

RENO · SPARKS NEWS

NAACP Focuses Attention On Equal Right Commission

A panel discussion on the powers and duties of the Nevada Commission on Equal Rights of Citizens was the agenda for the regular meeting of the Reno-Sparks Branch of the NAACP Thursday January 6. Panelists included Las Vegas attorney Thomas D. Beatty, Chairman of the Commission; Deputy Attorney General Gary Logan, the Commission's counsel; former Chief Deputy Attorney General Daniel Walsh of Carson City; and Washoe County Legal Aid Society attorney William McNeil. The discussion was moderated and arranged by Eddie Scott, Chairman of the NAACP Political Action Committee.

Considerable interest was shown in the holding of public hearings by the Commission. Dan Walsh indicated that the Commission has been lax in this area. The other panelists took a more conservative stand, feeling that the benefits gained from successful conciliation and affirmative action are preferable to the drawn out and expensive device of public hearings, which sometimes tend to jeopardize witnesses and complainants and in which the legal mechanics are sometimes not sufficient to insure success.

The actual powers of the Commission under the law were explained in detail and the community showed a responsive interest in the need for strengthening the law through legislative action. Considerable explanation of the background of the U. S. Justice Department Consent Decree was given, as well as much explanatory information on the new Housing Law, administered by the Commission.

Guest speaker Robert Archie outlined the hiring achieved through the Emergency Employment Act on a State and local basis as well as the improvements in minority placement on his own staff. Archie heads the second largest Department in the governmental structure of the State.

National Legal Authority From Chicago Visits Reno

Judge James Crossin is in Reno to participate in the dedication symposiums at the National College of the State Judiciary Building at the University of Nevada-Reno campus. The building includes offices, classrooms and an extensive law library and has been constructed at a cost of \$1.2 million under a Max C. Fleischmann Foundation grant.

"I am a judge for all people and of all problems," stated Judge Crossin. "I am a Black, but I am not a 'Black Judge' but a Judge, and I run and am elected solely on my record." Judge Crossin has served on the bench in Chicago for many years and is one of the national authorities who are participating in the dedication ceremonies.

Alert to local political structure, Judge Crossin showed considerable knowledge of current conditions in Nevada.

RENOTABLES

Ben Wilson has left his position as counselor at the Nevada State Prison to accept a position in Clark County in health and welfare. Originally from Illinois, Ben has background training and experience in medical technology as well as public relations and civil rights activities.

Donny Brown who reports Prison News for the Voice and is a case worker for the Reno Race Relations Center, Inc. is no longer Donny Brown. She is now Mrs. James Johnson. Jim assembles and services mobile homes for a local firm.

Working for the State Personnel department is Odie Fields. Odie is a recent graduate of the University of Nevada-Reno campus and active in many community activities.

Arthur G. Elliott of the Office of Contracts Compliance in Defense spent several days in Reno this week investigating minority hiring in contractual areas. Mr. Elliott is assigned to the San Francisco regional office and operates from their Burlingame office.

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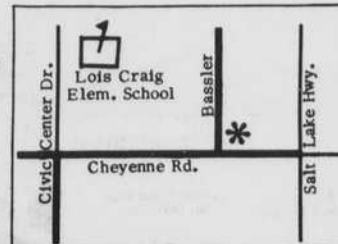
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