

## CAPSULE COMMENTS

By Paul C. Smith

We hear rumors around town that the lady who calls herself the mother of Nevada's Fair Housing law - is hawking the town in support of one of the two men who voted against the Fair Housing Law when he was a law maker - As it has been said before "Politics make strange bed fellows".

From the number of candidates appearing on the ballot this year, it might be well to take a lunch.

Some enterprising candidate might have a chuckwagon near the polls.

Again this election we see many candidates are evidently writing off the Black Vote. Maybe they think that they don't need to invite blacks to vote for them.

The candidates who are using the Voice - are asking for your support loud and clear.

That foot in the mouth candidate is barking up the political tree when he attacks utility companies for advertising.

Guess he never thought that they are paying their dues for living here too. Most of their ads are household suggestions on how to conserve energy.

And last but not least by spending money advertising they are helping the media maintain its watch over wheeling and dealing officials.

Someone has to support the press so they can tell it like it is, or like it should be.

We are still-getting reports that the sheriff's task force is rousting many blacks. What with the political merry-go-round turning - we have not had a chance to check out there complaints. We do see a lot of smoke.

Rapes are occurring in West Las Vegas at the rate of two a week. And we don't even have a X rated movie or Adult Book Store in our area.

A feature writer of one of our local dailies, wrote a story about the Consent Decree that was very interesting. While it purported to show both sides - it was written after being permitted to see reports that the Resort Association has kept hidden from the NAACP and other interested parties.

Of the four full pages that the Resort Hotel Association published in our paper, just one told anything about the decree - the other three were reprints of the hiring and referral practices of the unions and hotels prior to the Decree.

No one can tell for sure just how well the Decree has been followed.

The writer mentioned that none of the hotels have so far asked the court to dissolve the Decree - the reason could be they are afraid to do so because many hotels are not following the court Consent Decree anyway. As she stated in her article "there are two sides to all cases."

It is strange indeed, that she was allowed to see reports selected by the Resort Hotel Association - a visual inspection of the various hotels would go a long way if one made a head count.

## THE PROSPECT OF GERALD FORD

BY BAYARD RUSTIN

The resignation of President Nixon appears imminent as this is written. Even in the unlikely event that the President does not voluntarily step aside, he faces almost certain removal from office by Congress within the next several months.

We are thus faced with the issue of how we respond to and what we can expect from the new president, Gerald R. Ford.

In terms of his relations with black people, Mr. Ford has constructed a congressional record that is at best mediocre. Although he supported most of the major civil rights bills adopted during the early part of the 1960's, he did so only after having led conservation efforts to weaken the legislation. More disturbing is the leadership Mr. Ford assumed in the struggle to limit busing as a desegregation tool. Mr. Ford has not only worked in the halls of Congress to curb busing, he has himself made busing a principal Republican issue during the current congressional campaign, falling easily into a patter established by George Wallace and later refined by Richard Nixon.

# BLACKS' DESTINY IN OWN HANDS.



A more important consideration than his exploitation of the busing issue, however, will be Mr. Ford's response to the social and economic problems of poor and working people. Many experts believe that unemployment, already intolerably high, may exceed six per cent by the year's end. How will Mr. Ford respond to this crisis? And what of other essential social programs - national health insurance, educational programs, housing aid, and the like - under a Ford Administration?

Mr. Ford's previous congressional record is hardly encouraging in this area. He has opposed almost every important social innovation proposed during his congressional tenure, staking out a conservation, at times almost reactionary attitude towards domestic policy.

If what I have written thus far appears overly-gloomy, it is for a reason. And that is that I do believe that black people can expect anything of substance in terms of economic gains from policies laid down by Gerald Ford. There is nothing in his voting record, in his conduct as House Republican leader, or in his expressions of political philosophy that suggest anything except the imposition of orthodox conservative policies which have historically been disastrous for black people.

On the other hand, Mr. Ford has already voiced what appear to be sincere feelings that he should serve all the people. One does not know what Mr. Ford means when he promises to serve all the people - whether such a pledge will be translated into more humane policies, or whether it will result in merely symbolic gestures, such as meeting periodically with representatives of minority groups.

But even if the result is only symbolic, it will have been an improvement over the performances of Nixon and Agnew, both of whom went out of their way to isolate themselves from all those who did not belong to their basic, conservative constituency.

There is also the possibility that Mr. Ford, like others before him, may move from his basic conservatism once he realizes the depths of the responsibilities of the office. One does not anticipate his being transformed overnight. But one should also not rule out the possibility that, at least in one or two areas, Mr. Ford will break from his conservative past to attempt some initiatives for social change.

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