

RENO - SPARKS NEWS

James Farmer Guest Speaker At UNR



James Farmer and Joseph Kline, of UNLV, student from Las Vegas.



Mrs. Juliette Porter and Rev. Howard Gloyd

The Northern Chapter of the Nevada Coalition had a steak dinner and social at the Sullivan Lane home of Rev. and Mrs. Howard Gloyd, Sr. in honor of visiting Civil Rights leader James Farmer. Highlight of the evening was a "Brain-Picking Session" during which Farmer answered questions and discussed methods of advancing minority aims and conditions.

Assemblyman Woodrow Wilson was able to attend the latter part of the evening get-together, and both Wilson and Farmer stressed the need for unity of purpose and organization if Blacks are to achieve their rightful place in society today. "Dissent breeds disaster," stated Farmer. Wilson agreed, "You have to get together. Too often you are your own worst enemy fighting each other rather than fighting for progress."

Approximately thirty-five of Reno's prominent Black citizens enjoyed the opportunity to meet with Farmer and profit from his expertise.

Among those present were Mrs. Juliette Porter of the Washoe County Task Force, Luther Mack, EEO Coordinator of the Nevada State Highway Department, David Luckey of the recently reorganized Black Veterans' Association, Equal Rights Commissioner and Mrs. Jerry Holloway, Minority Groups Service Officer from Nevada Employment Security Ed Shelton, who introduced his new bride, Mae, and James Harris of the Washoe County E. O. B.

James Farmer, Civil Rights leader and founder of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) spoke to Reno townspeople and faculty and students of the University of Nevada, Reno, Monday, urging that Black people unite in spirit and cooperation to achieve equality and recognition. Stressing self-achievement and economic advancement through intelligent planning and utilization of unity and available programs, Farmer said: "A united Black population is an effective power structure. Dissent dissipates results. Form coalitions. Develop political clout by organizing the vote."

Appointed assistant secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in April of 1969, Farmer became disenchanted with the limited success possible under administrative control. He left government service "in order to continue to pressure, to be an advocate." Contrasting the current conditions with the era in which CORE was formed, Farmer said that fear of spreading Black Power has diminished white contributions to Black organizations. The spread of desegregation to the North has also lessened the enthusiasm of supporters, Farmer explained, stating "It is easier to get support to fight Cobras in Borneo than to swat flies in the kitchen."

Much of Farmer's message dealt with the encouragement and development of ethnic pride. He recommended vigilance in insisting that school curriculums include racial materials and that programs of better understanding and true representation of Black heritage not be limited to Black History Week and forgotten the rest of the year. He stressed the need for improved economic conditions and deplored the discriminatory results of spreading urbanization and pockets of ghetto living.

Sponsored by the Honors Board as one of its series of lecturers, Farmer fielded additional questions from the Black community in impromptu sessions in keeping with his "Black Think Tank" project. A gold mine of information and inspiration, James Farmer was enthusiastically received in Reno.



John West--EEO Coordinator and student Wallace Henry.



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Reno Blacks Protest Equal Rights Commission Slow Action

A dispute is in progress between members of the Reno Black community and the Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens. William Moon, Chairman of the Northeast Reno Outreach Council, and Reverend Vincent L. Thompson, former Assistant Secretary of the Nevada Commission who resigned his post in the Reno office on March 25, appeared on two successive evening news programs on KOLO-TV Reno this week to protest various conditions.

Interviewed by Tad Dunbar and Thayer Walker of KOLO-TV on Reno Channel 8, Moon stated that Tony McCormick, Executive Secretary of the Equal Rights Commission, had not followed through on a joint complaint made by Moon on behalf of the North East Outreach Council and "the black population of Northern Nevada" against the area's hotels, motels and casinos. Moon objected to the lack of action and demanded good and sufficient reasons or the resignation of Mr. McCormick, stating that he has asked for an audience with Governor O'Callaghan to discuss this further.

The following evening, the Reverend Thompson spoke on conditions leading to his resignation, the reason for which was previously announced as "poor health." Thompson stated that while he "endorses the Commission's intent," he feels that "the Reno office is poorly staffed and its problems not given enough consideration by Mr. McCormick and the Commissioners."

Contacted for his opinion on the problems, Assemblyman Woodrow Wilson revealed that he flew to Las Vegas on the afternoon flight after Friday's legislative session. He intended to contact both Executive Secretary McCormick and Reverend Jerry Furr, Chairman of the Equal Rights Commission in an attempt to iron out difficulties. Having sponsored the bill which make the Commissioner part of the Nevada Revised Statutes, Wilson feels a continuing responsibility to see that the Commission functions according to the intent of those who sponsored and lobbied for the creation of the Commission.



William Moon, Chairman of the North East Outreach Council and executive of the Diamond National Cororation in Reno.

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