

EDITORIAL

by Paul C. Smith

Political Convention To Be Or Not To Be?

The present fight going on for convention delegates is one of the best examples of the mess encountered in our political system.

Never has the need for change been so vividly demonstrated as now. The rules governing the selection of each party's choice as a Presidential candidate has never been expressive of the wishes of the people.

The Presidential candidate has always chosen who he wished as a Vice-President. The man who could possibly take over as President is not a man selected by the people. The Vice-President is only a heart beat away from being President.

The people must have a voice in who will be selected to run for our country's highest office.

The time for a direct national presidential primary is now. No longer can the people allow a group to select who shall be the presidential candidate. The power bloc's that have control of this country will put up a fight to retain their power, with all of its advantages and benefits.

We must fight to break those political bonds that have robbed us of our freedom of choice. No President regardless of how many votes he receives is the choice of all of the people, only those who vote for him.

Unless we the people are able to better express our choices, the freedom we have been so proud of will erode away and we will find ourselves ruled by a dictatorship. Under dictators the people have NO VOICE or rights.

As events now are occurring, we must act to prevent losing those few rights we have left. Thus a direct National Presidential Primary is our only hope.

The West Las Vegas Dilemma

Voters in the so-called West Las Vegas area will be confronted with such a rash of candidates for each office that a clear cut choice will be almost impossible.

It will also be impossible to tell who is running just to be running, who is in just to split up the votes, or who is capable of serving the needs of the community.

One thing is for sure - some of the candidates who have filed will find themselves coming up on the short end of the vote count.

Being Black will not help, only brains, or somebody from the power bloc will hand pick whoever they believe will follow orders.

We must wait until after the 19th before we find out just how much of a dilemma we will have to face.

SUMMER TIME NEED NOT BE LITTER TIME...



EDITOR'S MAILBOX

Mr. James Anderson
Labor Relations Director
N.A.A.C.P.
1040 West Owens Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Mr. Anderson:

On March 31, 1972, I was terminated from Channel 3 - KORK-TV. I was a reporter for that station's news department for over two years. After trying to serve to the best of my ability, my employer and the community, you can imagine the shock I experienced when the News Director, Fred Lewis, told me I was terminated. Frankly speaking Mr. Anderson, I do not believe my firing was free of racial bigotry.

Perhaps you will recall our conversation some weeks prior to my dismissal - the first two weeks in February. I told you then of my belief the KORK's news department was not treating me with the same degree of fairness as it treated its white reporters. I might add that this same opinion was discussed with the NAACP's Executive Director, Jess Scott. Some of my reasons as I stated them before were: (1) lack of visual exposure given me as compared with the white reporters; and (2) lack of important stories assigned to me. There are many other subtle differences that I experienced while working with the news staff which are too numerous to list here.

You may recall that I expressed hope that things could be worked out. In retrospect, I don't know why I was so optimistic, considering the News Director didn't see fit to discuss with me in private any complaints he may have had about me and/or my job.

What I desire of your organization, is an impartial investigation into the working conditions of KORK-TV and its Black employees. Let us at least try and protect the few Blacks that are in the media against unfair and discriminatory practices.

Very briefly, let me give you a few of the reasons given me by Fred Lewis as to why I was being dismissed from the news staff:

- 1. The News Director stated that "I am tired of the flack I am getting from the

Black community."

- 2. He said there were complaints about my not being on the air enough and others questioning my fitness to be exposed at all.

As I stated before, I would like for the NAACP to take a look behind the scenes at our various news media and ask where are our Blacks, where can they expect to go in the company, and are they treated in a fair and impartial manner by superiors?

Sincerely yours,
Roosevelt Toston

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Mr. Paul Smith
Managing Editor, The Las Vegas Voice
900 W. Bonanza Road
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Mr. Smith:

Over the last three months I have received a barrage of questions from curious friends and acquaintances, wanting to know why I am not on Channel-3's News anymore. Naturally it's ego-inspiring to know that my absence from the station has not gone un-noticed, but frankly, I am beginning to find the questions tiring, and embarrassing. I do hope a copy of the following letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will allay any further questions.

I do want to thank publicly, all those persons who have expressed their deep regret over my termination, but what I hope for most out of all this, is action to insure that there is minority representation at every radio and tv station in Clark County. We do have the right to such representation, and one letter to the Federal Communication Commission, in Washington, D. C. will bare me out.

Thanks Mr. Smith, for a chance to communicate with your many Las Vegas Voice readers.

Yours very truly,
Roosevelt Toston

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