

Editorial

GUEST EDITORIAL

TO: THE LAS VEGAS VOICE

BY: CHARLES L. KELLAR

The Black community must not jump at the suggestion of the Las Vegas Police Department that a "public relations store front facility" be established in the West Side area and accept it without thought. Whenever the white community seeks to treat the Black community different from the white community, the motives must be considered circumspect. The establishment of a Black facility in the Black area must be treated similarly.

What is the philosophy behind the creation of this facility? Is this being created for the purpose of further polarization and separation of the Black community from the white community? Is it being created for the purpose of hemming in and easy control of the Black community in the event of a riot? Is it being created for the purpose of placing the one Black man who passed the Captain's examination over the facility without giving him the status of "Captain" and, thereby, obtaining the federal funds to pay the equivalent of a Captain's pay? Would the facility be considered, much less put into functional operation, were it not being financed by federal monies?

The application to the U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, has been submitted under the U.S. Department of Justice's program for "riot control and disorders programs--civil disorder prevention units and coordination programs." The application suggests that it will bring the police into the Black community as an integral part of the community and will visually demonstrate to the residents that the police are interested in their problems and in finding solutions to the problems. "The goals of the program are to ease the tense and strained attitudes on the part of many citizens as the relate to the police in the community."

It promises J. Edgar Hoover, F.B.I. Chief that "many new sources of contacts will be opened as a result of the police being within the community on a full-time basis and a greater involvement on the part of the citizenry should be experienced in trying to solve police problems." While the Police Department is willing to do nothing about the grievous complaints of the Black community, viz; placing handcuffs too tightly on arrested prisoners, assaulting Black persons who are arrested, arresting Black persons whom the police do not like on pretexts of "loitering, disorderly conduct and disorderly condition, vagrancy and refusal to explain to the satisfaction of the police the businesses of the person at the time he is accosted by the police."

Why do the police continue to fractionate offenses against Negroes, compelling them to put up high bonds on multiple offenses, and to spend long periods in jail awaiting trial? Why do they continue to arrest persons, handcuff them and cart them off to the Police Department when a summons would bring them into court just as easily? Why does the Police Department have no bona fide procedure for complaints against police and why are all complaints against police so uniformly whitewashed?

Until the Police Department gets rid of some of the basic causes of the malaise which exists between the Black community and the Department this writer will continue to be suspicious of any attempt to treat the Black community different from the white community. Until the City Administration and the Police Department are willing to sit down with responsible leaders in the community and discuss the innovations which they plan to install in the Black Community, which are different from those now functioning in the white community, this writer will continue to look with suspicion at such programs. Is this an unreasonable attitude?

The Voice shall reserve the right to cancel any advertising contract if our readers are not given fair and honest consideration. WE ARE PLEDGED TO EXPOSE AND FULLY CONDEMN all unfair business practices.

Are Blacks To Be Considered Dispensable...?



FOURTEEN JACKSON POLICEMEN WERE ON THE CAMPUS WHEN A SQUAD OF ABOUT EIGHTY HIGH WAY PATROLMEN WITH SHOTGUNS FIRED INTO A CROWD OF ABOUT TWO HUNDRED NEGROES OUTSIDE THE WOMEN'S DOMITORY, SAID MAYOR DAVIS OF JACKSON, MISS.

BLACK LEADERS LET IT BE KNOWN THAT A BLACK DEFENSE LEAGUE WAS BEING FORMED TO TRAIN BLACK MEN IN THE USE OF GUNS.

Letter To The Editor:

Editor's Note:
The Following letter in reply to our April 2nd Editorial was hand delivered last Tuesday unsigned and too late for publication.

May 13, 1970

Mr. Charles West
Editor, Las Vegas Voice
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Mr. West:
In regard to your April 2nd editorial which states that our organization is sponsored by whites to see a Watts-type-riot, well, that's a lie right off. If you want to know who provoked us into this violent manner, just look into the mirrors, because it was your bootlicking tactics which provoked us. You called us Johnny-come-latelys, which has been another nickname for Black people. You failed to realize that the first moon shot, Apollo 11, was 1/7,000,000th of a second off timing.

Well, to get down to facts, you said that we claim to speak for the people, that we claim claim to speak for the people, that we claimed to be leaders, that we claimed that those who carried the ball in the past weren't useful, that we boast, we curse, rant, and rave, that we criticize, disrupt meetings, and that we raise all kinds of hell, but we never come up with anything constructive. Well, if you had taken a little time to stop bootlicking and listened to us, you might have heard our plans for solutions to better our community. We'd like to speak in behalf of ourselves, so we first say that we do not disrupt meetings. The pigs or punks in those meetings leave, run out, or even hide because they can't face the truth we bring out. We do not claim to be leaders. We curse and rant because the first lesson in speech or group therapy says that in order to relate to people, you had to relate to them in their language. So we use this colloquial English because it is "ghetto" talk. We don't talk over our people's head, but merely talk

directly to their heads. We've used the term "....." because it is a very functional term in the Black community. If you haven't heard that before, then you haven't been in the Black community. Like the family structure in the Black community has been tampered with, whereby the mothers ended up in the center of the family; the mothers have been intercoursed around by people, they have been victims of rape and sexual torture, and the most repulsive thing for a person to do is to become involved with incestuous relations with his mother. So when we call someone a ".....", we're just saying that they're doing the worst thing that a human being can do. Within the context of respect and human dignity of the Black people here in Vegas, you and the roots of this bourgeoisie community have been some ".....".

You also said that we criticize, boast, speak for our people, we rave and that we raise hell. Well, sir, we mean Boy, we were under the impression that we had the right to speak as defined by the 1st amendment of the constitution, regardless of if we owned property, were registered voters, or legal residents of this community. We don't own property because we are poor, we're not of age yet to vote, but we are legal residents of this community. So, we

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