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Through an economic "Catch 22", Blacks in Nevada are denied the financial rewards from meaningful participation in the State's lucrative gaming industry. In what appears to be a conspiracy between the State, the gaming industry, and the financial institutions, Blacks are denied the means to earn capital in the gaming industry, and then denied the credit to borrow funds to develop their own gaming industry.

The traditional way in Nevada to earn capital and climb the economic ladder is through the thousands of good paying jobs in the gaming industry; but these jobs denied Blacks in Nevada. Except for scattered "tokens", Black employment in hotels and casinos is limited to service workers -- porters, maids, dishwashers, and dealers.

The other traditional way to earn capital is through successful business ventures -- but this means is also denied Blacks in Nevada. Black businessmen cannot get development loans to improve their properties to attract tourists; they are denied advertising funds to bring in Black tourists to patronize their businesses, so their market consists of local poor or low-income Blacks.

Through the Gaming Commission, the State has powers to force the gaming industry to hire Blacks in good paying jobs. Roger D. Foley, who was Nevada's Attorney General in 1961, and who is now a federal district court judge for the Southern district of Nevada, issued Opinion #243 on September 1, 1961. In that opinion, Attorney General Foley stated that the "State Gaming Control Board and the Nevada Gaming Commission are authorized to determine that racial discrimination . . . as to employment by gaming licensees is an unsuitable method of operation and that the Commission and Board have the power to condition licensees against it or to make regulations against it and enforce such regulations by disciplinary action".

Who does the Gaming Commission take orders from? Have they ever said to a hotel "If you continue to discriminate we will revoke your license?" Not only have they not used their powers to end discrimination, they are trying to give their anti-discrimination responsibilities to the State Equal Rights Commission -- an agency without any enforcement powers.

What does it take to be a pit boss, floorman, showroom captain or maitre'd? Juice, not skills. The Gaming Commission could be the Black man's juice to get those good paying jobs -- but they won't act. So the Black man continues to wash dishes or pick up litter off the casino floor, bringing home just enough money to pay the rent, never earning enough to start his own business or contribute to the success of Black businesses in his community.

Black businessmen struggling to make ends meet can forget commercial loans to develop their businesses, so their businesses become shabby which drives away customers. The Convention Authority refuses to spend any of its

millions of advertising dollars to attract Black tourists to Las Vegas and a potential for increased earnings is lost to the Black businessman.

Most of West Las Vegas is owned by white business interests, who don't spend any money improving their property but instead just sit back and collect the rent. Absent landlords (some call them "slumlords") control the atmosphere of poverty in the Black community. Blacks don't own the property and can't determine its use or condition.

A Black businessman wanted to move his gambling casino from a poor location to the Golden West Shopping Center. He was refused a lease on the space he wanted because one of the White owners didn't want gambling at the Golden West. The White owner also owns the Union Plaza -- is he afraid of the competition? Why should a white man determine where anything is located in the Black community? We hear that the financial interests have plans for industrial development in the Black community -- why don't they let us know their plans? Are we to be moved out?

The vicious cycle of no job - no money - no business - no loans - no property - must be stopped. To begin, I call on the Gaming Commission to hold hearings on discrimination in the gaming industry. I ask that the financial institutions loan money to Black businessmen for development of their properties. I ask the Convention Authority to spend some of their advertising dollars to attract Black tourists to Las Vegas -- some of them will want to spend their money in West Las Vegas. I ask for community meetings with the absent white financial interests to learn what they are doing to our community. White control of the Black community has continued too long -- it is time that Blacks determine the future of West Las Vegas.

Once more, I wish to emphasize the importance of honesty about the plans for the community so that we, as residents, can ensure that we are not being planned out. In short, we believe in economic development, but it will only have meaning if we are planned into these projects. This can only happen with a relevant Gaming Commission, lending institutions, and the cooperation of the State of Nevada. Who will take a stand for and with the Black business man to ensure that he gets a piece of the gaming industry.

What financial institution or individual has the guts to do what you know in your heart to be right? The facts are clear, as of now, Blacks are not a part of the economic program of Nevada.

**ECKANKAR SOCIETY**

Spiritual healing, without interfering in another person's "space", will be one of the topics discussed at the ECKANKAR public seminar "A Venture Inward" on Sunday, March 27, in the Gold Room of the Royal Inn, 305 Convention Center Drive.

The seminar is aimed towards introducing the spiritual teachings of ECKANKAR to the public.

There will be an introductory talk and film on ECKANKAR Sunday at noon, at no charge.

The seminar program will be from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. and will include music, dance performances and an art show. Talks and panel discussions on dream interpretation and knowing the future through prophecy will also be featured.

Registration for the seminar begins 10:30 a.m. Sunday. There will be a charge for the seminar. Call 386-6944 for further information.

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