

NAACP PRESIDENT JAMES MCMILLAN:

Riots Unlikely In Las Vegas

While Las Vegas was shaken with a racial violence 10 years ago, NAACP President James McMillan said this week that the generally healthy economic climate and improved relations with police make the city an unlikely place for riots by angry blacks. He was alluding to the riots which took place in Miami the last few days setting a death toll at 16 and \$100

million in property damage.

The need for widespread communications and dialogue was expressed among some of the local black leaders. Deputy Chief Larry Bolden, the highest ranking black in the Metro Police Department called for greater dialogue when racial problems arise.

"If leaders in the community—both black and white — or just John Does — have problems that exist they should sit down and talk about it in a rational manner," he said.

McMillan and other prominent local blacks cautioned, however, that increasing unemployment among blacks youths

and cutbacks in social programs could heighten racial tensions. McMillan said there is no "imminent danger" of a new outbreak of race rioting here.

"A riot helps nobody. The last riot tore down the black community, not the white community," McMillan added.

Leonard Mason, a black

contractor, also cited worsening economic conditions for blacks and police killings as problems that must be solved. He said President Carter's wholesale admittance of the so-called "boat people" and Cuban refugees will crimp the lower paying end of the job market, which creates additional burden on blacks.

"A financially healthy community very rarely has any racial strife like Miami. The only thing that may bring it to a head is police brutality," McMillan pointed out. He noted that several killings of black men by police months ago raised the ire of the black community, but Sheriff John McCarthy has since held meetings that have reduced tension.

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REV. DUNN: Programs For Blacks Unfair

This is the final series of articles relating to a recent SENTINEL interview with Rev. Albert Dunn, pastor of the Allen Chapel AME Church. In earlier accounts, he had been discussing the need for extensive voter education and voter registration programs plus a banding together of people.

The SENTINEL explored the need for intelligent representation and asked Rev. Dunn: "Are you involved in any project which will bring about change in the voting process?"


DUNN: "Right now we are in the process of trying to bring about the basic elements for change such as voter registration and the things I have been discussing."

SENTINEL: "When an intelligent constituency is developed, what can we next expect?"

DUNN: "Once you have an intelligent electorate and an intelligent constituency you will then get an intelligent representation. We will then need to be involved deeply into the economic development of the Black community. I'm not just talking about the various programs which we have now."

SENTINEL: "Are these programs adequate?"

DUNN: "I am certain they are not adequate,



REV. DUNN

but it's more than we've had in the past. One of the sad things about it is that they've had to learn after the fact. So the community loses a lot. It may be a fact of a lack of development totally in our community. But there's another factor. A number of churches have a cash flow of \$3-4,000 weekly. You are talking about some churches having over \$200,000 a year. In this community there are 4 to 5 churches with that kind of money weekly. That's a tremendous amount of economic potential. To give you an example: A particular church could provide or support credit needs for their members."

SENTINEL: "And they're not?"

DUNN: "Certainly not. Not in the sense that I'm talking about. You see, basically and theologically if we say (See Rev. Dunn, page 23)