

Rusco, Elmer R.A'S  
 Box 8947 University Stat.  
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 WEEKLY

# Politics Taken For Granted



## TAKEN FOR GRANT

Within the realm of politics to be taken for granted is as bad as being disenfranchised (not having the right to vote), and is a thousand times worse than being neglected. The concept of benign neglect, which was used by Richard Nixon, at least recognizes that a people do exist but are not considered. However, to be taken for granted in the political arena assumes a people to be non-existent, and, therefore, not considered at all, especially after election returns are in and the candidate has taken office. Many Black people remember from their history in this Country what it meant to be considered as one third a person when it came to being represented in any political office. Now the politics are less overt, but the problem still exists mainly because we allowed it and yet could not defeat it. We allow ourselves to be herded into one political camp regardless of the ideas being presented and we help to elect politicians who, in fact, took away our strength, thus defeating us with our own power.

## WHAT UNITY:

To my amazement, we as Black people are as

diverse as day and night when it comes to many issues we face with each other. However, when it comes to politics you mention the Democratic party and ninety percent say "Amen." Now be truthful, is this our own doing? I seriously doubt it in as much as our day-to-day activities are divided with disunity. Examples of this can be seen with the present membership of the local N.A.A.C.P., or the lack of strong business and financial institutions that are created, directed and influenced by a Black populace. Being a member of the Democratic party myself, I am asking and debating with my inner conscience what I and we as Black folk should seek in a politician on the local scene? So, the facts remain, and the question still exists. The only reasonable answer I can muster is a simple one, what will the politician deliver not commit to Black Nevadians? Many of us are too quick to generalize from the President of the United States to State and Local Governments. This cannot be done because Government that affects us the most in day to day situations is local not national Government, so don't be confused. Rev. Jesse Jackson said recently that there are as many racists and right wingers in the Democratic party as there are in the total membership

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**LAS VEGAS**

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**VOICE**

NEVADA'S BLACK  
 COMMUNITY WEEKLY  
 "An Uninterrupted  
 Publication Since 1963"

15¢

# Bill Thurston, Operation Life, Speaks

Mr. Bill Thurston, National Coordinator for People United to Save Humanity (PUSH) was in Las Vegas this week. Mr. Thurston functions under the direction of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, the founder and National President of Operation PUSH. Rev. Jackson heads the N.A.A.C.P. (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), and has attained a worldwide reputation for effectively carrying on the work of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Mr. Thurston spoke at the Jim Bridger Gymnasium on Wednesday evening, and at the Matt Kelly Sixth Grade Center on Thursday Morning.

In the basic struggle for justice and equality, we firmly believe that the destiny of each of us is tied irrevocably to the destiny of all of all of us. It is not an issue of color but of character. Further, it is not a question of race or religion but of morality and money. A few people of humanity must raise the moral issues of the day and struggle uncompromisingly to economic justice (equity and parity) for all and a rebuilding of the moral fiber of this country. America, at this moment in history, is the most powerful country in the world -- so to redirect priorities in the United States is in fact to influence the salvation of all humanity.

We are dedicated to reaching these goals through research, education, and the execution of direct action programs. Our times call for unprecedented and unparalleled thrusts against those forces which seek to perpetuate human exploitation."

What better way for the Push for Excellence campaign to begin than with a public commitment by each of the three major participants: students, parents and teachers.

Here are three versions of a pledge to excellence which focus on the individual commitment of each participating group.

## STUDENTS

"I pledge to push for excellence by striving to learn as much as I possible can. I will work to achieve success in school so that I can prepare myself for success in life. I will respect the authority of my parents and accept the help of my teachers. I will do every thing I can to use my time wisely in order to learn."

## PARENTS

"I pledge to push for excellence by involving myself in the education of my children. I will teach them values and ethics. I will encourage them to develop self-discipline and to learn as much as they can in school and at home. I will teach my children the importance of self-respect and respect for their teachers, and I will require respect for my authority as their parent."

## TEACHERS

"I pledge to push for excellence by using all means available to me to insure that my students achieve excellence in their careers and adult lives. I will motivate students to value knowledge and view it as vital to their futures. I will promote discipline and respect for parents. I will support the efforts of other teachers, parents and students in the pursuit of excellence through devotion to learning."

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