

MEDICS NEEDS CITED

"If the progress already begun towards erasing racial inequities in the medical profession is not to stop, then the private sector must play a more important role in making medical education for minority students possible," said Jerry Lewis, newly appointed President of National Medical Fellowships, Inc. at the organization's New York headquarters on Sunday, November 10, 1974.

Commission Looks For Changes

The Las Vegas City Commission decided last week it would try again to set up a special improvement district in Vegas Heights. The residents have tried to get the city to install curbs, gutters, sidewalks and streetlights for the past 12 years.

The commissioners said 51 per cent of the property owners in Vegas Heights would have to agree to the project before it would make any more plans for it.

Mrs. Irma O'Neal, president of Poor People Pulling Together, said her organization had already polled the residents and found only two per cent of them against it.

The commission voted two years ago to set up the special improvement district, but of course it never was.

Then the city fathers agreed in a Sept. 11 public hearing to put up over \$1 million in Federal Revenue Sharing Funds for the project. The property owners would have had to pay over \$400,000 over a 10 year period. Each of them would have been assessed \$580 for each of their lots.

But the commission killed the whole plan in an Oct. 21 meeting. Commissioners Paul Christensen and Ron Lurie, who had voted for the improvements in the Sept. 11 meeting, voted against it in the October meeting. Commissioner George Franklin voted against the project in both meetings and Mayor Oran Gragson for it. Hal Morelli, the fifth commissioner, did not attend either meeting.

Christensen, Lurie and Franklin either said they voted against it because the project would not benefit the entire city, or because they found out that the city did not have enough money.

Mr. Lewis is the first Black to be made chief staff officer of NMF, the country's only private agency devoted entirely to giving financial aid to minority-group medical students.

Mr. Lewis cited the underrepresentation of minority physicians in our society - there is one Black physician for every 3,500 Black Americans for example, although the figure for the rest of the population is 1 to 750 - as evidence of the need to press efforts encouraging more minority students to study medicine.

"If we are ever to improve the quality of medical care in our inner cities or remote rural areas, then we must educate as physicians more young people from these communities," he said.

"Since 1968," Mr. Lewis continued, "increasing numbers of Black, Puerto Rican, Mexican-American and American Indian students have been encouraged into medical careers with promises from government, medical schools and other agencies of financial aid when they reach medical school. Most of these young people could not even consider becoming doctors without help of this sort. Yet this year no government scholarships, other than those to be repaid by periods of service were available to incoming students, and medical school budgets are already stretched to the limit. Clearly, if more minority young people are to enter medicine, NMF fellowships are more important than ever before."

Safety Tips

(1) *Swings:* Be sure the child is secure and balanced when sitting on a swing. Also teach him to watch for flying swings when he is not on them. Many children receive serious head injuries when struck by swings.

(2) *Sliding boards:* They are no place for horseplay. Toddlers should not be allowed to ride them under any circumstances.

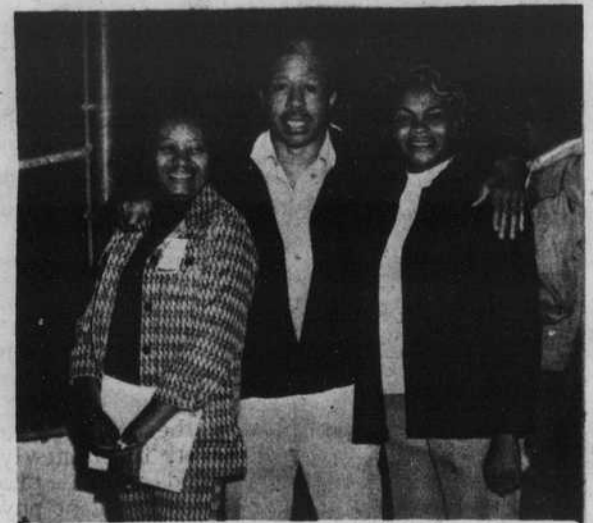
(3) *Merry-go-rounds:* If a child slips off, serious injury is quite likely. When they are old enough, youngsters should be taught to sit upright, grasping the handrail with both hands.

(4) *Monkeybars:* Accidents will happen on these, since even the most coordinated child can slip. The careful parent should caution against all show-boating.

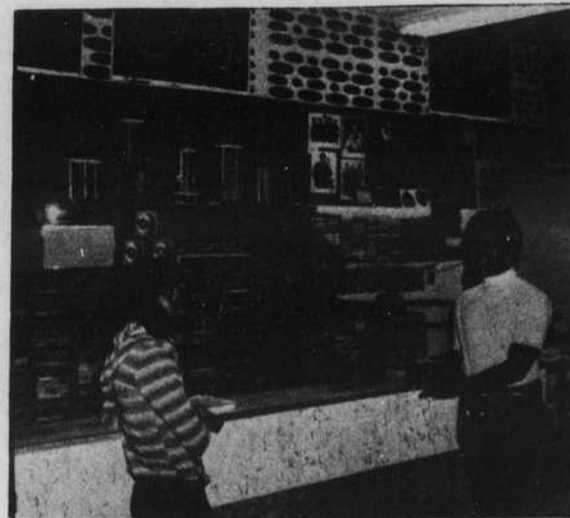
VICTORY PREVAILED AT THE POLLS



Sarah Hughes and Senator Joe Neal.



Sarah Hughes, Raleigh Hughes and unidentified supporter.



Happy staff members at Larry's Sight and Sound.



Joyce Chaney, Lontie Chaney, Marjorie Elliott - Seated: Sarah Hughes.



Sarah Hughes and VOICE Publisher Big Al.



Left to right: Unknown betraying pollster, Sarah Hughes, Marjorie Elliott, Joyce Chaney and unidentified youth.

Raleigh Hughes'

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