

Editorial

By Paul C. Smith

"ITS ABOUT TIME"

News out of Washington reveals that Congressional investigators of the House Banking Committee and the House Select Committee on Crime, have uncovered some startling facts that we have suspected for sometime. Namely that FHA appraisers and other officials have been and are still approving sub-standard housing under the 235 subsidy program. That instead of helping poor people buy homes the program has helped speculators reap huge profits.

The VOICE has for sometime been calling to our readers attention that homes are being built here on the Westside with inferior materials and workmanship and at prices that are reported to be several thousand dollars higher than better constructed houses of the same square footage in other parts of the nation and even in other parts of Clark County.

The VOICE editor was informed by a representative of one of the builders after complaining of the poor quality of construction, features and price, that Blacks should be happy with whatever houses they are able to get. That almost any house is better than the one they move out of.

This investigation will reach here to Las Vegas and when it does, you can rest assured that conditions existing here will raise the spectre of a local scandal of greater proportion than that uncovered in Washington and Philadelphia.

Your paper has been coordinating with Councilman Aaron Williams in its investigation of local conditions for sometime. We have reported our findings from time to time. Other concerned citizens have protested against the building of these ghetto type houses, without any success, as the forces we have been battling are rich and powerful.

We have sent Chairman Patman of the House Banking Committee a special request to conduct an investigation here in Las Vegas at the earliest possible time.

We will welcome this investigation here because we believe that not only are the buyers of these houses being taken but that the FHA 235 program and the poor people of this community are being victimized by the exploiters of our people. To say nothing of how the character of our neighborhoods will be changed by these houses that will soon display its poor quality and become slum dwellings.

Let us hope that this investigation started back on the East Coast will really bring us the type of relief to our complaints that we have been needing.

OPEN DOOR POLICY

Thursdays - 9 AM to 12 Noon

Your Voice Editor invites you to come in, sit down, and express yourself on any subject you feel will be of benefit to the community.

What you think the Voice can do to help make the L.V. community a better place to work and live is what we want to know.

Let's talk about your thing.

Progress Has No Ending But, It Does Have A Beginning

LAS VEGAS VOICE

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

CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. Publisher
PAUL C. SMITH Managing Editor
DOROTHY S. WEST Treasurer
BEATRICE BRYANT Office Manager
RAY FEASTER Art & Layout

DOROTHY JOHNSON Food Forum
ELBURT MILLER Sports Editor

EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES
Sawyer Building, 301 Miller at Commerce
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030 * Telephone: 649-3818
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"Is The Senator Implying That He Had A Deal?"



ED. NOTE: The following speech was made before the NLV Council by Mrs. Bernice Moten.

We have been informed that you have been stranded in making a decision as to Mr. Aaron Williams and his appointment as Mayor Pro Tem of the City of North Las Vegas. This seems a bit ridiculous, because if it is your policy that in the absence of the Mayor, City Councilmen will take turns in filling that position, then what is the problem? Mr. Williams is an elected councilman of the City of North Las Vegas with all the power pertaining thereto. So we are here tonight to sanction that power, to voice our support, and to inform you, that as citizens of North Las Vegas we are expecting nothing less than that these powers of his office be delegated to him.

We are not certain of what the cause of this indecision may be. We have been informed that one of the councilmen feels the Black citizens could care less about the matter. Hence, we have come to tell you we care, and that the self-appointed leaders of the Black Ghetto have mis-informed you. We have no leaders who have been delegated that responsibility. We reserve that right, and will inform you of our feelings if you would inquire.

It seems this problem is most insignificant in view of the many complexed problems you face.

1. The provision of wholesome recreation facilities and staff to supervise them.
2. The problems of law enforcement.
3. The problem of revenue.
4. Housing.
5. The lack of communication with the local citizens, and most of all the Black citizens in terms of what we feel about our government.

Are you not aware that according to statistics released by Daniel Yankelovich, Inc., a New York based firm specializing in Social Science research that:

- 10% of Blacks feel the overall conditions of the city have worsened in the past five years.
- 29% feel that housing improvement has worsened in the past five years.
- 19% feel that there is no hope for solving the problems of Blacks.
- 46% feel some degree of anger about life in the city.
- 39% of youngsters between the age of 16 and 25 feel that they must employ rioting and violence

in achieving their needs.

In view of these statistics I re-iterate, it is a bit asinine that men of your caliber would waste time and thought on whether a city commissioner should serve as Mayor Pro-Tem.

What White America has never fully understood but that Blacks can never forget is that white society is deeply implicated in the Ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white institutions condones it. How about confronting your personal and communal prejudices in order to break the wall of racism and, dilute the deadly poison that has split America into two societies, one Black, one White, separate, and unequal.

Make an effort to perform the task that your office demands you do.

1. Study your own historically rooted role in the vast amount of racism that exist in our policy today.

3. Recognize that government is not meant to be efficiency systems for building robots, but should be "people-oriented" enterprises in which people affected are consulted.

4. Re-examine our educational system to see if it is meeting needs of white and black in the light of vastly different and changing economic, political, and social conditions. If you don't force some radical changes in our educational processes, it is you who will carry the burden of taxation, police and fire protection, and the cost of continued urban unrest.

5. Establish more urban planning departments that really function with competent "people-oriented" whites and blacks.

6. Accept your own inadequacies as whites in dealing with these problems, only in this way can you grow into greater self-sufficiency.

The late Langston Hughes has so beautifully described what happens to a Dream Deferred. It can crystal, smell, sag, crust and sugar over, fester, dry up or explode.

Remember Councilman Aaron Williams as Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of North Las Vegas is our Dream Deferred. Watch what happens!