

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

By **Lawrence Albert**

Until recent years, the political role of the Black man was merely, a member of the cast. The lead role was always played by someone from the other side of town. Usually a caucasian.

With the creation of voting districts, the role of the Black man immediately became one of lead man, so far as local elections are concerned. This has been true throughout the country, as well as here in Las Vegas. The creation of these districts, has also created some intense community politics, and in some cases polarized some segments of this community. We think it is healthy for this community to have so many people interested in what's going on, and what should go on. Competition generally improves the quality of the net results. The results that we refer to, are the net benefits the community will receive.

It is a foregone conclusion, that if we put capable people in elected positions of authority, we will have much more assurance of receiving our fair share of the pie. We make reference to the upcoming City Commissioner's Election in May. The position of City Commissioner, is one of vital importance to this community. Up until this election the Commissioners were always elected at-large. Recently wards were created by dividing the City into four parts, one Commissioner will be elected from each ward with the Mayor to be elected at-large.

All of this means, that we have a good possibility to elect someone as City Commissioner from West Las Vegas. A large number of Blacks live in what is described as Ward Number Three. There is no accurate way to determine the exact number of Blacks in Ward Three. However, we do believe Blacks comprise the majority, or very near majority, in Ward Three. Since the majority is not clear cut, or at least in terms of registered Black voters. This means that for a Black to be elected, we have to exercise good judgement, before entering the Commissioner's race. If we have too many candidates in the Primary, and split the Black vote, then we will weaken our chances of having Black representation on the City Commission. We know a number of people who are interested in running for City Commissioner. Some of these people have absolutely no chance of winning. To these people we say, that if you cannot gather the necessary support to win, you should not consider entering the race. Because; not only do you do yourself a disservice but, the Black community as well. This support should be in the form of large groups of people from this community, and not some group or individual from outside of this community, or a few friends and relatives.

To knowingly enter this race without any chance of winning, you should be made to feel directly responsible for lessening the Black community's chance of having representation on the City Commission.

## WEST LAS VEGAS DEVELOPMENT

A. L. DUNN

There is a need for an organization of businessmen in West Las Vegas. I believe in constructive criticism, but the final result of criticism ought to be solutions. Only the Black businessman or business woman can speak for themselves in the redevelopment of the West Las Vegas business district.

This type of organization is necessary before West Las Vegas business interests can merge with downtown business interests. If we need a face lift, in West Las Vegas, to attract tourism, then we ought to speak with one voice, the voice of togetherness, the voice of strength, the voice of oneness, the voice of unity.

I understand, that the NAACP is standing ready to aid the Black business community. There is now in existence, a new organization in West Las Vegas, of young dynamic Black men and women, whose purpose is to change the economic, political, and business image of West Las Vegas, also PPPT, Operation Life, Welfare Rights, Fraternities and Sororities are all waiting to aid in the support of this project.

But, we need the West Las Vegas Businessmen District Organization to come alive, formally organize, elect officers, and get on with the business at hand of fighting for a piece of the economic action in Las Vegas. This is no time to sit on the sidelines watching the train of progress go by. This is the time to catch the train, and if possible build a train.

Why not give ourselves a New Year's present by kicking off the New Year, with a new organization of businessmen and women for the development and restoration of West Las Vegas. Have you ever thought, what an organization of this type could do for you as a businessman?

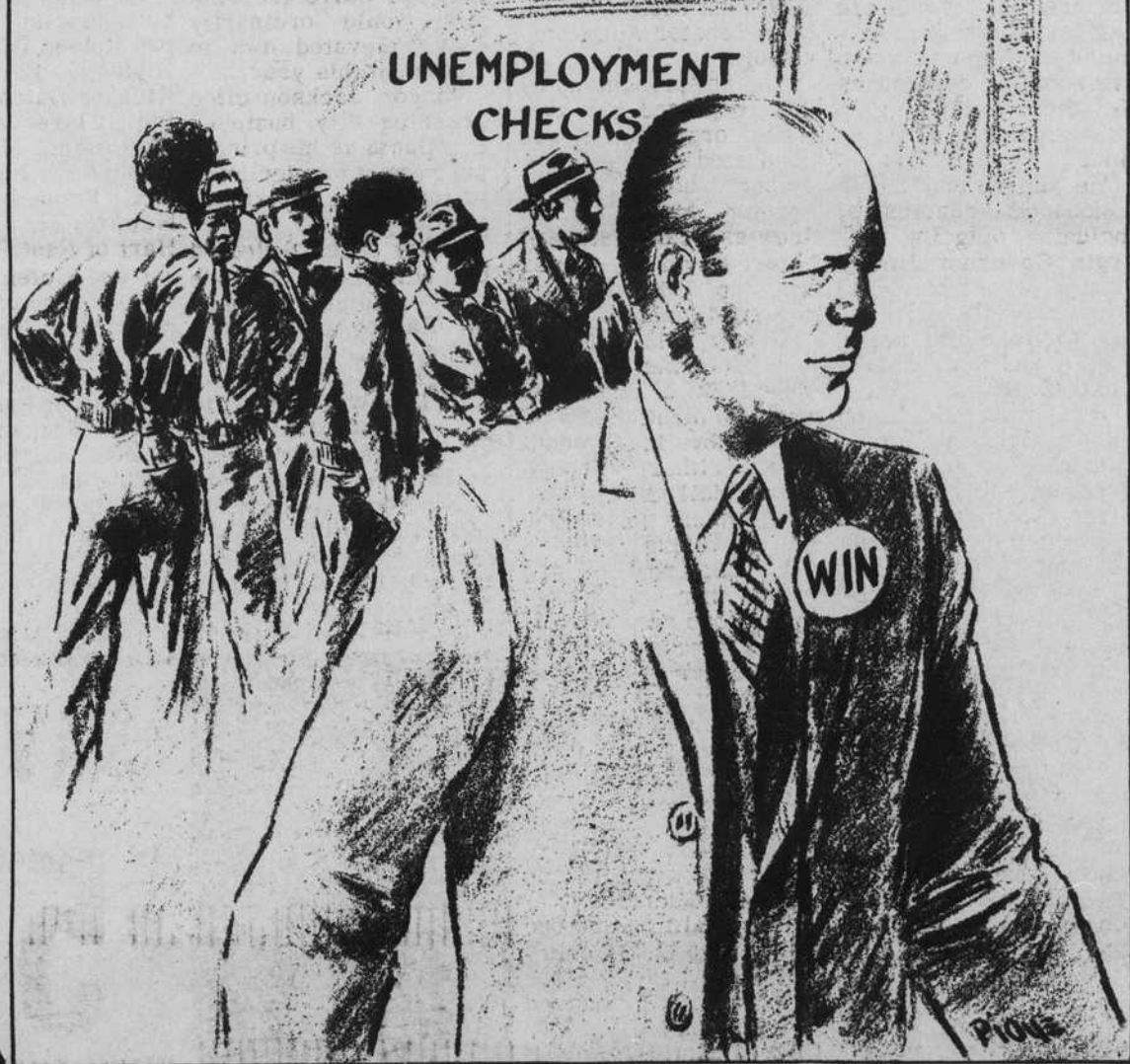
In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a group of Black businessmen organized and invited other businesses to join. Their purpose was to promote and preserve the stability and growth of Central City business, and promoting business and community growth and development. They call themselves "Milwaukee Business Federation, Inc." Bezzelle Martin, the President, who owns Black Gen Brands, a line of canned food, said, "another of the major objectives of the Federation is, to strengthen weak areas in our business operations. We want to broaden our knowledge of business and pass it on to others who want to associate with us and make us stronger."

Martin, said, "the Federation hopes to gain its objectives by creating a better understanding and appreciation of the importance of the businessman a concern for his problem: creating a more intelligent business and public opinion regarding the city, county, state and national legislative and political affairs and preventing controversies which are detrimental to expansion and growth of business and the community."

This is exactly what the businessman is doing across town, and if we are going to be successful, we have to do the same.

**WE MUST ORGANIZE! NOW!**

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### LAS VEGAS VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY WEEKLY  
"An Uninterrupted Publication Since 1963"  
A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER (Published every Thursday) DEDICATED to the INTEREST and ASPIRATIONS for a BETTER LIFE for BLACK CITIZENS of the STATE of NEVADA

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