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# LAS VEGAS Voice

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## National Welfare Rights Conference

Nine members of Clark County Welfare Rights attended the National Welfare Rights Conference, "People Before Politics" in Miami Beach, Fla., at the Coronet Hotel. Included in the Clark County delegation were: Mrs. Ruby Duncan, Nevada State Delegate to the National WRO; Mrs. Essie Henderson, Mrs. Emma Stampley, Mrs. Rosa Seals, Mrs. Mary Wesley, Mrs. Barbara McRae, Mrs. Dorothy Gene Poole, Miss Sandra Phillips, and Bob Jasper.

A host of Welfare Rights Members from as far as Puerto Rico, Canada, and Hawaii, as well as representatives from at least every state attended this five day conference.

Among the activities were included rally's where one of the guest speakers was Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., Rev. Abernathy, Dr. George Wiley, Sen. Fred Harris from Oklahoma, and members from SCLC, NWRO, and people living in Resurrection City.

Some of the workshops included were on the Brooke Amendment, Housing, child care, leadership development, Legal Issues, Political Process, Welfare Reform, Repression and Regulations. The Nutrition and Food Program workshop was conducted by Bob Jasper and Barbara McRae who is Program Secretary for C. C. W. R. O.

Nevada delegates and alternates to the N.W. R.O. Conference attended the Democratic Convention and presented the Poor Peoples Platform with numerous resolutions. All the information and issues that were presented will be discussed at a meeting to be set for a later date at the W. R. O. office at 900 W. Bonanza Road.

## New Computer Service

CARSON CITY--Worried questions like "What happened to my unemployment check this week?" now get answered in a flash through a new service of the Nevada Employment Security Department.

It's a computer-human being operation which affords the personal touch and at the same time pops out quick answers, often in a matter of seconds.

Department Director Robert Archie said the service is free of charge to persons who relay their questions to the agency's local offices throughout Nevada.

Questions about unemployment insurance then come by telephone to the department's "answer girl." 23-year-old Marie O'Neill of Carson City. All she needs is the name and social security number of the caller to expertly punch the computer keyboard and in a matter of seconds the caller's employment record flashes on the screen.

## JIMMY GAY NOT INTERESTED IN POLITICS



In an exclusive interview with the Voice, in response to the question concerning the statement he made in October 1971, "that if reapportionment became a reality he would be a candidate for an elective office" Jimmy answered, "He felt that for the first year races would be nothing more than popularity contests."

Gay also said, "That while he felt he could gather enough support to win the race, he did not want to be a party to dividing the community into factions."

"That for the first election since reapportionment came into effect, the Black community should get together for once, if never again, to select and support individuals that could serve the community best - at least during this first election for several reasons."

"1- To show harmony within the Black Community.

2- For economical reasons.

3- To make sure that a Black would be elected. And to prevent the white community from dividing Black voters into so many factions that the white community could back and elect a white candidate."

Jimmy concluded the interview by saying that he plans to remain the same Jimmy Gay he has always been during his 25 years in Las Vegas. That he will still sit in the house beside the road and be a friend to his fellowman.

Forward Look Apartments was the scene of a mass eviction Tuesday afternoon. Two constables backed by three cars from the Las Vegas Police Department carried out the lock-out of approximately a dozen tenants.

Mrs. Ruby Duncan, president of the Clark County Welfare Rights Organization and Erma O'Neal, of the Poor People Pulling Together flanked by supporters and attorneys from Legal Aid protested the evictions as being improper and immoral because many of those locked out had from two to five children.

According to statements made by several tenants, the offer to pay their rent was refused. They also stated that the landlord or their agent demanded a sum of money not included in the formal eviction notice.

Some of the tenants also protested the way the notices were handled, stating that the Constable handed the notices to minor children.

Mahlon Brown III, Legal Aid Attorney, brought Justice of the Peace Robert Legakes for an inspection of the sub-standard condition of the units. Judge Legakes had signed the order for the summary evictions. After seeing and hearing complaints, the Judge agreed to give a stay order on the evictions until Friday, in order for Legal Aid to contact the FHA Office in Reno.

Ruby Duncan, president of the CCWRO issued the following statement:

The Clark County Welfare Rights Organization deplores the mass evictions of poverty stricken families from the U. S. Government owned "Forward Look" Apartments, and requested that a rent comparability study be made (provided comparable housing can be located in Las Vegas.) And the rents for Forward Look Apartments be adjusted accordingly.

Most notable is the fact that many of the tenants are welfare recipients and the greater portion of their welfare food budget is used to pay exorbitant rent for sub-standard housing.

During the protest made by tenants and their supporters the Deputy Constable threatened to draw his revolver and put everyone out of the office. Cool heads prevented a major brush between law enforcement and members of the community gathered. Some members of the community lodged a protest with the Las Vegas Police Department Officers for being present.

Judge Legakes did sign a stay order extending the summary evictions until Friday, allowing the locked out tenants to return to their apartments.

According to statements made by several tenants - there is a legal question of whether the applications and affidavits filed in these actions were true and properly served. Hardy-Matthews & Hodges, local property managers for the Department of Urban Development, filed the actions.

**Register to Vote**