

EDITORIAL By PAUL C. SMITH

BLACK CONCERNS

STRIP HOTELS

WORRIED - NOW

The Consent Decree, as ordered by the Federal District Court, mandated that the major hotels on the Strip must hire 12-1/2% Black employees in 23 categories in a three year period beginning June 30, 1971 and ending June 30, 1974.

The Decree specifically states that the Nevada Hotel and Resort Association must meet monthly along with representatives of the affected Unions, i.e. the Teamsters Local, Culinary Local, Bartenders Local and the Stagehands Local, CEP, NAACP, State Employment Security and the Nevada Commission on Equal Right of Citizens to discuss whatever problems might be encountered and the possible solutions hereto in reaching the above-mentioned percentage goals.

These meetings have been held on a regular basis, however, lacking in structure, purpose, and objectivity. Those persons who are responsible for conducting and directing these meetings seem to lack interest in them and do not realize that they are under a Federal Court Order to perform a specified mandate. Since the inception of the Decree, the people who have attended these meetings were lower echelon representatives from the hotels and the unions who apparently had no power to do anything other than make reports to their bosses.

No hotel president or vice-president or union president or secretary/treasurer are ever present on a regular basis.

William Campbell, the Executive Director of the Resort Association, does attend these meetings on an irregular basis. Oftentimes, he sends his secretary to conduct the meetings for the Association.

Officials attending these meetings on a not too regular basis are Joe Buckley of the Summa Corporation and John Thomas of Teamsters Local.

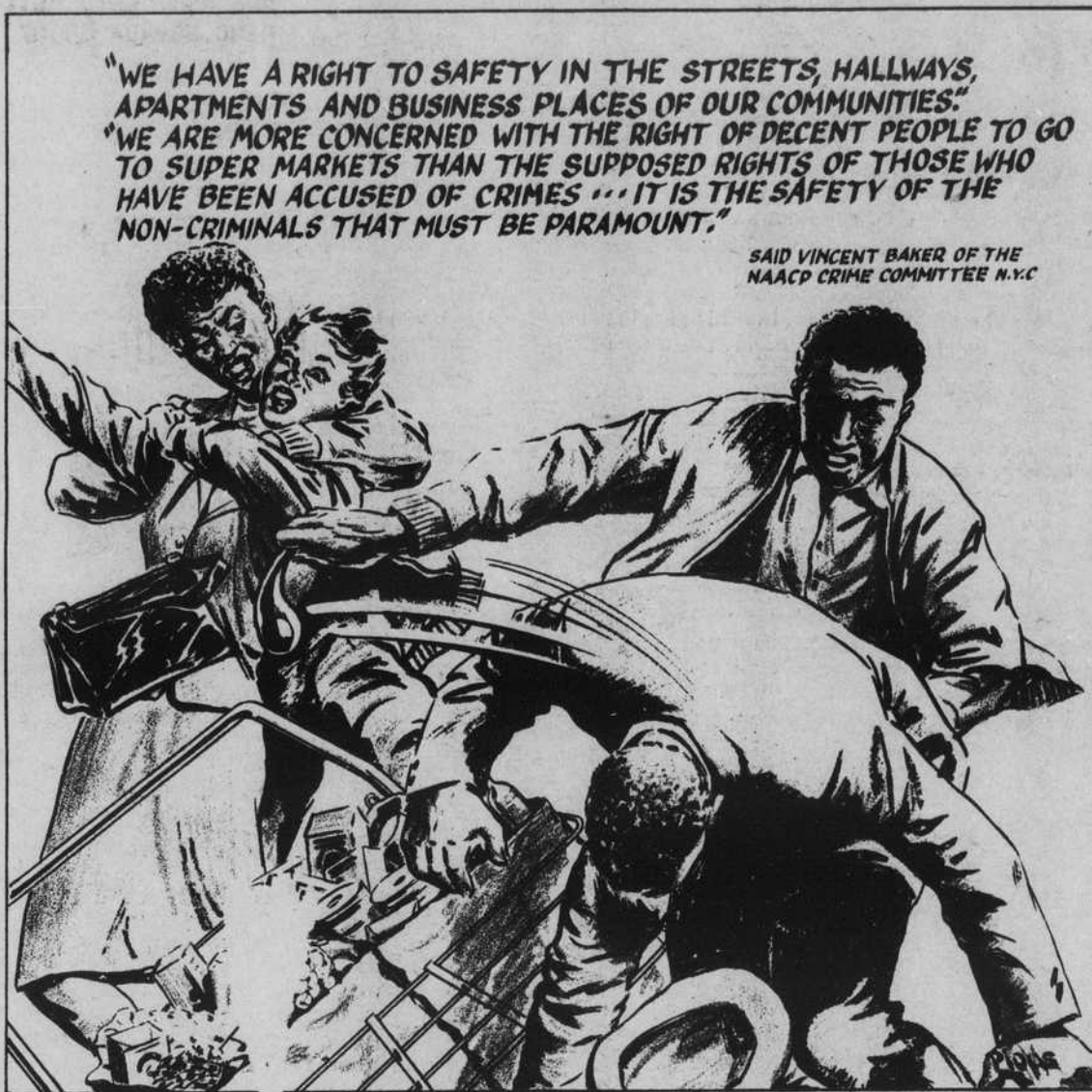
These monthly meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in one of the Strip hotels. The February Meeting was held in the Frontier Hotel. In attendance was Dennis Petrosky of the Hotel Accounts Association, a first-timer, giving vent to his misunderstanding about the Decree and its aims. Also in attendance was a man from Beverly Hills, California named Stu Herman, full of hot air as usual, who was last seen at the table representing the interest of black people. This time, two years later, he came back in a cloak of the "Great White Father" to save us, representing the Resort Association, pontificating about right and wrong. Inasmuch as he helped to write the Decree, why hasn't he been back to help enforce it.

The final results of this Decree will reflect the intent of those who were charged with and have the responsibility of making it a reality.

In June 1974, when the Compliance review is made and it is discovered that the mandate has not been kept, finger pointing and excuses will do nothing to change those dashed hopes and expectations of gainful, meaningful employment of blacks on the Strip that they had when the Decree was announced.

Those who advocate the use of the "System" as a means of acquiring a piece of the action through work and then block the doorway to the entrance of the system have no right to complain about those unfortunate blacks who are forced to resort to welfare.

-HOW DOES THIS GRAB YOU? - WE BELIEVE IN LAW AND ORDER, DO YOU?



"WE HAVE A RIGHT TO SAFETY IN THE STREETS, HALLWAYS, APARTMENTS AND BUSINESS PLACES OF OUR COMMUNITIES." "WE ARE MORE CONCERNED WITH THE RIGHT OF DECENT PEOPLE TO GO TO SUPER MARKETS THAN THE SUPPOSED RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF CRIMES ... IT IS THE SAFETY OF THE NON-CRIMINALS THAT MUST BE PARAMOUNT."

SAID VINCENT BAKER OF THE NAACP CRIME COMMITTEE N.Y.C

CONGRESSIONAL RESTRUCTURING COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

By PAUL H. WYCHE, JR. Director, National Black News Service (copyrighted)

WASHINGTON -- (NBNS) -- A proposed realignment of the committee structure of the U.S. House of Representatives could have very significant impact on the legislative concerns of Black Americans.

On the whole, the impact of the internal reorganization proposed in a draft report of the House Select Committee on Committees should be beneficial.

This might be more by chance than intent, since not a single member of the 10-man committee represents a minority group. There are no blacks on the committee, although there are 16 in the House. There are also no women, who also number 16, including four House members who are both black and women.

Nevertheless, anything which enhances the efficiency and responsibility of the House of Representatives, which this \$1.5 million reorganization study is designed to do, will improve the ability of the Congress to deal with pressing social ills that bear heaviest on the poor and the dispossessed.

Beyond this, the proposed realignment of the committee structure and legislative jurisdictions could result in some significant changes that have special relevance for blacks and other minorities.

The draft report recommends that responsibility for the federal food stamp program be transferred from the Agriculture Committee to the Committee on Ways and Means. This is a consignment to certain death since Ways and Means has been trying for years to substitute cash welfare payments for the food-stamp supplement for low income families.

Blacks, on the other hand, should benefit from the proposed concentration of health program responsibility in a new Commerce and Health Committee (the present Interstate and

Foreign Commerce Committee shorn of its energy and environmental responsibilities and bolstered in the health field by the transfer from Ways and Means of Medicare, Medicaid and maternal and child care).

Energy and Environment will be the new name of the present Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, a committee which has not been of great interest to Black Americans in the past, although freshman Congresswoman Yvonne Burke (D-Calif.) was assigned to it this year.

Now soaring fuel oil and gasoline prices will make this committee far more important to the poor, as will its new environmental concerns for urban air pollution, solid waste disposal and the like.

Several other committees will also take on new meaning for blacks, who are concentrated in our decaying urban centers, are most dependent upon public mass transportation, and are very vulnerable to import competition and other economic disruptions which hit first and heaviest the low-skilled worker with the least seniority.

One is the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which traditionally has had little influence on black concerns or on the nation's foreign policy. The draft report proposes the transfer of international trade and tariff policy to Foreign Affairs, leaving the now all-powerful Ways and Means Committee only a review function over the tax aspects of the import-export business.

This could enhance the influence of black congressmen on import quotas sought by labor unions, as well as on the foreign markets desired by businessmen and by the workers they employ. Foreign Affairs is the only House committee in which blacks hold two subcommittee chairmanships: Charles C. Diggs, Jr. (D-Mich.) for African Affairs and Robert N.C. Nix (D-Pa.) for Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Also likely to be seen in a new light by Black Americans is the highway-oriented Public Works Committee, which is slated to take over responsibility for mass transit legislation.

It remains to be seen, however, whether a re-named Public Works and Transportation committee can be more effective in expanding urban mass transit facilities as part of an overall national transportation system than the House (See Impact, page 11)

a voteless people is a hopeless people.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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- CHARLES I. WEST, M.D. Publisher
PAUL C. SMITH Managing Editor
DOROTHY S. WEST Treasurer
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EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES 900 West Bonanza Road, Lobby Suite (Moulin Rouge Hotel) Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 Telephone 648-2615

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