

**From Our Readers**

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR:**

Several weeks ago the Voice ran an article by Mr. Eddie Scott, director of the Reno Race Relations Center. The article charged Jesse D. Scott, exec. dir. of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, as being ineffective.

Printed here is a letter to Governor Mike O'Callaghan from Mrs. Mabel Hoggard in response to that article.

Dear Governor O'Callaghan:

In the Las Vegas Voice the week of May 13, 1976, I noticed the lead story entitled "Northern Nevada says ERC Director is Ineffective." This article was written by Mr. Eddie Scott, director of the Reno Race Relations Center in Reno, Nevada. As a result of that article, I am compelled to write this letter.

Perhaps Mr. Eddie Scott would change his mind if he would go into the Commission office in Las Vegas, as I have done and observed the number of people coming into the office for assistance, the courtesy extended by the entire staff and the help the people receive. I am told that a number of people come to the Reno office also seeking help but not as many as to the Las Vegas office.

I have read the last two issues of the Equal Rights Reporter, published monthly by the Commission, which is a documentation of the involvements and accomplishments of the Commission and it would appear to be a factual contradiction of what Mr. Eddie Scott has written. According to the Equal Rights Reporter, Mr. Jesse Scott has been working in Reno with Mrs. Clara Fells and Mr. William Moon of the the Northeastern Reno Outreach Council, Mrs. Alice Smith and Mr. Cloyd Phillips of the Community Service Agency, with Rev. Willie Wynn of Faith Deliverance Church of God in Christ, Jerry Holliday of the Washoe County School District and Attorney David Dean.

My understanding is that the NERC is mandated under State statutes to work with all citizens of the State to attain more harmonious relationships free of all forms of discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations. I have just learned that in addition to the complaints of discrimination that normally come to Mr. Scott and his staff for processing, they have been given an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission charge to investigate in nineteen strip hotels and four unions. I also understand that Mr. Jesse Scott and his staff are involved in training programs and held all-day workshops on Affirmative

**Nevada Fails to Receive HUD Funding**

Rep. Jim Santini has asked the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to explain why Nevada did not receive any funding for HUD's elderly and handicapped housing program.

In a letter to HUD Secretary Carla Hills, Santini pointed out that most small and rural states were left without funding, while large metropolitan areas received the majority of money.

"Contrary to popular belief," said Santini, "substandard housing is not primarily confined to inner cities."

A member of the Aging Subcommittee on Housing, Santini told Hills that there is a serious shortage of elderly housing in Nevada.

Reno, with a senior population of 17,200 has only 250 units for 298 elderly persons. Clark County has an elderly population of 33,200 and only 747 units of elderly housing.

The other 14,000 senior citizens in Nevada are located in rural areas which have not received any type of federal housing assistance, he stated.

"Rural areas do not only lack adequate facilities," he said, "but they also lack specialized housing designed to meet the unique needs of the elderly."

Santini noted that there were five applicants in Nevada for Section 202 funding and it is "difficult to comprehend why none of the five met approval."

Action in August, 1975, at the University of Reno where almost two hundred personnel and supervisory people were in attendance from some of the largest corporations in Northern Nevada.

Mr. Jesse D. Scott, the Commission's very capable executive director and the man Mr. Eddie Scott criticized in the newspaper article referred to above, has been working with people ever since he moved to the State of Nevada almost six years ago. Mr. Jesse Scott began his work with the Las Vegas Branch NAACP as executive director working with the youth in the Golden West Shopping Center in a clean-up program sponsored by KORK TV-3 and the Bank of Nevada.

Mr. Scott was involved in the community support of Captain Larry Bolden in his fight with the Las Vegas Police Department, the testimonial banquets for Jimmy Gay and Aaron Williams, and NAACP banquets where Rev. J.L. Jackson, president of the National Baptist Convention and Congressman Charles Diggs of Michigan were speakers. The net proceeds of the Aaron Williams testimonial dinner was approximately \$7,000, all of which was donated to the organization of Poor People Pulling Together to help them purchase technical housing assistance to those who want to rent or purchase a house on the Westside. In 1970, Jesse Scott organized and supervised, with Mr. James Chaney, the largest voter registration-Get-Out-The-Vote-Drive-ever conducted on the Westside of Las Vegas. Additionally, Mr. Scott was very diligent in his support in the development of our School Lunch Program for Clark County.

Mr. Robert Archie, the Chairman of the Commission, stated in a recent radio program that the Legislature has not given the Nevada Equal Rights Commission enough funds to employ the human and financial resources needed; nor has it given the statutory powers needed to process the complaints it receives promptly and effectively. Gov. O'Callaghan, it appears to me that we have in Nevada the good beginning of a Commission and staff. All that is needed now to make them stronger and more viable is to receive more support from the 1977 Legislature and the public.

Based upon your continued concern for the good name of Nevada and the general welfare of its people, I know I can count on your support. I solicit any comments or response you would like to make.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mabel Hoggard  
711 Morgan Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

**Las Vegas Teacher Offers Metric Information**

Virginia T. Gilbert, and elementary school mathematics teacher, has agreed to serve as a member of the National Bureau of Standards' speakers bureau on metric information.

The speakers bureau was set up to provide speakers for groups of all types interested in the growing use of metrics weights and measures in the United States. The need for a speakers bureau was given additional impetus when President Ford on December 23, 1975 signed into law a bill to provide coordination for the nation's voluntary conversion to the metric system.

More than 200 educators, weights and measures officials, and other knowledgeable persons in 48 states

have agreed to speak and act as resources for metric information in their regions. Each speaker receives detailed background information and a set of slides from the National Bureau of Standards, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Gilbert has had wide experience teaching mathematics at the elementary and secondary levels. She has conducted in-service training programs for teachers on the metric system and she is a consultant to the State Department of Education on the metric system.

Any group interested in a metric presentation should contact Gilbert directly. Her address is 4200 Mountain Vista, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**South African Clamp Down**



Scores of "mental patients" sit waiting within their barbed wire enclosure in a deserted mining compound run secretly by psychiatrists in South Africa. Here several Blacks wait for almost non-existent medical services. (Banned photos courtesy of "Freedom Journal," a Scientology newspaper)

Strict control on the publication of photographs of mental institutions or patients is provided for in the Mental Health Amendment Bill that has just been pushed through the South African parliament.

The restrictive legislation was first introduced on February 12, 1976. It was preceded only two days earlier by a newspaper expose concerning a private mental hospital chain, operating with full state backing, which is being used to confine thousands of blacks throughout South Africa. The story which appeared in the newspaper "Peace and Freedom" (the independent journal published by the Church of Scientology) has been carefully covered up for years by the South African, Department of Health.

Specifically, the amendment restricts the taking and publishing of photographs to members of the Newspaper Press Union. It further prohibits other journalists and members of the public to photograph or sketch the outside or inside of mental institutions without permission of the Secretary of Health. Any violation of these new regulations is punishable by one year's jail or a fine of R1000(Rand) or both.

In the center of the controversy were the Scientologists. The parliamentary debate over the bill extensively covered the apparent usage of it, to muzzle the Church of Scientology and its official journal.

Spokesman for the Church of Scientology in Las Vegas, Reverend Michael O'Brien, stated, "It is purely an effort by the Secretary of Health, Mr. J. DeBeer to silence the truth. Mr. DeBeer above all others has repeatedly denied our charges that millions are being made out of madness, yet he has been unable to disprove any of the facts we presented. It now has become necessary to make the full story known to what remains of the 'free world.'"

O'Brien continued, "We are not about to be muzzled in South Africa or anywhere else. Whatever the risks we will continue to campaign for the preservation and restoration of human rights throughout the world."

**Information and Referral Program**

Information and Referral is a program offered by the Voluntary Action Center to provide people with information about what is available in the community to help them with their problems. A person who has a problem and isn't sure what to do about it, can call Information and Referral for help.

There are actually two I and R programs at the Voluntary Action Center. One is funded by the City of Las Vegas to serve primarily low income persons under sixty years of age, The other is funded by Title III of the Older Americans Act, to provide answers to the special problems of the elderly.

Anyone, regardless of his age, can get an answer by calling Information and Referral at 382-5260.