



by LAWRENCE ALBERT

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

INCOMPETENCE OF METRO AND COURTS

Somebody is lying in the case of the alleged plot against Clark County Sheriff Ralph Lamb in May of this past year.

Lamb and his Task Force spread it all over the Las Vegas media that they had arrested a Black man who was plotting to have Lamb assassinated.

People have plotted to kill law enforcement officers before; Lamb is no exception.

But this plot just does not ring true in so many areas. John Wesley Johnson, Jr., reputed as one of the top saxophonist in Las Vegas, who had played with most of the big name bands, was accused and exonerated by the State Supreme Court of this plot.

Johnson was supposedly arrested after he plotted over the telephone with one member of Lamb's Task Force posing as a hitman, and meeting with another for that same purpose.

It is strange, however, that he was not ever charged with that plot.

Not only that but the Task Force supposedly recorded the telephone conversation. But they will not let anybody hear the tapes. As far as the public and media are concerned, they do not exist.

Also, District Court Judge Paul Goldman signed the request authorizing the wiretapping of Johnson's telephone. The request came from a Deputy District Attorney, who did not inform the District Attorney of his actions. Roy Woofter, who was DA at the time, said he did not know anything about the wiretapping request until it was all over.

Do we have a judge sitting in one of our highest courts who does not know who can and who cannot sign a wiretapping request.

I am not saying that the plot did or did not exist, but I am saying that such incompetence on the part of our law enforcers and judges scares me.

This means that they investigate haphazardly without knowing if what they are doing is legal or not, but maybe they don't even care--this thought is even more frightening.

Not only that, but Chief District Court Judge Carl Christensen said the Task Force had enough proof. He apparently based his decision only on the word of these officers.

The State Supreme Court had to undo what he had done. He kept Johnson in jail for 11 months illegally.

Lamb has been charged with using Johnson as a ploy to get the sympathy of voters to assure his reelection. Although this cannot be proven yet, there is a strong indication of it.

If there is any substance to this charge at all, we are in deep trouble because it means that we can be harassed, jailed and mistreated without ever knowing why and without having anyone to help us, except the Supreme Court. But by the time this court heard about our plight, we could be dead.

Recession Killing Their Hopes and Dreams..?

ANGER, FRUSTRATION, HOPELESSNESS, IS THE PICTURE THAT EMERGES OVER THE LAST TWO MONTHS.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

My name is John McKee and I am in prison in Lucasville, Ohio I would like to correspond with anyone who is interested in writing or visting a lonely Black Man. Yes, prison life is very cold and lonely and I don't have anyone to exchange thoughts with on the out side. I am 31 years old, 6'1-175 lbs.

I hope you will print this letter in your paper. Thank you for your time.

John McKee 135-796
P.O: Box 787
Lucasville, Ohio 45648

Just the FACTS

Recently the Review Journal newspaper ran a big headline: "Vegas Leaders Testify Before Gaming Panel."

This referred to the federal gaming inquiry panel, chaired by our own Senator Howard Cannon.

This panel grossly offended our community because it did not call one Black leader to testify before it.

Clark County Commissioner Aaron Williams said this showed just how much weight our leaders have in Clark County.

When Cannon comes up for re-election, if he runs again, the cry should go up in our community--"Don't vote for Cannon because he does not recognize us as a people with influential leaders."

This was indeed a definite slight on our community by Cannon. By his action, he said no Black person plays any important part in the main industry of Clark County.

Even if we do not have a representative who is directly affiliated with gambling, we are effected by it.

This panel was supposed to be trying to get a cross section of opinions on how gambling can effect a community. This panel failed to do that.

This panel did not find out that we do not view gambling the same way as whites do. Whites see it as a big bonanza for the community. We see this bonanza for whites. It has been denied us.

This denial tempts more of our young people into becoming lawbreakers because they see all this money glitter and glamour, but they can neither get any of it or participate in luxurious life it affords.

Some of these young people will do almost anything just to get a taste of this life because the temptation is too great.

In a way they are right. All our lives we have been denied the best fruits of this society because we are Black. There is no other place in the United States where the fruits or so juicy or plentiful as Las Vegas.

Yes, it is time for us to start climbing the ladders and picking some of the fruits from the top of the trees.

If this panel had asked one Black to testify, it would have found out that gambling can raise the crime rate of blacks by putting so much before them, and giving them so little.

BAYARD RUSTIN

A Test Of The Black - Labor Alliance

A frequent tactic of those antagonistic to the interests of working people has been to try to drive a wedge between the labor movement and its natural allies in the black community. Historically, racial antagonisms have been exploited by management to undermine solidarity during strikes and as a means of weakening unions.

Today the tactic of dividing labor and blacks is still around, albeit in a more sophisticated guise. In a recent case, racial divisions were exploited in an attempt to defeat a labor-backed measure in the House of Representatives. The measure, the site picketing bill, gives construction unions the same picketing rights long held by industrial unions. It allows construction workers to go on strike over conditions at the work site and post a picket line around the work site.

Opponents of the bill argued unsuccessfully that black Congressmen should not support a bill aiding the construction unions. Congressmen never before known for their devotion to civil rights offered several amendments that seemed to offer special benefits to blacks, but which were actually designed to weaken the unions.

These efforts, however, were met by a united opposition from the black congressional delegation. A typical response was that of Rep. William Clay of Missouri, who denounced the amendments as "very vicious" because they would set worker against worker. Clay emphasized that the issue was simply, "Whether or not there will be job security and the ability of workers to get decent wages and working conditions."

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