

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Lawrence Albert

## BLACKS SQUANDER VOTE

Guest Editorial  
by James Walker

Las Vegas Blacks have sent to the State Assembly, the two most ineffective legislators that they could possibly have found.

It seems as though our Black legislators are more interested in doing the things that further their personal careers, rather than the things that are beneficial to the Black community. The Voice has had numerous complaints from leaders and organizations within the Black community about the failure of our Black legislators to respond to requests to support legislation that the Black community is interested in.

The vote, is probably the most effective singular weapon that a people have, if used properly. Las Vegas reflects one of the most flagrant cases of improper and misuse of the Black vote. More often than not our Black elected officials have been selected on the basis of their popularity, rather than, their qualifications. Continuing to send ill prepared, poorly qualified politicians as our Black representatives, we do ourselves more harm with type of representation, than if we had no representation at all. This type of representation, aside from the fact that they accomplish nothing positive, allows the segregationist politician to impose their wishes upon the Black community, under the guise of, "that's what your leaders fought for, so, that's what we gave you."

It is up to us as a people to make these politicians accountable to the Black community. We have to attend community organizational meetings, register to vote and select our officials on the basis of their qualifications, rather than their popularity. It has been a long hard struggle by some of the powerful lawmaking bodies, Assemblymen, Senators, Commissioners, etc. If we are to continue to allow this power, to be placed in the hands of people, who do not know how to use it, to its best advantage, we are throwing the fruits of our fathers labor away!

## To Be Equal =

### Work Program Needed



By Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

Anyone foolish enough not to take the current recession seriously got a tremendous jolt from the President's Budget and the report of his Council of Economic Advisors.

Both paint a picture of a sick economy right through to the end of the decade. Unemployment is projected at almost eight percent for the next three years. This means the government's top minds are Continued on page 17.....

# WILL THE BLACK COMMUNITY PROTECT IT'S SENIOR CITIZENS?

"BLACKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME, BUT HESITATED TO CRUSADE BECAUSE OF THE NEGATIVE MEANING OF CRIME IN THE STREET AND LAW AND ORDER," SAID ANDREW BARRETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CHICAGO N.A.A.C.P.

"BUT THE SITUATION IS SO BAD NOW THAT ACTION IS THE ONLY THING LEFT."



## UNFAIRNESS OF REVENUE SHARING

Although Revenue Sharing is not a bad concept, its mechanism for assuring fairness to minorities and the poor is NOT working effectively.

For example, there are only four full-time civil rights compliance officers in 39,000 jurisdictions to monitor the program against discrimination. And these jurisdictions are sharing in a \$30.2 billion tax rebate to them from the Federal Government over a five year period -- 1972-76. There is expected to be \$40 billion for the next five years. Yet the safeguards are not functioning meaningfully.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association got a first-hand look at the system and its near failings a few weeks ago when it, the NAACP, the National Urban Coalition and nearly 30 other national organizations were invited to Washington to examine new program proposals and make any needed recommendations.

What the representatives of the organizations were presented was mostly a fiat accomplished frozen in bureaucratic proceduralism. The suggestions offered by the group have little chance of adoption, Office of Revenue Sharing officials explained, because Washington doesn't want to appear to be dictating to the state and local governments regarding their expenditure of the allocated funds.

ORS takes this stand in the face even of Civil Rights Commission charges of discrimination in employment and in the delivery of benefits to minorities and the poor. The commission also points to negligence on the part of ORS in staffing and funding its civil rights compliance program.

Another complaint of the commission and of black and liberal organizations is that the Office of Revenue Sharing refuses to suspend assistance to government units where substantial evidence of noncompliance is on the record. Instead, it insists on waiting until a final determination is made.

However, a precedent for change has been set by

a federal court which ordered millions of dollars in revenue sharing withheld from the city of Chicago which discriminated against blacks in the police department.

The commission recommends that Congress appropriate \$7.5 million to employ 300 additional ORS compliance review personnel. Obviously, this should be done.

What can you do to help it along? You can write your Congressman and your Senator and your governor and mayor and demand assurance that minorities and the poor get a fair shake.

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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  
Lawrence Albert.....Publisher  
Sandra McIlveen.....Treasurer  
Clinton Wright.....Photographer  
Luke Plewe.....Layout Artist  
EDITORIAL, ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION OFFICES  
900 West Bonanza Road, Lobby Suite (Moulin Rouge Hotel) Las Vegas, Nevada 89106 Telephone 648-2615  
ADVERTISING RATES FURNISHED UPON REQUEST  
Price per copy - 15¢ \* One year \$7.50  
(Application for 2nd Class Mailing Permit pending at Las Vegas, Nevada).