

CARELESS HOODLUMS THREATEN NEW BUS SERVICE

The heinous and senseless beating of a Bus Driver on the Las Vegas Heights routing, this week, has turned an otherwise progressive project into fear and possible retardation.

Two young toughs, not wishing to submit to regulations, waylaid the driver about two hours after they were ejected by authorities and brutally attacked the driver. He was beaten with a pop bottle and suffered laceration of the head and face, requiring several stitches and resulting in heavily blackened eyes.

The Neighborhood Council who spent seven months interviewing passengers and company officials, issued an appeal to community citizens and leaders to protect this newly acquired service.

Previously, people waited for extended times to be able to catch a bus. Now they also found themselves with less distance to walk in

order to obtain bus service.

The driver, identified as a Mr. Hamilton, refused to identify his assailants, probably for fear of further reprisals. He was treated at a hospital also un-named and released.

In the past, bus windows have been broken, tires slashed. Gunshots have been fired at the vehicles, and one unidentified woman has complained for walking 3-miles to board a bus.

Revenue for the Transit Company has made a noticeable incline and the thought of a third bus was not entirely impossible. Passengers increased from 523-per day to 657 per day. According to C. J. Reynar, a Vice President and Operation Manager, they were "very well pleased" with the acceptance of the new routing and the increased service.

The Las Vegas Transit System was purchased by their present owners in 1966 with

a total of 12 buses serving Las Vegas. There are now 18 buses in service with further growth expected before 1970.

At this writing neither of the men who administered the beating have been arrested although a strict surveillance is being kept of their reported hang-outs.

Several citizens, fearing a loss of this newly acquired service, are making special personal appeals to West Side residents to help find the assailants. They are also urging ministers to speak of this condition from their pulpits on Sunday. Many of them are aroused and plan to, personally, take matters into their own hands to assure fast action.

Many drivers have refused to conduct the Vegas Heights-run and because of their union affiliations cannot be forced to drive this route, especially in view of the recent violence.

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LAS VEGAS

Voice

The Action Paper!

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THE BLACK PROPHET WARNS VEGAS DOOM IS NEARING

Failing to make good the threats and predictions of his first notice, The Black Prophet "struck again" this week with his second ultimatum being delivered in Tuesday's mail.

The Prophet's threats are directed to the County Commissioners and the Resort Industry. To all knowledge, his first warning was ignored and there are no indications his latest demand will be treated any differently.

The Prophet, so far unknown, despite the known presence of the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the case, increased his demands in a bolder and more deliberate manner.

Pointedly he asks: Remember Resurrection City in Washington, all those black people together in the nation's capitol. He then asked emphatically "How Does Resurrection City In Las Vegas Sound? Continuing he adds, "the Flower people will be happy to come to Las Vegas this summer."

The Black Prophet, who obviously fashions himself as being a sort of Moses, mildly treats the present trouble with the union as very little compared with the results coming from 30,000 black people being made



THE BLACK PROPHET

aware of "the billions of dollars being made on the strip, while they try to live on starvation wages."

The self-styled savior promises to call together black business men, with ability, to discuss these plans and urges the Commissioners and Resort owners to make 80 million dollars available immediately. This is double his original suggested expectation. He bluntly advises the demand will double to 160 millions if he is forced



to issue a third demand.

Attention is called to Labor Day being the next holiday, with the invitation "to enjoy the beautiful progress represented by both black and white as a tribute to what can be done when all the people are considered."

This indicated a sort of olive branch conclusion.

Mrs. Ethel Pearson dons a bus driver's cap, slides into the driver's seat, and prepares to collect the fares from her passengers, before starting on her route. Mrs. Jacqueline McKinney leads the line of paying customers, followed closely by C. J. Reynar, a Vice President with Las Vegas Transit System, Inc., and Operation Manager. Closely behind and extending his hand like any hurrying rider, is Francis Edwards, Project Director of Neighborhood Councils. Mr. Reynar said, passenger fares had risen over a 100-per day since the new Vegas Village line was increased to two buses, and running time had been cut to "every 20-minutes." Of course this was a dry-run to afford Council members a close personal contact with their biggest project. It took seven months to accomplish.