



By Paul C. Smith

SOUTHERN JUSTICE N.L.V. STYLE

SonjLee Whitmore, found that justice is blind down in the N.L.V. Municipal Court. He found out what most blacks believe—That, if you go to court the testimony of a black man is no match for white law enforcement officers, even if your testimony is supported by other whites.

We witnessed last Thursday a complete breakdown of justice when an out-of-town J.P. (from up Moapa way) was sitting as alternate judge in a case where a black man was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest because of racial motivation.

The security officers of Jerry's Nugget asked N.L.V. police to check out a white female who in the company of her husband and a white couple were seated in a booth scanning a menu prior to ordering dinner.

The J.N. Security Officer testified that he was suspicious of the white female but could state no reason.

The judge appeared to ignore the defense counselor's plea that Whitmore could not be resisting arrest because they had no reason to come to the table in the first place.

A vague reference was made that Mrs. Whitmore had been a topic of discussion with the owners of Jerry's Nugget, but none of the owners appeared to back up the statement nor did any patrons whose peace Whitmore was accused of disturbing present themselves.

The City did not present a case that should have gotten Whitmore a guilty sentence but he did. It further appeared that the Judge let the City Attorney advise her of what to say. Maybe it was because she is only a Justice of Peace and not an Attorney versed in the law.

The City of North Las Vegas, their City Attorney's office and the Municipal Court system denied Mr. Whitmore the full protection of his civil rights.

We can't say that the decision was racially motivated. We just say that from the side we see it, it appears to be so.

The system has yet to prove that a black man can expect justice or hope that he can speak up for his God and Constitutional rights without being charged with disorderly conduct—which could mean the questioning of a policeman's right to harass citizens while conducting themselves in a lawful manner.

SCHOOL BOND ELECTION

Persons wishing to vote in the special school bond election May 21 have until April 20 to register if they are not already on the rolls of eligible voters.

Each school has at least one deputy registrar of voters to make registration as convenient as possible, according to school superintendent Kenny Guinn. In addition, anyone may register at the Clark County Election Office adjacent to the Federal Building on Las Vegas Boulevard, South.

If approved on May 21, the \$39.4 million bond issue will construct one new high school, two new junior highs, five new elementary schools, and 58 new classrooms as additions to existing schools. Money would last through September, 1978, when school officials anticipate a public school enrollment of 86,750 students as opposed to 77,400 this school year.



CRIME IN OUR CITY

Metro police arrested 3 juveniles and charged them with possession of stolen property. The youths were incarcerated in the Clark County Juvenile Home.

One of the youths was found to be an escapee from the Spring Mountain Youth Camp.

Jackie and Melvin Blanton, 1801 No. "J" were booked into the Clark County Jail, charged with possession of firearms. A Luger 44 Magnum, a 38 Colt Detective Special and a Smith-Wesson 357 Magnum were impounded.

Jackie was charged with forgery as a person of his description was on the hot sheet as being in possession of stolen credit cards.

Herman Hill, 172 Highland, along with 2 white male adults were charged with disorderly conduct and fighting. Metro police responding to a call observed a male black adult fighting with a white male adult. Officers advised the subjects to stop several times. When it became apparent that they would start fighting again after the officers left, all three subjects were advised that they were being placed under arrest.

A Los Angeles woman, Gwendolyn King was charged with permitting a minor to be in the gambling portion of a casino. Security officers of the Landmark Hotel had advised King that minors were not permitted in the area. When she refused L.V.M.P.D. was called. Officers upon arriving observed the minor child standing next to the female adult. She again refused to leave. At this point the officers advised Ms. King that she was being placed under arrest. Her minor son John was transported to Child Haven and she was booked into the county Jail.

Moses Duke, 2312 Tam Drive was booked into the County Jail—charged with swindling. According to police reports Moses had been under observation for some time. The Pit boss of the Riviera Hotel noticed that when a subject identified as John David played on Moses table he would win heavily and that he would follow Moses to the next table when he returned from his break. If David did not leave the table when Moses went on his break, he would reduce his bets to the \$2.00 minimum. Dukes is reported to have admitted the cheat-

ing operation saying David had propositioned him about a week earlier. David was also booked and charged with swindling the Riviera.

James Broaden, 1000 Maenpah had his home burglarized of more than \$800 worth of jewelry and 2 T.V.s.

Claudet Jamerson, 1310 Morgan and Linda Byrd, Alamo Motel, were arrested and charged with grand larceny (trick roll). Following a complaint filed by a visiting Laguna Beach man who admitted that he had gone to the Mater Mea Hotel to meet the girls because they were afraid to go up to his room on the MGM. As both girls were leaving the victim checked his shoes and found the \$500 he had stashed was missing. He tried to stop the girls but they fled on foot north from the motel.

Three residences on West Monroe were burglarized of more than \$3,100 in cash, jewelry, clothing, T.V.s and other Miscellaneous items.

Glenn Archie, 1808 Bluff N.L.V. was arrested by L.V.M.P.D. and charged with burglary after he was observed by officers carrying a plastic pail containing nickels. He was released after stating that he had won the money from slot machines at Bruces Liquor Store. A check with the store revealed that someone had pried open the cabinet underneath the two slot machines and removed the bucket used to collect coins. The officers proceeded southbound on 'H' and observed the suspect drop the bucket and run. He was caught, returned to Bruces where the bucket was identified as belonging to the store.

Several years ago, Rev. Prentis Walker, pastor of Greater Faith Baptist Church in North Las Vegas, was sure he had raised enough money for a swimming pool for the black community of North Las Vegas. He appeared before the City Council Monday night and asked what happened to the funds.

After making a trip to Washington and to the Convention Authority he was promised funds for the pool which was to be located in Windsor Park. City Manager Clay Lynch told the council Windsor Park was built according to plans approved by Washington and that the funds were given to the city for capital improvements.

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