

*Black Firefighter Fights
Fire With Fire In His Eyes*

Who Says You Can't Fight City Hall

Edward Smith, 25, a former Clark County firefighter is an angry man these days and says that he has every good reason to feel that way. Smith was hired as a Clark County firefighter under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program during October, 1978. He had prior experience in fire fighting skills while serving in the U.S. Navy. He was "left out in the cold" when the CETA funds ran out. He was out of a job. "To add insult to injury," said Smith. "The county fire department did not hire me." Feeling the "thorns of discrimination," he filed a complaint with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and a suit against the Clark County Fire Department with the State of Nevada Equal Rights Commission. The "Smith case" has since taken on a new dimension as a number of blacks have been demonstrating in front of the North Las Vegas City Hall with Smith and members of a local community group — Love Is The Foundation for Dignity, Humanity and Unity — claiming the city discriminates against blacks when seeking to fill the vacancies as they develop in the city administration. The demonstration was organized by Smith who maintains that the city discriminated against him by not giving him a job on the city fire department last December. "My unsuccessful attempt to get a job as a North Las Vegas firefighter was one of the reasons for the demonstration," added Edward Smith. "As a matter of fact, it played only a small part for our reason to be out there demonstrating. I'm sick and tired of the runarounds I've been getting." According to Smith, some 45 percent of the population of North Las Vegas is black. He quickly added that blacks make up only 15 percent of the city work force. "It's not quite the way

Mr. Smith describes it," declared North Las Vegas Director of Personnel Edward Satterfield. "The city does not discriminate against any minority when hiring. According to Federal Affirmative Action guidelines, 15 percent of the North Las Vegas City work force must be minority members." Satterfield was quick to add that 17 percent of the city's workers are from an ethnic minority group. Specifically, he did not indicate what percentage was black.

Satterfield pointed out that they experience a very slow turnover of employees, which limits job opportunities. He observed that many of the work force have been with the city more than 10 years.

City Manager Raymond Schweitzer analyzed that the city officials have estimated blacks make up 30 percent of the city's population and that, according to the Nevada labor statistics, only 9 percent are employable. "Most of the city's black citizens are employed in Downtown Las Vegas and Strip hotels.

In response to Smith's complaint of job discrimination, the Nevada Equal Rights Commission ruled in late July that there was no evidence of racial discrimination.

The demonstrations has drawn some attention from the North Las Vegas city council. Smith is now scheduled to appear before the council on May 22 to request an overturn of the decision by the city's fire chief not to hire him.

In the meantime, Smith continues his campaign to improve the plight of blacks seeking jobs within the work force in the city of North Las Vegas.

The numbers of demonstrators have not been large in front of the North Las Vegas City Hall. Smith feels that it's not that important. "The numbers of demonstrators joining me have not been large in number. We are visible and there appears to be concern surfacing. That's important," he continued. "We must see this through to the end. We want jobs now."

Food Stamp Crisis In May

On May 15, 26,030 people in Clark County will know if they'll have enough money to buy food. On that date, the Senate Conference Committee will either turn its thumbs up or down on the national food stamp program. For nearly 20 years the program has provided assistance to low-income families, unable to make ends meet through existing state welfare programs.

And now, thousands of American families are waiting to see how Congress votes on Senate Bill 1309, a bill which would assure more than 20 million Americans that they would receive food stamps for the rest of the year and 1981.

On Monday a committee formed by Operation Life, held a news conference to urge passage of the bill.

Spokeswoman Mattie Snowden said that a series of nationwide news conferences are being held throughout the week to make people aware of the seriousness of the problem.

In the past the food stamp program has been criticized because it has failed to trim its budget. Many people point to the fact that college students

and other individuals not needing food stamps are abusing benefits offered by the agency and \$1309 will have a series of amendments prohibiting rip-offs. And how does Nevada's congressional delegations stand on the issue? We contracted Senator's Cannon, Laxalt and Congressman Santini and all said they needed more information before making up their minds. Senator Cannon's office and Congressman Santini's office gave lukewarm endorsement of the bill.

Senator Laxalt's office said that the spending limit for the entire federal budget would have to be raised first, before any action could be taken on 1309. The Senator is not in favor of raising the spending limit. So where does that leave servicemen, senior citizens and other people living below the poverty level. We talked to a 50 year old disabled mother of two, a recipient of 310 dollars a month. She told us that the 310 dollars is all she receives to support herself and her kids and if food stamps were cut off she would steal from grocery stores in order to feed her kids.



A black community newspaper published every Friday by the Galaxy Publishing Company.

Betty Brown
Editor In Chief

Bernie Rivers
Advertising Director

Bernie Rivers
Circulation Manager

Betty Brown
General Manager

Sports Editor..... Lonnie Wright
Lay-Out Editor..... Quin Leggett
Fashion Editor..... Lei Stroughter
Copy Editor..... Betty Brown

National contributing writers:
Carl Rowan, Vernon Jordan, Bayard Rustin, Norman Hill.

Local contributing writers: Dorothy Allen, Al Brown, Mae Couyette, Rudy Jackson, Quin Leggett, Doris Pinkney, Ruth Turner, Rev. Charles Wyatt.

Office: 2450 Industrial Road, Las Vegas, Nev. 89102. Tel: (702) 384-9907.
(All rights reserved. Reproduction of contents in whole or in part strictly prohibited unless prior permission received from publisher.)

**Real Estate is a
people business
Here is one of the
people at Toler Realty**



Residential Income
&
Land Commercial

**Robert
Foster**

Robert is a lifelong resident of Las Vegas. His many friends and relatives are among his many clients and customers. He recently completed the requirements to attain the designation of G.R.I. (Graduate of Realtors Institute) Robert now serves residential clients, but is mostly inclined to branch into commercial and income sales. Robert also serves on the Board of Directors of the Miss Black Teenage - Nevada Pageant and as Vice President of the West Las Vegas Jaycees.



**TOLER
REALTY**



1056 No. Rancho Dr.
Twin Lakes Shopping Center

COMPUTERIZED
MLS 648-0484

Equal Housing
Opportunity