

Desegregation Of Westside Schools A Distant Hope

Members of the On-Call Committee on Integration were invited to meet with Dr. James I. Mason, Superintendent of the Clark County School District, Tuesday night to discuss the "Status Report On The District's INTEGRATION POLICY."

Other than Jo Mackey school principal H.P. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Mabel Hoggard, Highland school teacher, and the VOICE editor, those present were members of Dr. Mason's administrative staff with the exception of a reporter from one of the daily papers.

For this reason, the discussion was held on a very informal basis. Dr. Kenneth Seifert briefly outlined progress of the Integration Policy and the gains which have been made in the past year in implementation of the eight Basic Elements of the policy.

Areas embraced by these "basics" include compensatory education, programs for integrated, competent and involved staff, curriculum and instruction programs for quality education, counseling programs to increase personal, education, and vocational guidance, student involvement programs to increase student school identification and growth toward responsible citizenship, Community involvement programs to increase and maintain support of school district goals, facility programs to provide organizational structures for desegregation and improved teaching-learning situations, and funding programs to secure needed material and personnel resources.

Charts providing statistics in school population (See SCHOOL, page 3)

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS



THE DUKE RETURNS -- Duke Ellington and his complete award-winning orchestra returned to Las Vegas this week for a full four-week stand in the Flamingo Hotel's Driftwood Lounge. Duke and company will perform three times nightly at 10:10 p.m., 1:10 a.m. and 3:10 a.m.

The Duke Of Ellington Is In Residence At Flamingo

The awards just keep rolling in for the incomparable Duke Ellington.

A winner of more music polls than any other artist alive, Ellington and his complete orchestra returned to Las Vegas this week, for a four-week engagement in the Flamingo Hotel's Driftwood Lounge.

Showtimes are 10:10 p.m., 1:10 a.m. and 3:10 a.m.

Internationally recognized as one of the world's foremost musicians, composers, arrangers, and bandleaders, he has been honored by every major jazz poll in existence. Latest addition to his trophy case came last week when he won two coveted Grammy awards from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. One Grammy was awarded in the academy's regular voting for "Best Instrumental Jazz Performance by a Large Group" and one was a special award by the academy trustees.

It was just last November that the great Duke played a short one-weeker at the Flamingo, marking his first local appearance in nearly five years. He proved such a fantastic draw the Flamingo quickly signed him for another, longer appearance.

Rounding out the Strip's only continuous afternoon-till-dawn lounge schedule are The Kim Brothers, Jades & J'Adorables, Nita Cruz, Peter & Hank and the Bob Sims Trio.

CITY FATHERS - NOTE

FLINT, Mich. - (NPI)--A referendum promoted by the John Birch Society has failed to kill open housing in Flint. On the contrary, the ordinance appeared to be stronger than ever, after being approved by a 43-vote margin.

The bill's passage "will make it easier to get a state open-housing bill and say something to the nation," according to Earle Ramsdell, executive director, Greater Flint Council of Churches and co-chairman, Friends of Fair Housing.

Generally, referendums are death on open housing, but this one backfired on the Birchers.

Death Claims Father Of Mrs. Charles I. West

Funeral services for William Seamon, father of Mrs. Chas. I. West of Las Vegas, will be held today (Thursday) at 1 p.m. at the People's Funeral Home in Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Seamon died here Saturday morning while on a visit with his adored and adoring daughter, "Dottie", and her husband, VOICE publisher, Chas. I. West, M.D. He has been hospitalized most of last year and intermittently this year after suffering a stroke.

"Boo", a family nickname for Mr. Seamon and by which he was affectionately known to his host of friends of all ages and both sexes, was born April 6, 1894 in New York City and reared in Providence, Rhode Island. He entered the U.S. Navy in 1917 at the height of World War I and became a Navy career man retiring in 1937 after 20 years of Service.

On the Navy Active Reserve roll, he was recalled to duty December 7, 1941 (date of the Pearl Harbor disaster) and served through the balance of World War II. His final retirement from the U.S. Navy took place in 1947 after 30 years of Service.

After nearly 20 years as a widower during which period he devoted himself to his daughter and her growing young sons, John and Rocci, "Boo" married the former Clothilde Woodson of Los Angeles in 1962 to the delight of his family and friends. His marriage brought him all the companionship and devotion he so richly deserved.

Left to mourn his loss are his widow, his daughter and her husband, two grandsons, John and Rocci West, a niece, Mrs. Calvin Bryant of Las Vegas who was reared by Mr. Seamon and his first wife (Dottie's mother) from early childhood upon the death of her parents, Mrs. Bryant's three daughters, and a countless number of grieving friends.

Adult Education Classes Begin

Basic Education courses for adults will begin classes in several of the District's schools next week. These courses are made possible through government funding and there is no charge to those wishing to enroll in any of the classes. It is important that interested adults register immediately. If there is any information desired concerning classes, call one of the schools where classes will be conducted or the office of the Clark County School District.

Classes begin at the Jo Mackey school, Monday, March 11. Tuesday, March 12 is opening date for classes at Highland, Henderson Valley schools and at Southern Nevada Vocational & Technical College. Classes in English for the foreign born will also begin March 12 at Las Vegas High School.

Remember, it is important to register immediately.

Labor Secretary Issues Warning To Employers

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--A warning has been issued by the Labor department that government contracts will be lifted from firms found to be practicing religious discrimination in employment. The memorandum, issued by Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz, noted that certain industries and companies are still excluding "some religious groups--notably Jews, and to some extent Catholics--from positions at certain levels of responsibility."