

LAS VEGAS VOICE

EDITORS VIEWPOINT

LAS VEGAS VOICE

PEOPLE, PLACES and POLITICS

Senator Joe Neal



INQUESTS USEFUL

Now that the inquests are over and the officers have been exonerated in the death of two people, it is time to renew what has been accomplished. First, we must commend our District Attorney, Mr. Miller for his courage shown in withstanding the pressures of the Police Protective Association, by calling for these inquests, even though at times, we felt that he might falter.

As you probably know, the Police Protective Association's position has been that an inquest into police shooting would not be protective of the officers involved. We had opposed this position because an inquest is not supposed to be protective of anyone. It is used to get at the facts, and further that those facts be examined in open court for public review. This is what the black community asked for and received.

It is important to the concept of liberty that the citizens be able to review and influence police policy. This become even more important with such organizations as the Police Protective Association and police unions seeking to protect officers in unlawful violation of citizens' liberties. We are not taught to challenge authority, but to obey it. As a result of this teaching, and the enormous discretion given to the police, it is very easy for us to fall prey to state control by the police. Therefore any organization which operates for the protection of the police could very well become one which threatens the liberty of the citizenry. Because more likely than not, the policemen's loyalty would turn to those organizations which protect them, as opposed to the citizen from whom they derive their authority to be police in the first place.

The patrolman on the street exercises enormous powers over the individuals whom he stops. Because of his powers, the policeman must be made accountable for his action and he must never be led to

believe that he can get away with any wrong. The inquest becomes important, especially in cases where death results at the hands of a policeman, to insure that the rights of an individual has not been violated. The corner's inquest is not the best method of placing checks on police abuse, but it is the only method available at present.

In a small way, the inquest has pointed out that it is the law to which the citizens surrender their liberty to be governed, and not the person who enforces the law.

There are many law and order types who would probably say that I want to handcuff the police. That is not true. I do want the police to know that handcuffs are not only for the arrest of those who are not policemen, but can be used on them too.

We must remember that policemen are not above the law. Our duty is to get rid of those who act and think they are.

NEW DAY BEGUN by

Benjamin L. Hooks



"NO" to BLACK ENGLISH

Once more, the question of whether so-called "Black English" is a distinctive language that should be taught in school is rearing its ugly, destructive head. Pushed by a number of blacks in the late sixties and early seventies as a form of cultural expression, and not surprisingly supported by some whites, the ostensible idea behind the drive to use this language form in public schools is that poor black children in predominantly segregated urban areas would learn more readily if they were taught in the vernacular with which they were most familiar.

On July 12, U.S. District Judge Charles W. Joiner ordered the Ann Arbor, Mich., School District Board to submit a plan outlining steps it will take to train teachers to identify children who speak black English. The ruling resulted from a suit filed by 11 black children attending Martin Luther King Junior High School against the school board. The thrust of the suit was that the school system violated the plaintiffs' civil rights by failing to take appropriate action to help them overcome their language barrier.

While some people, including the defendants' senior attorney confessed to being "confused" over the ruling, we are sure of one thing. Black English can hardly be learned from text books. It has to be assimilated through the process of contact and extended association with those from whom it springs.

What concerns us, though, is the very idea that black children will be further handicapped by any additionally imposed barrier to learning their "three R's," which they so desperately need to compete in a highly developed society. Such a possibility cries out for resounding protest against the black English drive. The effort to require the teaching of black English in public schools, as some advocate, is a sin and a crime that should be condemned in no uncertain language.

No doubt, some of the black English promoters are tempted by the prospect of making bundles of money from books and the development of teaching materials. They, who are already well educated and able to communicate in the basic idiom of society, can also afford to vent their egotistical drives for esoteric sounding ideas and research projects that are meant to benefit no one else but themselves. But, why at the

SPECIAL EDITORIAL

BLACK BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Recently, Black Enterprise magazine has unveiled its annual listing of the top 100 black-owned firms of black-owned insurance companies and financial institutions.

The firms, whose total revenues exceeded \$1 billion represent a powerful testament to the entrepreneurial drive among blacks, particularly in light of the fact that 77 of the 100 firms have been formed since 1969.

However, there is one characteristic of the list that is disturbing. None of the firms listed in the top 100 businesses are from North Carolina. Should one think that not odd, North Carolina is one of only two Southern states (the other is Alabama) not represented on the list. Maine and Vermont are the only other two states east of the Mississippi without a black-owned firm in the list.

"Wait," one says. "Isn't North Carolina Mutual of Durham the world's largest black owned enterprise?" That's true. However, N.C. Mutual and the Winston Mutual, the tenth largest black insurance company in terms of insurance in force, are listed among the insurance firms.

Although we should be very proud of the accomplishments of these two firms and the service they render, their isolation as sizable black enterprises in this state is striking.

Be's figures show the continuing need for the building of a diversified black economic base here in the state-one that combines family owned retail establishments and service business with manufacturers, wholesalers and financiers. The same need exists all over the country. For instance, in May, Fortune magazine published its list of the top 500 industrial companies in the U.S. Their sales surpassed \$1.2 trillion.

However, only 12 of the top 100 black businesses were manufacturing firms. The largest number among the black business list was made up of 39 auto dealers.

The achievement of the economic base necessary will take a mammoth effort. As we noted before, the current success of black businesses has occurred since the beginning of an awareness that the barriers which have limited minority firms should be removed.

That awareness has been shunted aside in the national rush against affirmative action. Yet there are still laws at the federal level which make it possible for minorities to participate in government procurement and receive technical assistance.

Now needed are similar policies at the level of state and local government. Gov. Jim Hunt has continually talked about helping minority firms obtain state contracts, but has yet to do anything tangible in that regard. Locally, our elected and appointed officials don't even talk about it, unless there's federal requirement to do so.

The real advances in black enterprise will have to come from within. When blacks pool their funds for investment, when black consumers buy selectively, considering whether dollars will return to their neighborhoods, then we will see the construction of the economic base which will translate into real power for the black community.

Greensboro's black population has adequate resources to establish an extensive economic base of its own.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

LAS VEGAS VOICE

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

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER [Published every Thursday]
DEDICATED to the INTEREST and INSPIRATIONS for
a BETTER LIFE for BLACK CITIZENS of the STATE
OF NEVADA

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORP., Publisher
Sponsored By: Christian Fellowship Industries
Editorial, Advertising, & Circulation Offices
616 N. "H" Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
Telephone: 648-2615
Advertising Rates Furnished Upon Request
Price per copy - 25 * One year \$15.00
Controlled Circulation Permit