



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Lawrence Albert

It's a shame that in West Las Vegas we have no independent representation in the community. If we had one black that was independent to represent the community which we live in and not move out of the community and get back and look at West Las Vegas as a part of Nevada that needs help.

We haven't gained anything from our doctors, lawyers, preachers, club owners and our so-called rich blacks. We have job training programs, PPPT, the NAACP, CWRO, rehabilitation programs. We have everything in West Las Vegas that brings no money into the community.

I would be proud to see a representative for the black community who is independent and can afford to be in office. But, I well understand that they are not in any position to get any money for the community.

The black politicians should put programs together which would get some funds to remodel the businesses to lighten it up instead of putting all of these programs in WLV, because we all know that is a part of Nevada.

If they would give blacks money to remodel their business places, we wouldn't need no unemployment, welfare checks, food stamps or all of these different organizations to represent us for better jobs, because we would have decent jobs in our own community. But with no borrowing power, our chances are slim at being successful in a black business in West Las Vegas.

We have believed in all of the preachers, doctors, and all of the mothers in WLV, but everytime we get on the right track, we do things only to help ourselves.

I know that every elected official's intentions are very good for WLV, but WLV cannot survive on promises, national publication or national representation. When we started out, we started building for Nevada, the entire community, whether you were in West Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, or East Las Vegas. Now that we all know that we have nothing coming from our black elected officials, I surely don't want to elect another black to represent our community that has nothing to say and show the community.

After all we have a black news media that has asked all of our elected officials and all our community leaders to send their press releases to the community and let the Voice speak for them. Our personal feelings will accomplish us nothing.

(See, The Publisher Speaks, pg.)

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FRANKLIN

Pious

Just the FACTS

Positive Action Not Social Rhetoric

April 23rd marked the first joint effort of the Mayor's West Las Vegas Economic Development Committee and the Nevada Black Businessmen's Association to present a comprehensive picture of the existing conditions and what kinds of positive action could be taken to develop a greater economic thrust in the black area of Las Vegas.

The workshop was moderated by NEDCO's Executive Director, Bob Bailey. At the outset of the workshop Bailey explained to the more than 50 people at the Elks Lodge, that the intent of the workshop was to look at specific economic development problems and not become involved in social rhetoric. This being the tone of the workshop, it proceeded with discussions in the following areas:

Reverend Bennett, chairman of the West Las Vegas Development Committee, discussed the role they would play in the future for minority enterprise. His remarks primarily were directed towards cleaning up the areas so that tourists would find it inviting when they would come to our places of business.

Bil Bender, industry director for the State of Nevada Department of Economic Development, discussed manufacturing possibilities. Bender, advised the group that the State is currently working on attracting people to our area that would be interested in developing light manufacturing efforts in the black community. He further indicated that they would provide a number of jobs.

Bob Bailey, representing the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, U.S. Department of Commerce, explained the step by step procedures necessary in the development of a hotel-casino complex. He was most emphatic that in order for this kind of an effort to be realized, it would take a great deal of investment from members in the black community in order to attract investments from the majority com- (Story & Photos, cont'd pg. 14)

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

By Charles E. Belle

Black Face Lift or New White Face

Congressman Andrew Young caught up in the grip of a chameleon from his native state would do well to spend more time on the job producing ideas like Senator Hubert Humphrey and black Congressman Augustus Hawkins of California.

The black congress representative can join Newark's black Mayor Kenneth Gibson in viewing the danger of economic stagnation which endangers the viability of urban areas.

Senator Humphrey and Congressman Hawkins recognize this need and held a two day full employment conference in Washington, D. C. on the 30th anniversary of the Employment Act of 1964, to examine changes that might be needed in economic policy to achieve "full employment." This is the central issue for black folks not the selection of a new white face to command our poverty.

George Washington Carver, a black man, discovered more than 300 different products from the peanut. To that extent blacks can take pride in placing a politician in practice whose family has profited for the past one hundred years off of us.

But Vernon Jordan, Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, who spoke at the Joint Economic Committee, chaired by Senator Humphrey, believes there are some 17 million people are black. The feeble Ford funded economic recovery is not likely to create a jump in the job market. President Ford's policy is to continue this mediocre movement.

It is supported by conservatives. This policy will place teen-agers, minorities, such as blacks and Hispanics, and older men and women at a disadvantage in our highly structured, demographic and socially changed job market.

Black unemployment is still 13.7 percent nationally and over 20 percent in most urban areas. Black teen-aged employment easily exceeds 40 percent in urban spots. "I'm concerned about the young people, especially the blacks," says Manpower expert Lloyd Ulman of the University of California. "The less they squawk now, the more of a problem we are storing up for the future."