

EDITORIAL

Funding Of Methadone Clinic Urgent

by: Charles I. West, M. D.

A \$50,000 investment will save our community more than \$36 million, plus the lives of 25 or more persons, and the health of more than 200 citizens per year.

The fifty grand investment will finance a methadone clinic which could eliminate the \$50 per day heroin habit of more than 2000 local addicts. This adds up to \$100,000 a day which totals out to 36-1/2 million per year which goes into the pockets of drug peddlers.

An estimated minimum of 90% of this 36-1/2 million spent in support of heroin habits in our community is derived from assorted criminal activities against the citizenry of Las Vegas. Applying this 90% plus figure we find that the crime expense to our citizens is 36 million or more annually. This is the amount of money that law abiding citizens indirectly put into the hands of criminal elements which sell the heroin to the local addicts.

In addition to this 36 million can be added the lives of 25 to 30 persons, and the health and productivity of more than 2000 persons. There is no dollar figure that can be applied to estimate the value of human lives and the salvation of so many wasted human beings. It adds up to community shame and catastrophe.

The Nevada Legislature had the vision to authorize the use of Methadone for the treatment of Heroin addicts, but they neglected the most important issue of funding the project. Our community must immediately act to fund the Methadone project so as to protect itself from the tremendous shame and expense of supporting the multimillion dollar heroin habits of 2,000-plus residents.

The cost of initiating a public treatment center would amount to only \$25 per addict which is only half the amount which each addict spends daily in support of his or her habit.

If each addict would contribute one half day's cost of supporting his habit, it would get the Methadone program off the ground.

If the business people and individuals who have been the targets of crimes committed by drug users would contribute as little as \$10 each, it would add up to enough money to get the treatment program started.

If each interested citizen of the community would donate just one dollar it would be enough to get this critically urgent community program started.

The Methadone program will save our community many millions per year, plus the lives of 25 or more humans, as well as the salvation of 2000 helpless individuals whose lives would be converted into productive community assets instead of multimillion dollar liabilities.

All interested citizens willing to spend a buck on this critical program are requested to send their donations to "Methadone Program," Care of District Health Department, 625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas. Phone number 385-1291.

The time to act is immediately urgent. The benefits will be immeasurable. Our crime rate will quickly crumble. The lives of some and the salvation of many will be the rich returns on such modest investments. Send what you can today, send a little tomorrow.

A Community Without These Services Is A Jungle Black Leadership Must Find The Courage To Speak Out



NO MORE EXCUSES PLEASE!

by Paul C. Smith

The Clark County School District Trustees, the Nevada State Board of Education Members and Administration Personnel has been brought under fire for its failure to provide school lunches to all needy children.

Action was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada seeking declaratory and injunctive relief to protect the rights of school children to receive lunches under the National School Lunch Act.

The Brief was filed in behalf of several specific children and asks that the courts declare this suit a class action and make its ruling for these specific cases and for all children similar denied school lunches.

On another front the trustees have also been charged by the groups for dragging their feet, so to speak, in that they have not come up with a plan to feed all needy children as the Federal Law requires.

After months of study the director of Food Services came up with no specific recommendation to the Board of any one plan that could be put into compliance with President Nixon's goal.

At the Board meeting Thursday the lunch issue will be brought up, groups will speak out for positive action. But if the past actions of the trustees is any indication of what good it does for the public to speak. We will hear that, they are not opposed to a hot lunch program.

They just won't cut out the double talk and get the program going and come September the children in many schools will not have hot lunches STILL.

The Trustees made sure that all the board money was earmarked of new class rooms.

They will now state that the lack of funds prevents the district from getting the lunch program in full gear.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

April 29, 1971

Dear Sirs:

In commenting on the recent peace rally in Washington D. C. Vice President Spiro Agnew advised the people of the United States to ignore the statement of the '200,000' demonstrators because they were, after all, 'less than 2 percent of our population.' The 200,000 figure is the Administrations figure, other estimates run almost twice that. Mr. Agnew would do well not to ignore this many voters and potential voters, 400,000 votes one way or another would have swayed the outcome of any of the last three presidential elections. Certainly, not all those present were of voting age, but with the advent of the 18 year old vote the vast majority will be by November of 1972.

I hope Mr. Agnew is not naive enough to believe that the only people in the United States with anti-war sentiments were the ones in Washington for that rally. They were certainly not, as the demonstrations elsewhere in the United States, especially along the West Coast, show.

In keeping the Vice Presidents plan to ignore the wishes of a minority should we not treat the Negro population of the United States as though they did not exist because they do not constitute a majority? Although this country is governed by majority rule, the major reason for its foundation was the ideal of minority rights, as the first immigrants were definitely a minority in their home countries.

The demonstrators may well have been a mere 2 or 3 percent of the American people but Vice Presidents comprise only 1/40,000,000th and even he can't be completely ignored.

Mr. Wayne Bennett Logan

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