

EDITORIAL

by Paul C. Smith

REAPPORTIONMENT A Chance And A Challenge

The reapportionment of Nevada assembly and senate followed the pattern that was expected—with some few exceptions. The members protected their own future as legislators for the most part. The package calls for reapportionment of the County Commissioners and school trustees in Clark County.

It also carved out North Las Vegas and the West Las Vegas area to have its own representation. These two conditions were written into the bill to appease those citizens of west Las Vegas who were in favor of single seats.

Whether or not the courts will approve of this plan is still another question mark. But, by and large the old saying that "Self preservation is the first law of nature," was really proven as most of our Clark County legislators voted for all seats at large, but compromised by setting West Las Vegas and North Las Vegas into single seats.

Most of the voting followed party lines. The Republicans for Single Seats, the Democrats for the combination. We now have the chance to elect more Blacks to offices. Trying to run at large has been one of the major hurdles faced by Blacks trying to run for office. Because whites are in the majority. The task of gathering enough votes from the white community was very near impossible—that is—unless the powers to be were able to get a black that they could control.

The other draw back to a Black candidate has been the getting of money to finance his campaign. While we as Blacks want to be represented. We have failed to give financial support to our brothers.

True we have not as a group been exposed to making contribution. We as a group have not been exposed to the necessity of making political contributions.

If we want to elect Blacks to office we must back them not only with our votes, but with our dollars. The community is faced with the task of coming to grips with this problem and starting a fund to this end. The time is now.

PROGRESS HAS NO ENDING, BUT IT DOES HAVE A BEGINNING

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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

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Sawyer Building, 301 Miller at Commerce
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030 * Telephone: 649-3818

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)

WHEN WILL IT BECOME A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY...?



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

May 19, 1971

Mr. Editor:

I have lived in my own little bag for many years, and never shouted out until now. I feel I should as a Black person here in our community. Las Vegas is my home, and the home of my children, and I feel it my duty to protect all those I love. I say protect, knowing there are so many things to protect a child from.

These politicians running for office, and needing our votes to get there, such as one of the candidates for commissioner seat #3, is not fooling anybody, I hope. The man is one of the worst threats to Black Folks lives, and will destroy us any way he can.

There are so many of our men and children in jail for 40 years and more, strictly on a bum rap, and more of us, will remain forever a victim to his type, if we let him get in. I don't know nothing about the other man running, but I do know about this so called crime fighter, and he is a known John Bircher, and don't care nothing about us, and he doesn't even try to hide the fact.

He is busy waving the flag, and screaming "law and order," but never mentions justice. You can rest assured of his kind of justice for the other folks. He's down on the youth, and has backed up a beating of a young school girl, I am sure nobody's forgotten. He covers up many things, and will.

He uses fear, to scare his people into voting for him. (Fear of us) He has painted us as those violent people. I am not a violent person, but agree with the youth, that it is sometimes necessary.

How well do I remember, this man calling people on welfare, bums, a Brother who was supposed to have raped a White girl, and got 40 years, without possibility for parole, while some White man killed four people, and got life, but with parole possibility, and another Brother, who assisted in a robbery and also

May 24, 1971

The Honorable Mike O'Callaghan
Governor of The State of Nevada
Executive Chamber, Capitol Building
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor O'Callaghan:

This letter is in reference to the resolution request for, "Another conference within ninety (90) days, whose primary objective will be effectively utilize available Black Manpower in private and governmental sectors of our State."

We, the members of the Black Coalition, stand ready to assist you and members of your staff in the planning of such a conference.

Sincerely,

Albert L. Dunn
Chairman of Nevada
Black Coalition for
Human Rights

cc: Attorney Robert Archie; Las Vegas VOICE

got wasted for years, while his White robbery partner shot a man in the hold-up and might as well have been let free. We must never forget these things and try to keep his type out. The Cat Adams-Pope Joy cases, can't keep happening to us, if we take a stand.

I know most of my friends and myself didn't vote last time, but we sure will this time. We will stay down, unless we don't try to do something about it together.

A Concerned Mother
Mrs. Gail Cullens
211 Wilson