

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

GUEST EDITORIAL

SAVE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT!

Ten years ago, a voting movement began in the town of Selma, Alabama. Before it was over people throughout the world saw vicious beatings and other violence against non-violent demonstrators, and learned of the killings of freedom fighters.

That Movement, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., compelled Congress to pass a law which helped to revolutionize politics and racial relations in the South -- The Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1965 there were fewer than 100 black elected officials in the South. Today, there are more than 1,600. The number grows every year, and black voters hold the balance of power elections throughout the old Confederacy.

But the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which has been the main instrument offering protection of a fundamental democratic right, it is scheduled to expire in 1975 unless Congress acts to renew it.

We must save the Voting Rights Act! The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change is taking the lead by holding a Southern Policy Conference on the Voting Rights Act in Atlanta on Monday, January 13, 1975. Additionally people throughout the nation can help save the Voting Rights Act by organizing others in their communities to contact their Senators and Representatives in Congress. Let's all work together and save the VOTING RIGHTS ACT!

BAYARD RUSTIN

Exec. Director, A Philip Randolph Institute



FREEDOM FIGHTERS or TERRORISTS

One of the most distressing reflections of the unhappy state of world politics is the ease with which words can be perverted, stripped of significance, and made to mean their opposite.

Acts of murder and terrorism are transformed into gestures of "liberation." Hi-jacking and the slaughter of children are carried out in the name of "peace." The words "racism," once so meaningful to the oppressed of the world, has lost all objective value as it is as often applied to democratic, interracial societies as to those which practice the most extreme forms of apartheid.

The distorted language is, however, but a fundamental surrendering of political and humanitarian principles, typified most dramatically by the warm reception accorded Mr. Yasir Arafat and the Palestinian Liberation Organization by the United Nations. For Mr. Arafat to have shot his way into the General Assembly with a machine gun, only to be greeted by an overture of applause would have been almost as ridiculous - and deplorable - as the cheers which greeted his tirade of misrepresentation.

What is, after all, the "legitimate struggle" Mr. Arafat and the PLO are conducting? It is a struggle being waged with the tactics of calculated violence, where military targets are avoided but women, children, athletes, diplomats, airline passengers - the defenseless and uninvolved - are sought and struck down.

By embracing the PLO, the U.N. has given a solemn amen to organized brutality, encouraging along the way no one knows how many other extremist organizations with a grudge against society.

It should be noted that the PLO's terrorism is practiced on dissidents within the Palestinian community as well as on Israelis and their supporters. Mr. Arafat likes to talk of the PLO goal

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WEST LAS VEGAS DEVELOPMENT

A. L. DUNN

In 1776, a revolution took place, mainly because a group of white Englishmen were being abused. The reason was "Taxation without Representation." There was an outstanding Black man in that revolution. His name was Christopher Attucks. As a matter of fact, it was he who bled first.

1976 is fast approaching, and business is still going on as usual, "Taxation without Representation." When these white Englishmen were abused by the Government, they rebelled. They said, "it was tyranny" and that people who are subject to tyranny, have a God-given right to rebel. They felt that if God wanted man to be quiet, He would not have given him a mouth.

God did not make a man six feet tall, to crawl, or a man who has a brain potential of a genius, to be a fool. For a Black man to walk around as if he is not supposed to get a piece of this economic action in the State of Nevada is tantamount to crawling; crawling in poverty, ignorance and stupidity.

The American whites and the Blacks who were involved, revolted against being colonized by Britain. After the Blacks helped them fight for freedom, the whites turned around and colonized the Blacks, and we have been colonized ever since.

Colonized as we are, only a fool would continue to pay taxes, to help an industry flourish, that will not help him and his community to develop. We are not advocating non-payment of taxes; however, we are suggesting a more militant approach or some method of trying to convince this non-sensitive white man of the need to share this supposedly common wealth, with Blacks and other minorities.

HERE ARE THE FACTS:

During the first six months of 1974, 4,127,376 people visited Las Vegas. These tourists and convention delegates spent \$576,870,435 in Las Vegas during the first six months of 1974. These figures are taken from the Marketing Bulletin Summary Edition of the Las Vegas Convention/Visitor's Authority.

I know brothers can run Hot Dog stands or Ice Cream stands or Bar-B-Que places, but if these types of operations located on Fremont or on the Strip, where the traffic is, a brother can make some money with a few slots and other gaming machines. It is not my intention to stereotype brothers with these "Mom & Pop" concepts, but the fact is that we do not even have that going for us downtown.

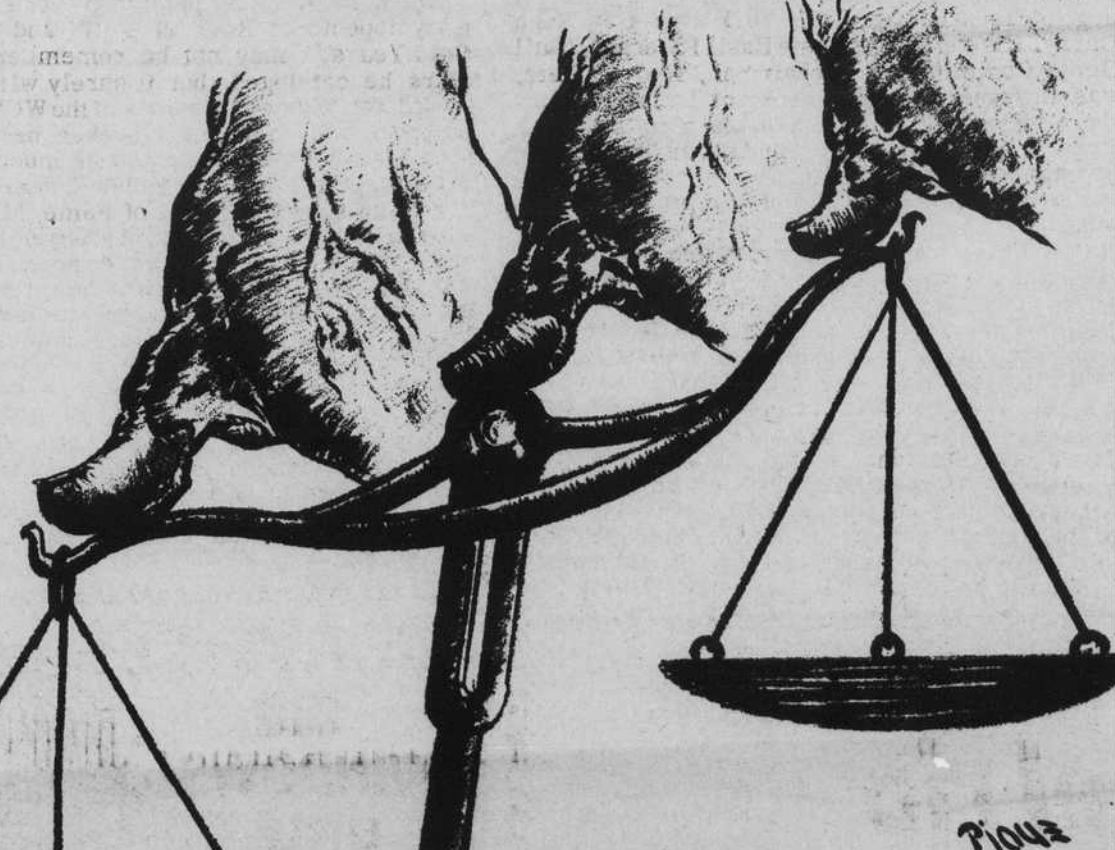
If we cannot function economically Downtown and on the Strip, and if we cannot get the cooperation of the Governor of the State, its elected officials, City, County, Hotel Resort Association, Convention Authority, Banks, and Economic Institutions, such as SBA, to aid the Westside in developing Jackson, St., "D" and West Owens into a viable productive tourist area so that Black people can share in the ownership and management of their own economic life and help bring tourist to town, then 1976 might become 1776 all over again right here in the State of Nevada.

The best way to plan for the Bicentennial, is to plan for Blacks and other minorities to get a slice of the American Pie. I am not going to feel very patriotic, if I am hungry. A hungry man is good raw material for a revolution.


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PRESIDENT FORD

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