

EDITORIALS

By Paul C. Smith

RE-APPORTIONMENT CONSPIRACY

The huge influence of present commissioners on the delaying of the re-apportionment of the City into single seat districts is evident, and appears to be a part of a conspiracy to keep Blacks from having true representation on City affairs.

The two years that have passed since re-apportionment, was more than enough time to set up districts or wards. There is more to this stall than 3 commissioners living in the same district.

The idea of having voters decide if we are to accept the Supreme Courts ruling on the one man one vote concept is a DIABOLICAL plot aimed at preventing Blacks from electing some one to represent them on the Board of City Commissioners.

Within the last twenty years several responsible Blacks have run for the office unsuccessfully. The votes of Blacks were diluted by the white majority; thereby taking away Black self-determination for representation.

We must unite and put forth every effort (including some of our cash) to halt this disfranchisement of our rights. The powers that be would like to keep us from having a brother in on the know of what happens behind the doors of those closed meetings.

They are afraid he might let everybody know WHAT IT IS. Government of the people, for the people and by the people has not been for Black people. Now we say cut us in or cut it out. We demand a voice in our government too. Too long have we been the victims of taxation without representation.

CAPITOL PUNISHMENT?

BY ERNI MARSHALL

A Bill is to be introduced during this session of the Legislature in Carson City, to reinstate Capitol punishment for certain crimes committed within the boundaries of the State of Nevada. In my opinion, the death penalty has not proven a deterrent to major crimes committed, almost daily, by men and women in this country. In fact, records of prior executions will reveal that in most cases, individuals put to death by officials in this, and other States, have been those without funds to hire the best legal defense. Then again, some have been executed on circumstantial evidence...I cite the case of BRUNOHAUPTMAN, a German convicted of the kidnapping and murder of the LINDBERGH baby some thirty odd years ago. As I remember the events of the trial, HAUPTMAN was found guilty and executed because finger prints, allegedly his, were found on a ladder supposedly used in the abduction and subsequent murder of the LINDBERGH infant. Following this incident, a law was enacted making kidnapping a major offense, thus utilizing the electric chair and gas chambers as a means of evening the score, or an "eye for an eye" theory. Just how many innocent men and women, put to death in this manner is not known to this reporter, however, I feel certain that a large percentage of those condemned to die, breathed their last breath, knowing full well, they were innocent, yet forced to pay the final penalty by a society composed of good and evil, but with a thought that all wrongs must be righted, even if it means taking the lives of poor innocent victims, and I speak only of those poor souls, found guilty of major crimes, because they lacked the necessary funds, enabling them to procure attorneys, who often refuse to take a case unless its profitable. This is not meant to infer that I condone rape, murder and other violent crimes against nature . . . But, how many rich offenders have you read about that were forced to suffer the agonies of "legal murder?" . . . Compare this with the number of poverty-stricken persons buried in the POTTERS FIELDS of America, as result of capital punishment. Personally, I feel that no one has a right to condemn another

COMMUNITY CONTROL . . . BY WHOM ?



"DUTY IS CARRYING ON PROMPTLY AND FAITHFULLY THE AFFAIRS NOW BEFORE YOU-IT IS TO FULFILL THE CLAIMS OF TO-DAY."

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person to death, whether it's done in the name of justice, or wanton murder. There are already too many loopholes in our present laws, permitting the guilty to go free through legal technicalities, and at the same time, condemning others to total confinement.

DESERTER AMNESTY

BY ERNI MARSHALL

Senator EDWARD KOCTT a Democrat from Manhattan, in an interview, recorded by CBS with three Americans now living in Toronto, Canada. All three, regarded by this country as draft evaders and/or deserters, found it difficult to convince the two caucasians and one negro, who on nation wide TV, stated that he wanted to return to Mississippi, that he, if his Bis Bill was passed, through legislation, would grant Americans who sought refuge in Canada and other foreign countries, rather than serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, during this, the longest conflict involving the U.S.A. a conditional amnesty, providing they and others wanting to return to this country, would for two years serve in a constructive civilian service, such as the Peace Corps . . . The lone Black on the panel stated that he as a Negro would not be given the same opportunity as his fellow comrades to fulfill the two year obligation, if indeed this conditional amnesty was granted, because of this countries racial policies. A Caucasian Lt., one of the three men being interviewed in regard to the Senators proposed Bill, agreed that it was unlikely that the American Negro would be granted the same privilege, if he returned under the same provisions. It was pointed out by Mr. KOCTT that he understood the former soldiers concern, and if such a measure was passed by American lawmakers, that he would through his title and office, make certain that no differences would incur because of race. President NIXON stated also on TV, following this interview, that amnesty would not be granted to American draft evaders and deserters, because of the

feelings of relatives of servicemen who gave their lives in defense of this country's obligations. It is easy for me to understand the reluctance of Americans, both Black and White, to place their lives in jeopardy because of a non-declared war in a country, most had never heard of prior to the conflict in South East Asia . . . I still bear a wound suffered in a Congress-declared war in 1941. I still remember how some civilians treated soldiers as they prepared to defend this nation, after the attack on Pearl Harbor . . . There were signs posted in dingy joints throughout the then 48 States . . . Some among other scribbings, were the words: "NO DOGS AND SOLDIERS ALLOWED," . . . How easy it is for some to forget the sacrifices made by American servicemen at a time when this nation appeared in jeopardy . . . So my sympathies are with the countless dead, some bearing no headstones, also a feeling of compassion for the many Americans who prefer to remain on foreign soil, rather than face the unknown consequences that possibly await them if and when they return to a nation that in all probability will label them as cowards, or list them among the damned . . . I cannot say that these men, some in their early teens have sinned against God and country . . . I can only quote from the oldest book in history . . . "HE WHO HAS NOT SINNED, CAST THE FIRST STONE."

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