

EDITORIAL

By Paul C. Smith

# Your Police And You

Almost nowhere can you find a citizen who does not believe that the role of the policeman is necessary to safeguard the public. Your police officer needs your support. That support is needed in the area of public demand, for vigorous steps to upgrade selection and Training Standards.

Very few Blacks are without some very bad experience with law enforcement officers. We receive reports weekly of citizens who have these bad experiences. It is not our aim to bring embarrassment to our local law enforcement agencies, however, there are some officers who bring discredit to Police Community Relations. Because of the conduct of some officers in dealing with Blacks, The call to Support your Police falls upon Muted ears.

It is not enough to say that not all Police Officer are bad. It is indeed the lack of upgrading of the Caliber of Officers that seems to plague most departments and here in Las Vegas & North Las Vegas, we have men who try to treat all Blacks the same. They demand respect but they don't give Blacks respect. To many try to class all Blacks as bad and treat them according to that belief. Unless special training is given to each and every officer from the top down, in Police Community Relations, the situation will get worse.

All across this Nation, police officers are being killed, they have a tough dangerous job. At the same time, however, police use of Firearms is greater and more people have been killed by police under some questionable circumstances. Coupled with this is the demeaning language of some officers while they have drawn Guns on Citizens. There appears to be no uniform Standards on police procedure in dealing with Blacks. Much of the strong distaste by the under 21 group and in the Treatment of Blacks lies within the Police Department themselves.

Many of the older Top Officers could not and would not accept that one group should be treated differently than others. Those guilty of that thinking have their heads in the sand, which prevents them from seeing and hearing the winds of change that are blowing over the nation and the whole world.

Older Blacks have been subjected to some raw treatment, the younger Blacks will not accept that same treatment. Younger people will not accept the double standards imposed by what they term the establishment. They feel that trying to work within that frame work has not been good.

But our immediate concern is Clark County. Because the unwise conduct of a law enforcement officer in dealing with Blacks with years of oppression on their backs, could develop into a Newark, Watts or Chicago situation in a state, in a town that depends upon tourists, we can least afford a major upheaval. And as it has been stated, many time before the longest journey begins with the first step. Upheaval could begin with a little incident.

We must at all costs proceed with utmost haste in building a strong respect between the COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE. Building respect and changing the bad image of Law Enforcement is everybodys business NOW.

# Minority Report

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(Editor's Note: Central State University does not necessarily agree or disagree with the opinions of Dr. Alsbrook.)

## FRANKNESS AND "TRUTH" IN ADVOCATING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION NOT ADMIRABLE

One of the most exasperating statements I have heard some of my friends make is that prejudiced people like Alabama's George Wallace are to be admired because "at least he is frank and truthful."

"He will tell you frankly and show you that he

# A SURE WAY TO "ELIMINATE THE GHETTOS"



doesn't like you," a friend said. "Then you know exactly where he stands. You don't have him saying one thing and doing another--the stuff we have seen in the 'liberal' places, mainly in the North."

Without doubt, frankness is an admirable thing and telling the truth is an act of good character and personal integrity. My friends are correct in saying we find Northern white "liberals" sometimes saying they are in favor of integration, while perpetuating inequalities such as segregated schools and racially restricted housing patterns. The mere fact that de-jure segregation exists indicated that no consistent and successful program of racial integration has been carried out generally in northern states with large black populations.

### UGLY DEFIANCE

But I fear that some blacks lauding George Wallace and his kind think they see the pure beauty of high-born truth when in fact they are looking at the bold and ugly defiance of bigots attempting to justify and perpetuate racial discrimination.

When George Wallace stood in the door of Alabama University, defying federal orders to desegregate, he was frank and true to his obnoxious position that black people should be discriminated against. But he was defying and attempting to invalidate greater truths--(1) that individual ability and not racial ancestry is the yardstick for measuring intellectual potential and (2) that publicly supported institutions by ethical reason and legal fiat must be available to all citizens equally, regardless of race.

When Wallace stood in the university defying federal integration orders, he was frankly expressing the TRUTH ABOUT HIS opinion of black people. But he also was reinforcing the prejudices of those who shared his biased views. He was stiffening the determination of those who would discriminate. He was figuratively waving the Confederate flag, playing "Dixie" and defending the racial superiority myths, the long-time traditions and segregation laws used for so long to oppress black people.

### FRANKNESS NOT ENOUGH

So I cannot agree with those friends who in effect argue that whatever a person does, the person is to be admired if he is frank and open about it.

A burglar sneaks into your home and steals; but a bandit boldly approaches you, points a gun and tells you frankly that he intends to kill you if you don't give him your money. Is the bold bandit preferable to the sneak-thief?

When the so-called white liberal does one thing but says another, he is admitting his awareness that his deeds are not compatible with his value system and his sense of fairness. He is vulnerable to guilt feelings and he experiences the discomfort of mental and emotional dissonance and disharmony. He does not deserve a halo, but change in his behavior is not beyond reasonable expectation.

But when the culprit commits his crime, boasts about it and urges others to commit the same crime, he is dedicated to his wrongs and deserves only condemnation.

## 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

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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)