



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

**Consolidation
Confusing
Government**

by

LAWRENCE ALBERT

The world has become so complex and confusing that only a very few people can cope with it. These people control and rule our lives because of this knowledge.

The consolidation of Las Vegas and Clark County is a good example of this. Maybe the plan is a good one, but it is so confusing and complex that only the people with the greatest capacity for wading through over 60 pages of "all Greek to me" material can begin to understand it.

I do not think the merger plan was meant to be complex; it's just that its designers did not try hard enough to make it understandable. They should have laid the plan out so that a 12-year-old could understand it. The way it is now, even Thomas Jefferson would scratch his head many a time before he finished with it.

Some people have at least zeroed in on one particular part of the plan, that they think they understand. This is the part where the residents of both Vegas Heights and Berkley Square will not be able to vote for a City Commissioner.

They will be considered the residents of the City and they will be governed by this commission, but they will not have any voice in the function of this commission. They will have to vote for a county commissioner.

Some are calling this discrimination against these residents. Whether it is or not will ultimately have to be determined in a court.

The biggest gripe that I have with this whole plan of consolidation is that legislators did not see fit to start a campaign explaining it to the voters. They left that up to our representatives, which would have been alright, except that our representatives apparently do not understand the plan.

If they had, then surely they would have challenged several other points in the plan.

It seems that they all kept quiet, trying to pretend that they understood.

Ignorance will destroy any form of government faster than anything else. And it is a fact, if the city and county commissioners do not take time now and do what they should have done at the beginning, this plan just will not work.



Just the FACTS

The Moulin Rouge Motel, owned by the Lerio Corp., has very few white patrons. How then can it afford to discriminate against Blacks? If it wants to continue to function, it would seem that it would treat its best customers with all the courtesy and respect that it could muster.

It does not, however. Lawrence Albert has been a leasee in this motel for the past 15 years. This landlord, now wants to evict his best tenant. Personnel grudges should not play any part in a business venture. But apparently, the Lerio Corp. has a personal gripe with Albert because he is black, or for some other invalid reason.

Albert rents the Hide-A-Way Bar from this corporation, he rents the space for the VOICE newspaper, and he just opened the A&J Market, another lease from this corporation.

Albert plays a bigger part than renter from this organization. He operates the only bathroom for this entire complex, not only that he pays for the upkeep of this community restroom. And yet, this firm wants to evict him. This is the very height of bad business. If it were not for Albert's bar, everyone who works in this complex would have to run home, or the nearest service station, to use the bathroom. If anyone should be evicted, it should be this corporation so that someone could take over this motel and give its tenants the services they desperately need.

Albert is not, however, the only mistreated tenant; he just the biggest.

The people who rent homes here, and pay the same prices as they would in the Dunes or MGM hotels, get despicable service. They do not have television sets. They find half the time they do not have towels in their rooms and the linen service is just as bad.

This is just a case of a person cutting his nose off to spite his face. You cannot run a successful business in this manner.

White people are scared to come to our community. So, if this hotel did not have Black patrons it would be covered with weeds.

Its pool has also been condemned. What is wrong with this corporation? Will it let its prejudices destroy it?

If it had an unlimited clientele, then its actions could be understood. But its very life depends on Blacks using its facilities. It turns right around and treat them like dogs. They will not tolerate this much longer.

NNPA EDITORIAL—

America's Double Standard

Within the past few weeks, it has come to light that our Department of Defense is cutting back on black recruits, implying a agreed upon racial quotas set behind closed doors.

Now we are not opposed to racial quotas. In fact, we favor them. We would be satisfied with a 10 percent across-the-board quota allocation. A 10 percent limitation in volunteer military recruitments is all right, if we can have 10 percent of all government and private jobs at every level, and our fair share of contracts.

One reason for the large number of Blacks volunteering for the military is the lack of equivalent civilian positions for them. While blacks make up approximately 15 percent of the government employees, and somewhat larger percent of the private work force, the level of their employment is concentrated in the lower grades.

For example, blacks compose 20 to 70 percent of the bottom grade government employees, but hold an average of less than three percent of the high level positions. The same trend prevails in industry, only worse.

But every time the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the affirmative action people raise the question of quotas, government and industry and most of our liberal friends throw up their hands, insisting that quotas are undemocratic. Instead, meaningless goals are offered as a substitute.

Yet when it comes to the military, and blacks begin to join up in percentages larger than their representation in the population, hands go up again. Now the government wants quotas.

And to prove it, within a year, it has cut back on black Army recruits from 30 to 17 percent, the Navy, from 14 to 6 percent, and the Air Force, from 22 to 12 percent.

A fight against military quotas for blacks is being conducted by the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Urban League, the Joint Center for Political Studies, and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, especially Rep. Ronald Dellums, a member of the House Armed Services Committee. But the chance of victory is not good without larger support from blacks. The voice of protest must be heard. America cannot have a double standard on quotas.

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