

BLACK CONCERNS !!!

By Paul C. Smith

The promises made by the City Fathers are as empty as a bucket with no bottom. Two things are standing out like sore thumbs.

1 - Back in '64 when the City of Las Vegas was interested in increasing its tax base, and to prevent the City of North Las Vegas from annexing Vegas Heights into their City, many promises were made - among other things normal community services would be given the area - street lights, paved streets, gutters etc. Now many broken promises ago, they want to keep that promise - but with a price tag for the services the residents who agreed to the annexing thought would be free or they would not have to pay an assessment for.

One of the first proposals the city came up with had to do with making low interest loans available to the property owners. Meanwhile, officials turned their backs and permitted hundred of homes to be built in the area, with the builders not being forced to put those improvements in. The houses were in the same price range that includes all the off site improvements in other areas. We wrote about these oversights or whatever, when the homes were being built no one joined us in protesting- now the few homes that still have someone living in them - will create a problem for the owners if they have to face the same assessment that the older homeowners will face.

While the city and the builders had a legal loop-hole to jump through or hide behind - morality and ethics were missing. If the City had the interest of the property owners at heart - the builders would have put the improvements in at no cost to the other residents since the cost of the improvements was being paid for by the new buyers. Now since many of these houses have returned to FHA ownership - the tax payers will have to pay for something that they have already paid for. If enough people - not only residents of the area - protest maybe, just maybe some plan will be put into effect whereby these improvements will be made without further burdening the property owners of the area that have been the victims of a con-game.

2 - Back when there was a threat of a full scale riot - promises were made to increase the recreation facilities. One thing mentioned was Tennis courts - space has been available inside the Doolittle grounds - but no tennis courts . No money was the reason given, yet, today at Lorenzi Park new well lighted courts have been installed. We answer in front the cities defense - (anyone can play at the Lorenzi Courts) - this is true for adults and older youths- but what about the younger children? How can tennis be a popular sport if one is not exposed while they are young. The chances of having an Arthur Ashe calibre player coming out of West Las Vegas is nil. Twenty-five thousand plus residents have only the two courts at the Guy - Center to use and the Center is far away from the center of this area, which means that our youth would have to travel outside their home area to play.

If we are to channel the energy of our youths we must supply wholesome outlets. Not just promises.

Economic Policy And The Black Community

By Bayard Rustin

We now have Watergate behind us--and it is a good thing for black Americans. No longer can the nation's political leaders--Democrats as well as Republicans--continue to dodge the harsh realities of economic crisis. Real answers and sound leadership must be forthcoming if the nation is to avoid the total collapse that many are predicting.

President Ford has inherited a devastating economic legacy. Recession compounded by skyrocketing inflation, has eaten away at the earnings of all working Americans. The suffering has been particularly acute for Negroes. Indeed, since 1969, the year former President Nixon assumed office, almost every measurement of economic status has shown a decline for the black community.

Unemployment for blacks has increased by over 400,000 workers; in some ghettos, joblessness among black teenagers has reached 50

WELL...?

CONGRESSMAN
HELP
WANTED
NO-
BLACKS
CATHOLICS
WOMEN

"IT SAYS TO ME, FIRST OF ALL, THAT RICHARD NIXON, SPIRO AGNEW, G. GORDON LIDDY AND COMPANY ARE NOT ALONE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CANCER THAT GROWS WITHIN THIS SOCIETY. THOSE CONGRESSMEN HAVE DEBASED EVERY CONCEPT OF DECENCY AND JUSTICE."

CARL ROWAN-N.Y. POST

Pious

percent. The real wages of black families has been eroded by rampant inflation. The number of black s living in poverty has increased for the first time in over a decade. And the earnings gap between the average white worker and the average black worker has widened, reversing a ten-year pattern of advancement.

The economic decline of the black community is not a matter of mere happenstance. It is the result of a failure of policy--specifically, the policies engineered by a conservative Republican administration.

In Gerald Ford we now have another conservative Republican. President Ford has gone out of his way to project himself as leader of all the people. He even met with the Congressional Black Caucus, a nice enough gesture, but one which was unaccompanied by any specific promises to deal with the black community's problems.

It is only right, of course, that President Ford be accorded the support of all Americans as he makes the difficult transition to the presidency. But the spirit of cooperation must be placed in perspective. For we cannot stand silently by if the President fails to offer a solution to the crisis which grips all working people.

One must note here that the President's initial statements are far from encouraging. He has indicated that he may well follow the path which brought us depression under Hoover, recession under Eisenhower, and chaos under Nixon.

His pledge to reduce social spending is outrageous given the desperate situation of the cities. And like Nixon, the new President appears committed to policies which would increase unemployment above even the already intolerable levels.

To defeat such a program, or at least to ease the effect of some of its harsher consequences, calls for a unified opposition which can offer a program of its own. One would ordinarily look to the Democrats to provide such opposition. The Democrats, however, have their own problems, and have been unable to put forth any convincing alternatives to Republican conservatism.

In this regard the resignation of Richard Nixon has served an important function. Democratic candidates can no longer depend on the issues of Watergate--campaign spending, election reform, morality--to ease them into office. Only

one month after the resignation the Watergate scandals seem like events out of the remote past. Inflation and the state of the economy are the issues which are uppermost in the minds of the voters. And those candidates who fail to address themselves to these problems will suffer the consequences, and justifiably so.

A final word should be said about the economic policy summit conferences called by the new president. It is to be profoundly hoped that these meetings result in an economic program which could be supported by the vast majority of American people. But if is not likely to occur. The interests of business are more often than not in direct opposition to the needs of working people. And this is particularly true in times of scarcity, such as we are experiencing today.

The conclusion that can be drawn from what I have been saying is simply this: black people and their allies are confronted today with much the same situation as they have faced for the past five years--an administration whose basic philosophy is antagonistic to the aspirations of working people. And while the style and apparent honesty of President Ford may be more appealing than the hardness which characterized the Nixon presidency, the fundamental policies may well have the same results.

Our job is therefore to offer support where support is merited and to continue the struggle when our needs are ignored. All indications suggest that, at least in the area of domestic policy the struggle will continue.

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