

# Editorial

By Charles I. West, M.D.

## SELF GOVERNMENT IS DEMOCRACY

All public lands of cities, counties, states and of the Federal Government belong to us, the people. The City of Las Vegas belongs to the residents of Las Vegas. We, the people, own the city - we, the people, run the city.

It is perfectly true that every one of us that is a part of our estimated 162,600 population cannot all meet in one place and talk over and plan solutions to our city's problems. Since this would be impractical and just about impossible, we go to the polls and cast our votes for the people we feel are best qualified to run our city for us.

The people we put in office are sworn to fulfill their elected positions in the best interests of the people—we are the people, and our mayor, our city commissioners, our judges, and all the other people in public offices are our servants, as well as our representatives. These men are sworn to fulfill the duties of their offices and of their positions to the best of their knowledge and ability.

I feel that every man and woman in office in our city does his or her job honestly. We are a lucky people to have a city free of graft, scandal and corruption. To me this expression of sincere honesty on the part of the people we have put in office is a reflection of the pride that the people of Las Vegas have in their city.

Sometimes important issues that may affect the future of our city may escape the attention of the people who run the city. This is not a reflection on the City Hall as much as it is a reflection of indifference of the citizens in allowing such important issues to escape the attention of those we have selected to run things for us.

The citizens of Las Vegas have a responsibility to City Hall, just the same as the City Hall has to the people. We cannot shirk this responsibility, our duty of self-government, by sleeping at the switches while valuable time races away. The spirit of self-government can undergo changes in its original concept of a government when citizens stand idly by and become indifferent about changes in trends of government and about enactment of new legislation.

When this is permitted there is a possibility to have the whims of men controlling and ruling us. Such a trend is a deviation from the democratic principles of government and could lead to a Frankenstein sort of thing - annihilation by a monster of our own creation; created because of indifference on the part of the citizenry.

A democracy must be ruled by its laws, the laws that the people agreed to live by. A democracy should never be ruled by men, for men are subject to have changing views and attitudes; men have personal likes and dislikes; they are subject to emotional ups and downs. Laws, however, remain the same and should be applied in the same manner in every case.

This is the spirit of democracy; we rule ourselves by the laws that we and our forefathers wrote into our statutes. These printed and recorded statutes are permanent, and are in no way subject to the whims of men. These laws can only be changed through legislation which, in theory, is the will of the people.

We, the people, must arouse our interest in our city, our state and our country. We must keep our finger on the pulse of government, to be certain that our government is being operated in the best public interest.

We must exercise our privilege to vote, to be sure that the right people are in office to take care of our property and the business of managing our public facilities. The ballot is the certain assurance of a permanent democracy, provided we, the people, exercise our right and privilege to vote.

Wake up and undertake your responsibility to your Government and to yourself and other citizens! The Government is your property, and you have a responsibility to the Government.

If you want democracy, go to the polls and express your wishes by your ballot. God helps those who help themselves. If you have any interest in yourself you must vote.

# "NEWARK BLACKS SHOWED WHAT UNITY CAN DO!"

**"BLACK COMMUNITIES ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY THROW AWAY THEIR POTENTIAL FOR POWER BY NOT REGISTERING AND VOTING THE GIBSON CANDIDACY BROUGHT OUT MORE BLACK VOTERS THAN EVER BEFORE AND, SWUNG THE ELECTION."**

WHITNEY YOUNG JR.

**PROVED THAT BLACK POLITICIANS HAVE COME OF AGE.**



## Clark County Schools Selected For New Program

The Clark County School District will participate in a \$298,744 program designed to test new methods of improving reading and mathematics skills, Nevada Sen. Howard W. Cannon announced today.

Sponsored by the Office of Economic Opportunity, the one year experiment is based on educational innovations currently being developed by private industry, the Senator said. Clark County is one of 18 selected school districts in the United States which will participate under contracts totaling \$5.6 million.

It will subcontract with the Westinghouse Learning Corp. for operation of the program employing different approaches in improving the reading and math skills of under-achieving students in grades one through three and seven through nine.

"Hopefully, the results will provide evidence that society already has at its disposal the means for up grading the basic learning skills of students who have fallen behind the rest of their classmates," Cannon said.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

The League of Women Voters of Nevada is pleased to inform you of our plans for service to voters prior to the coming elections.

Following the close of filing on July 15, we are sending pre-primary questionnaires to all candidates for the following statewide offices:

- U. S. Senate
- U. S. House of Representatives
- Justice, Nevada Supreme Court
- State Board of Education
- Regent, University of Nevada
- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- State Legislators - Assembly and Senate

We are asking each candidate for biographical information, background and qualifications for office, and their opinions on two or three lively issues. We have limited the number of words to be used in the answers. Once we have received the candidates replies, we will prepare the information for the news media in mimeographed form.

It is our intention to mail the material ready for publication no later than August 15. We will appreciate your using the material to inform your readers regarding state-wide primary candidates. The biographical material, etc. you may use as you wish, adding, deleting, etc. We are telling the candidates that if their answers on issues stay with the specified number of words, they will not be edited or cut. If you find the material is more than you can use, you may delete one entire question and answer from each candidate of a particular race.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me or the local Voters Service Chairman. The League hopes to be of service to you and your readers in this election year.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Virginia Cain; Voters Service Chairman  
3710 Clover Way, Reno, Nevada 89502

Local Voters Service Chairmen:  
LaVonne Lewis, 2641 Milo Way, Las Vegas, 89102, Ph. 870-6287;  
Marjorie Clausen, 930 Cordone Ave., Reno, 89502, Ph. 329-9928.

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A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTERESTS and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for NEGRO CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

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EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES  
Sawyer Building, 301 Miller at Commerce  
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ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Price per copy - 15¢ • One year - 7.50 • Two years - 12.50  
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada)