## FAR CRY FROM LAST WEEK

With the suddeness of a bolt of lightning, or a clap of thunder, the quiet, serene, orderly life of Kathryn James came tumbling into her lap with a maddening thud and an unreal horror-filled week that none of the pictures she and her husband had watched on television, had ever prepared her for.

How a quiet, law-abiding citizen in the brief moment of stark panic could be arrested, handcuffed, booked, and placed on a.\$300 bond is even hard to relate. Especially if you are concerned with establishing a strong, healthy life, and making a positive community contribution. Yet, this is the story of 27-year-old Kathryn James, a minus \$4,000 clerk-typist in the local Welfare Office.

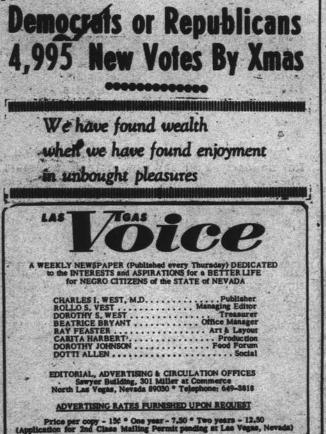
Hadn't she reported daily for work? Hadn't she gained the friendship and admiration of many of her co-workers? Hadn't she recently taken, and passed, the active part of a test for a new position to be created which would earn her a sizable increase? Wasn't she trying to eventually branch into the real estate business by studying for a salesman's license? Wasn't she clean, attractive, well-dressed and wellgroomed? Then, how, could this happen to a person of that kind.

Could it be her immediate supervisor was unequipped to know and observe his surroundings? Could it be he was so engrossed in his own safety he had no time to observe or protect his staff. Could it be he was so overwrought by other incidents he was making this one pay for the others? Or could it be that a non-white face to him only equaled wrong-doing and sufficient cause for punishment. Not for an act but a condition of birth.

Can Vince Fallon, because of his directorship, have the right to lock the doors on nearly 100 people, a violation of most fire department regulations upon his own discretion and without the welfare, consideration, or concern for his employees and normal visitors, concerned with the conduct of their legal business? Can he simply, by word, without knowledge cause one of his employees to be arrested by his whim? Is a man like that capable or responsible enough to guide and/or control a staff of people where he is not calm enough, under stress, to guide them no matter what, short of a major catastrophe? Is this the kind of man entrusted with the lives of people? Black people, whom he obviously is not overly concerned with, and white people whom he showed little concern for by his actions,

The Voice suggests a stronger man be placed in his position. One who will not run, or disappear, in the face of disaster, but one who will, at least, not lock the avenues of escape if one becomes necessary.

And while we are at it, we might as well ask for a humane person with some degree of compassion for other humans, even if they don't pass the color test.



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LAS VEGAS VOICE

Thursday, October 16, 1969

"... And did you voluntarily accept a free, het meal frem known Black Panthers at nine a.m., September nine, nineteen hun'ert an' sixty-nine?"

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