

RUSTIN (Continued from page 4.)

has been confused by the discussion about the reasons for the lower turnout. The expansion of voting rights to 18 year olds has resulted in lower percentage turnouts. Younger voters have always voted in lower numbers. Only half of the 18 to 29 years olds are registered, while almost three out of four of those between 30 and 49 are registered and more than four out of five of those 50 and older are registered. But the increase in the number of young potential voters could only account for a relative decline in participation, not an absolute and dramatic decline in voting participation. At the present time, 5 million fewer people are registered than in 1972. Part of this decline is undoubtedly due to disillusionment have created the danger that non-voting will be accepted as the norm. low voting rates of the young and the political disillusionment have created the danger that non-voting will be accepted as the norm.

But to respond to low voting participation with the argument that we should make no reforms of the election laws because people who don't vote aren't interested will only compound the problem. Only by making registration simple and convenient will we be able to increase voting participation.

If registration is made easier, turnouts in presidential elections would probably increase by more than 10 percent. The most important would be to keep the voter rolls open until just a few days before the election, when interest is highest. Other barriers to voting which should be removed are long residency requirements, irregular registration hours, and periodic purging of non-voters from the rolls, inconvenient location of registration offices, and the lack of absentee registration in some states.

Voters who are concerned about the health of our democracy should make the easing of registration laws an issue with candidates for office. Attitudes toward postcard registration are perhaps the best measure of whether a candidate truly wants to make voting a right instead of a privilege.

The Hughes Report

By Thomas F. Hughes



We Lost

On Sept. 14 some of us voted. Commissioner Weisner lost his incumbency position because the firefighters and teachers got out and campaigned against him and the stand on wage provisions. Within three days of the election the teachers who were offered 2-1/2% wage increase have now been offered what amounts to about 6% increase. The commission is now re-negotiating with the firefighters and are preparing a much better offer than the one previously offered. Rest assured they will be a healthy increase in their offer. The county had paid a huge sum to get arbitration which came up with their best possible offer of 2-1/2% for teachers. Why did this all change? One word tells the tale, "Ballot." The ignorant argument that your vote does not count was shattered.

Apparently only 1400 people voted on the West Side based on available reports. We have a minimum of 12,000 eligible people who could have registered and voted, but Black apathy kept them away from the polls. We have many times more potential voters than there are teachers and firemen but we don't vote.

We cannot force any issue or change anybody's position because we are either too lazy or too unconcerned. Will we ever learn?

We had four Blacks in governmental decision positions that control and determine our living conditions. But Aaron Williams lost. Why? Because when it was determined that he should run at large the Black vote was negated. We no longer control our destiny and unless the re-districting for the next election stays more or less the same as it was you can forget about us having our commissioner. We lost 25% of our political representation and if the at-large position is established against the State Senator and Assemblyman positions you can look forward to losing the other 75% of our representation.

In short we won't have any political power. Will we ever wake up?

From now on we are going to be more and more dependent on our own Black organizations to fend for us. Maybe now we will begin to look up to groups like the NAACP instead of looking down on it. You really don't look down on it anyway, because you have to look up to see it.

Join them now and pay the small dues you owe them because you are really going to need them now!

From Our Readers

NOTICE

EDITORS NOTE: The Las Vegas Voice will publish your opinion on any subject - praise - complaints - questions - or answers. We do reserve the right to edit, and your letter must be signed with a valid address and phone number for verification prior to publication. We want your letters! At your written request your name can be withheld.

Twin Lakes Laundromat
ALL NEW WASHERS
TOP LOADERS 35¢ (DRYERS 10¢)
TWIN LAKES SHOPPING CENTER

MICHELLE'S PRINTING CO.



616 No. "H" Street
Las Vegas, Nevada

89106

Now Open in WL.V.

Instant printing co.

doing business cards,
letter heads, posters,
copies & typesetting.

PH. 648-2616

NEW! CENTURY MEADOWS

UNIT 3

2 and 3 Bedroom
2 1/2 Bath

TOWAHOUSES

FROM \$33,990 Plus Association membership of \$34.75 per month

Nothing down Vets - Immediate Occupancy on approved credit

VA-FHA

Sales Office Open Daily 10A.M. to 6P.M.

Spring Mtn. at Jones Blvd.

Telephone

876-2852

BALANCED POWER HOMES CLEAR ENERGY

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

CENTURY COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS

The seller reserves the right to change plans, specifications, materials and prices at any time without notice.

SUBSCRIBE TO

THE LAS VEGAS VOICE
One Year \$12.50

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

The Voice

P. O. Box 4686
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

ATTENTION LADIES!

WE SELL FOOD - NOT MEMBERSHIPS
ECONOMY FOOD SERVICE

382-5782 • 731-2561

Let our counselors advise you on a suitable program economically budgeted to your needs.

MEATS • POULTRY • FISH
Plus Groceries Delivered
Locally To Your Home...

TOO BUSY, DON'T LIKE TO SHOP?
LET US DO YOUR SHOPPING!

Quality, Convenience, Service
is Our Motto
SEE THE YELLOW PAGES