

EDITORS NOTEBOOK

By Lawrence Albert

Changes in government hit city structural form

Blacks and minorities are caught in the middle of the trend of changing city and regional government structures.

Just as Blacks in some cities have finally reached the point where they have some political clout, along comes a "good government" movement to dilute that political power by broadening the base of local government through merger with outlying areas.

This poses a cruel dilemma for black people.

On the one hand, there is the reality of power--blacks holding high offices up to and including the mayoralty. On the other hand is the reality of tax resources--tapping suburban wealth for the revitalization of the inner-city.

The cruelest part of the dilemma is that there are no easy solutions. Each city is different. Each particular case has to be studied and examined from the standpoint of how decision will impact upon blacks.

Most important is the need to avoid easy assumptions that don't square with reality. Many people assume, for example, that a city county merger will mean more funds for city services, but isn't it even more likely that suburbanites will be more anxious to tax the city's downtown business sections to pay for the roads, sewer lines and other expenses of the growing suburban economy.

So there are pros and cons that will change as local factors change, but the one important point is that we must become involved in the process of bargaining and shaping plans for metro government or for restructuring city government.

While restructuring local governments could have great impact on the communities they serve and on the services people need, no one should think that shuffling some boxes on an organizational chart will cure everything.

Even radical change in local government structure could easily leave the power arrangements within the area unchanged, services unaltered, and the pattern of inner-city black poverty and suburban white wealth unbroken and unaffected.

A lot of "Good government" forces find this hard to accept. Like earlier pioneers for civil service and similar reforms they think switching to metro government will solve urban problems.

But those problems can only be solved by the removal of racial barriers, by full employment, and by a massive infusion of money to provide housing, health and other services people need.

We have been made the floor mat of the world, but the world has yet to see what can be done...by men who have walked the path of disparity, of regression, of abortion, and yet come out whole. There will be a special page in the book of life for the men who have crawled back from the grave. This page will tell of utter defeat, ruin, passivity, and subjection in one breath, and in the next, overwhelming victory and fulfillment.

— George Jackson



WHITE
UNEMPLOYMENT
6.4%

BLACK
UNEMPLOYMENT
12.8%

CARL ROWAN-NY. POST

Black Voters Association of Nevada
1040 West Owens
Las Vegas, Nv 89106

January 31, 1975

Nevada's Black Legislators
Nevada Legislature
Carson City, Nv 89701

Dear Legislator,

As President of the Black Voters Association of Nevada (BVAN), I have been directed by the board of directors to request from you the following:

1. Notification of any and all bills that are introduced and your evaluation of said bills; i.e., the effects of such bills upon Blacks, etc.
2. Ways in which our organization can assist you.
3. Your presence at one, or several of our meetings which are held monthly, 1st and 3rd Sunday, at 5p.m. in the NAACP office. When and if you honor our request, we would like to know beforehand (no later than the week before) so that we can publicize your attendance.

We are in the process of filing our Articles of Incorporation and increasing our membership.

BVAN is strictly a non-partisan political organization. Our goals and objectives were formulated with the intent of keeping the Black Community informed, unifying the political potency of Blacks and developing a political awareness among Blacks. Therefore, it is our belief that you, an elected Black legislator, can greatly assist us.

An early reply to our requests would be appreciated.

Respectfully yours,
James Walker
James Walker
President

LAS VEGAS
VOICE

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