

# THE PUBLISHER SPEAKS



By LAWRENCE ALBERT

Most folks would agree that the recent arson burnings of the five West Las Vegas churches was a pretty despicable act. But even more despicable was the revelation, emanating from the smouldering ashes of the burned churches, that contracts for more than a half million dollars in damages were let -- but not one to a Black contractor.

The criminal justice system will seek justice for those responsible for the burnings. But where is the justice in the decision of all five ministers of the churches in question to go outside of the Black community for contractual assistance?

This constitutes a blatant act of disregard for the more than 20 highly qualified and capable minority contractors who are an integral part of the West Las Vegas community.

The issue begs for editorial comment and the Voice feels strongly that not only should consideration be given to the rescinding of the contracts, but the ministers should be called before their parishioners to answer for this intolerable act of deception.

The Black community cannot stand contradictions of this type within its boundaries. If we do not support our own businesses, how can we expect them to become economically recognized and viable within the total community?

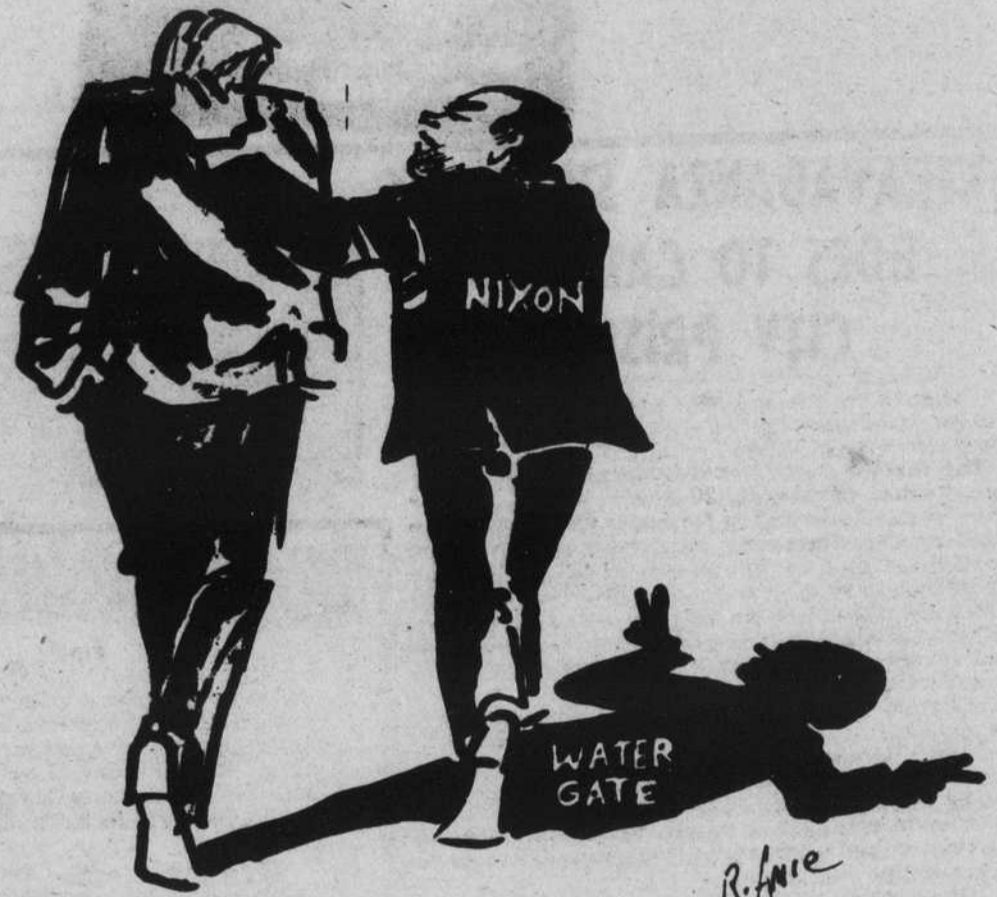
The Voice is saddened to see that all of the ministers who chose to have their churches repaired by contractors, went outside the Black community. It saddens us further to know that these same ministers who had the opportunity to economically support the Black community, and didn't, will now go back into their pulpits and graciously ask their parishioners to once again support the churches through tithes and offerings.

Lest the ministers forget, these are the same parishioners who have supported the churches, not just with tithes and offerings, but with the sweat of their brows and sacrifices of their personal and family time as they labored long and hard to physically help build, and raise money for, the construction of the churches.

Lest the ministers forget, also, tithes and offerings and support of churches by parishioners are given in total commitment to the work of the Lord and, as we said, often at great, personal sacrifice to those giving. But it is given, because they believe in the work of the Lord, and because they believe it is their religious duty.

Is it, then, not the duty of the ministers to render the same devotion and consideration for its parishioners and the entire West Las Vegas community?

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R. Anie

## 'AH, PARDON ME. HOW DID IT GO?'

### Just the Facts UNITY

THAT IS ALL THAT IS NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS -- UNITY!!!

NOW THAT IT IS ALL OVER (THE ELECTION) IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US TO UNITE...WORK TOGETHER, AND FORGET YESTERDAY -- THERE IS TODAY AND THERE WILL BE A TOMORROW.

WINNERS. MUST HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE (BIG HEADED WINNERS (BIGOTS) CAN BE AS POOR A SPORT AS POOR LOSERS) -- AND WE DON'T NEED EITHER ONE.

LOSERS HAVE GOT TO REMEMBER THAT THERE IS A TOMORROW, AND ANOTHER CHANCE. AND NOW IS THE TIME FOR THEM TO LAY THEIR GROUND WORK FOR THE FUTURE.

BUT UNITE TOGETHER NOW FOR THE GOOD OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY -- THIS MEANS POLITICIANS (WINNERS AND LOSERS) - MINISTERS - SCHOOL BOARDS - TEACHERS - AND BUSINESS MEN (BLACK OR WHITE).

THIS IS YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT...SO DO SOMETHING WITH IT...NOT JUST TALK...

AND ALL THAT IS UP TO YOU!!! UNITY IS THE WORD AND THE ONLY SOLUTION TO A SERIOUS PROBLEM.

--CREED

### Business In The Black

by Charles E. Belle

#### BIG OIL'S

#### BRIBES BY-PASSED BLACKS

This is the third anniversary of the Arab oil embargo. The U.S. has stumbled in circles from such grandiose proposals as project independence to the long stalemate on decontrolling oil prices. Today it is more dependent on foreign oil than it was then the Arabs turned off the tap.

Big oil has benefited, not blacks or any other poor people in this country. The number of poor persons in the U.S. increased by 2.5 million in 1975, the largest single year since the government began keeping poverty statistics in 1959.

The Bureau of the Census, in making public its annual survey of incomes said that the increase in the number of persons living in poverty in 1975 was "quite pervasive," extending to every group in the population. In the meantime, Exxon ran up profits of \$2.5 billion dollars. One thousand dollars for every poor person in America.

Exxon is not alone in the bringing of bad news to blacks. Philipps Petroleum (76) hires fewer than five percent blacks. Only about seven percent of the employees in oil-related industries are black. Most blacks still work in the lower echelon jobs.

The Congressional Black Caucus has the clout to bring a halt to racism around the oil wells. The seventeen members of the Congressional Black Caucus should have as their first order of business in the new 95th Congress, the breaking up of big oil bill.

Gulf Oil, Exxon, Mobil Oil, and other multinational corporations have confessed to making secret pay offs of millions of dollars. Disclosures of bribery by US corporations operating abroad have shaken governments in Honduras, Japan, Italy, and the Netherlands and other countries.

The latest Opinion Research Corp survey indicated 76 percent of the public agreed that the major oil companies are too big and powerful. The Divestiture bill is the only decent thing to do for blacks and other poor people.

The cry for divestiture of big oil is not limited.

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK (Continued to page 14.)

## LAS VEGAS VOICE

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