

DUNCAN

citizens, health care and child care for working families, as examples of programs for which federal money is available to Nevada if legislators would request it.

Mrs. Duncan has been working to establish programs in this community for the past seven years. Operation Life, under her direction, opened an Early Screening clinic in August, 1974 for children to age 21. There is a new library in the community which opened in December, 1973 and a swimming pool at Operation Life that has been in use since July, 1974. All of these important developments in the community are directly from the efforts of Ruby Duncan and those who have faith in her ideas.

Ruby has long been an advocate for good nutrition for children, and her organization operates a WIC program, which provides free food to pregnant mothers, babies and children under 4. Also, this summer Operation Life has a free lunch program for children.

In 1971, Mrs. Duncan was chosen by McCall's Magazine as one of its Women of the Year, and in ceremonies this June she was elected Afro-American of the Year for the Las Vegas Area. Present at three previous legislatures, she says she has lobbied for other federal programs, and is largely responsible for convincing legislators to adopt the Food Stamp program in Nevada last year.

She stated that Nevadans who have paid federal income taxes for years deserve a return on those dollars in a way that will improve OUR lives. Federal money for services to all Nevadans is allotted but legislators do not initiate the programs. "For example, the elderly are treated as second-class citizens. Many are institutionalized when they should get services to allow them to remain in their own homes. Nevada can receive

money for home health care, transportation, and more for senior citizens, and legislators have not taken advantage of this." She also stated the need for child care centers where children of working parents would enjoy adequate nutrition, could play in safety, and learn, "at a cost the working family can afford. We have babysitting centers, but there is federal money available for real child DEVELOPMENT centers."

One of her main issues is health care. "A family of four pays an average of over \$2300 per year for health care. Most people can't afford a doctor when they are sick. Nevada is entitled to federal money for health maintenance, so we can construct a health delivery system that will keep us all healthy."

Another important issue, according to Mrs. Duncan, is that state agencies and state government do not adequately represent the working people. "For example, about 80% of the Employment Security hearings are decided in favor of employers. I don't believe employers are four times as right as employees. We've had enough of employers legislators."

In addition to being the Chairwoman of Operation Life, Mrs. Duncan is Second Vice-Chairman of Clark County Democratic Central Committee, Treasurer of the National Free Clinics Council, a member of the Board of Directors of Clark County Legal Services Program, President of Clark County Welfare Rights Organization, and member of the State Democratic Central Committee.

BLACK BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Last week the VOICE listed 145 Black Businesses in the Greater Las Vegas area. This partial group comprised business enterprises that are either Black owned, Black controlled or franchised. We are continuing the effort with this issue and are including the following:

- Cheyenne Square Barber Shop
- All American Bail Bonds
- B & J Cocktail Lounge
- Sir William Cocktail Lounge
- Town Tavern

This group is not all inclusive. If there are others to be added, please contact the VOICE.

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