

CAPSULE COMMENTS

By Paul C. Smith

We are conducting investigation into several facts of Las Vegas life.

Watch for our report on Blacks and the job market-blacks as a political force--and our report--Are slot machines really the one-armed bandits that many people call them?

We are checking out reports that the City of NLV and the Municipal Court have been illegally levying fines for persons parking on Shopping Center parking lots for several years.

The ruling by the Attorney Generals office that some government employees now-running for political offices will have to quit their jobs. This could upset many a political hopefuls apprecart.

PROTESTS CARRY BIG STICK

The American protest group that carries a big stick--and is willing to use it in an organization fashion--is more likely to achieve its goals than the group which completely eschews violence, according to a study by a University of Michigan sociologist.

William A. Gamson, chairman of the Univ. of Michigan's sociology department, says his study of 53 political pressure groups active from 1800 to 1945 showed that in case of violence, it appears better to give than to receive if you want to succeed in American politics. The activist groups that fought back or, in some cases, initiated violence, had a higher than average success rate....The nonviolent recipients of attack, however, lost out completely."

Contrary to the wisdom accepted by the "Establishment," Gamson writes in the July issue of Psychology Today magazine, "violence grows from an impatience born of confidence and a sense of rising power. It occurs when the challenging group senses that the surrounding community will condone it, when hostility toward the victim renders it a relatively safe strategy. In this sense, violence is as much a symptom of success as a cause."

Among the groups studied by Gamson, none of those which were "revolutionary" succeeded in obtaining their goals. Those that were successful --gauged by the author as those that either won acceptance from those in power as the legitimate representatives of special interest group, or which obtained specific advantages for those groups represented, or a combination of the two --did not challenge the Establishment, but rather wanted to share in its power.

Such successful organizations "never used (violence) as a primary tactic," he wrote. "Typically, the primary means of influence were strikes, bargaining and propaganda. Violence... is the spice of protest, not the meat and potatoes.

But, he said "the successful group in American politics is not the polite petitioner who carefully observes all the rules. It is the rambunctious fighter, one with limited goals, that can elbow its way into the arena."

Willingness to fight is nothing, however, without the ability to fight successfully. The formula for a successful protest group, Gamson wrote, is bureaucratic organization and centralization of authority.

A "bureaucratic" group, he says, is one which has a constitution or charter outlining its goals and rules for operation; a formal list of members; and at least three internal divisions, such as executives, chapter heads and rank-and-file.

A group is "centralized" if power is either in single leader or a central committee, leaving local chapters with little autonomy.

"Bureaucracy and centralization each contribute something to success, but it is the combination that really does the trick," he wrote in Psychology Today.

"Groups that were both bureaucratic and centralized had the best of chance of achieving their goals; 75% of them were successful."

Commenting on contemporary protest groups, he observed: "Modern protest groups that attempt to disturb authority among all their members and avoid hierarchy should take a heed. If they are going to be involved with struggles with

"WHERE THERE IS INJUSTICE, WE SHOULD CORRECT IT"

FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE EARL WARREN 1891-1974



MAY 17, 1954 - HISTORIC DECISION TO END SEGREGATION. THERE IS A "LACK OF MORAL COMMITMENT" TO CIVIL RIGHTS AMONG THE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS AS WELL AS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, SAYS FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION.

HE FURTHER STATED "IN THE MOST PROFOUND SENSE, HERE IS AN ISSUE THAT IS REALLY A MATTER OF LAW AND ORDER."



HE BROUGHT ABOUT THE SECOND EMANCIPATION FOR BLACK PEOPLE" ROY WILKINS

the authorities, they will have a difficult time avoiding factions in their ranks and reaching their goals."

In short, modern groups which seek to gain entry into the American power structure must meet that structure on its own terms--organization, centralized authority and a willingness to engage in a fight if necessary.

"Whatever difference the power may have among themselves, they are on the same team in the struggle between insiders and outsiders," the author wrote. "Challengers who try to play by the rules that members observe among themselves should realize two things. Insiders won't apply their rules to outsiders; and outsiders, being poor in resources, have little to offer the powerful in an alliance.

Challengers do better when they realize that they are in a political combat situation. They don't need to look for a fight, but they had better be ready to participate in one if the occasion arises."

"Perhaps it is disconcerting to discover that the meek do not inherit the earth--or at least that part of it presided over by the American political system," Gamson concluded. "But those rambunctious groups that fight their way into the political arena escape misfortune because they are prepared to withstand counterattack, and to make it costly to those who would keep them out."

Magazine Week

By Ross Sherwood

WASHINGTON, D.C.---Historians these days are wondering how to describe the Nixon Administration for prosperity. Looking back at the history books provides few clues. Abe Lincoln lived by the motto, "In God We Trust." John Kennedy ran up a flag declaring, "Ask what you can do for your country."

But Richard Nixon has only hung out a shingle that says: THIS GOVERNMENT FOR SALE, and underneath that, "Richard Nixon King." These are acts for which I find no parallel. Until a night watchman at Democratic headquarters caught the Nixon burglars in action there apparently was no stopping Mr. Nixon from turning his office into a kingship. Like any successful royal court, the Nixon courtiers were selling favors and influence just as in the days of King George.

It was not just the vice president of the United States taking bribemoney in the Whit House while denouncing students who refused to quit school and do his killing for him in southeast Asia. It was more corrupt even than that. In fact, THIS GOVERNMENT FOR SALE, as a working slogan, goes on to this very day! Just this week, on the same day Nixon fired OEO director Alvin J. Arnett, the Washington Post's Bob Kutner was reporting how Nixon's Labor Department delayed implementing worker health and safety laws in order to give the big corporations time to kick into his 1972 re-election campaign.

It's about what you would expect from an Administration that robs from the poor to give to the rich. We have, in essence, the first Kingship in this country since George Washington kicked out King George. The Nixon kingship is concerned with preserving royalty and power, and in making money. Just as the kings of England enfranchised their buccaneers to plunder on the high seas or steal from India and Africa, the Noxon Administration has lured some of the better-known Dumb-Dumbs of American industry to save a few million bucks by cheating on the worker safety laws.

This means that if a worker burns out his lungs in a textile mill in North Carolina that he can't (See Magazine page 3)

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