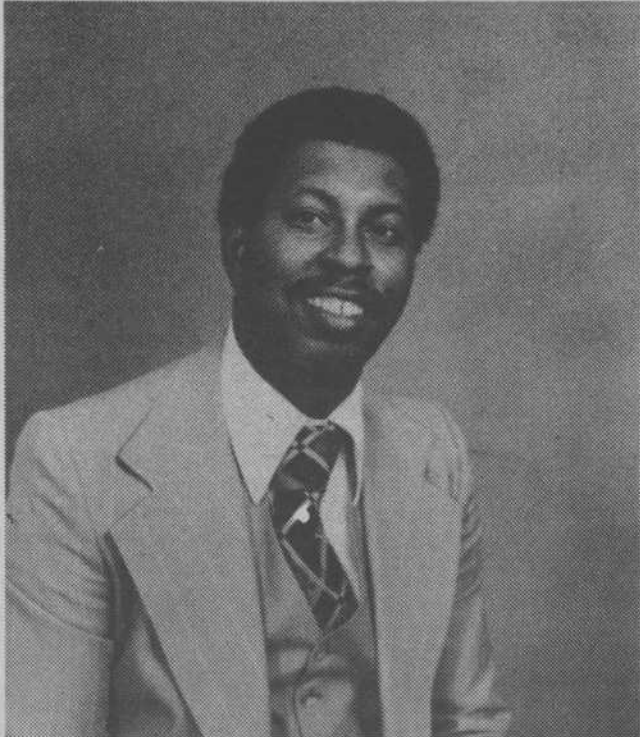


Leonard Mason Says:**'Blacks Will Not Be Elected To City, County Commission'**

Meet Bill McCurdy, Deputy Constable of Las Vegas Township. McCurdy is pondering entering the 1980 political arena. Some offices he is considering include the Nevada State Assembly, the Nevada State Senate, the Clark County Commission and the City Commission.

Beginning with this issue, the LAS VEGAS SENTINEL will provide weekly a probing look at the local and state

Political Profiles

political picture. This series, which will be printed through October 31 just prior to the November 4 election, will give a political over-view through comments and interviews with a number of the prospective and announced candidates, political analysts and the

constituency.

The SENTINEL recently conducted an interview with Leonard Mason, president of the Mason Construction, Inc. During a number of years, he has worked closely with the local political scene. We were seeking his analogy on the future outlook for blacks on the county and city seats.

SENTINEL! Will there be any blacks elected to any of the County or City Commissions in the next election?

MASON: No! First, the voter registration program that was initiated by the NAACP and the group



MASON

with Rev. Abernathy and the Defense Fund was not successful. We don't have the money or the mechanism to get these people registered.

SENTINEL: Specifically, what was needed to get the job done?

MASON: You needed money. There's no longer the altruism — no one volunteers any more. The day for volunteerism is behind us. I think programs like CETA have taken people out of the whole mental spectrum of volunteering for anything because people who would have volunteered see those positions now financed by the government. People have been spoiled by the Democratic Party who have financed registration drives in the past. The Democratic Party no longer needs any more blacks to register because we have reapportionment. So all of the Assembly districts are not concerned about all of Las Vegas because blacks will only be elected in two districts. In the past, all of the Assemblymen and Senators were concerned about this area. Countrywide we have the same question. We only have one County Commissioner who is going to be elected partially out of this district. The City Commission — the same story. So they're not concerned about the registration of blacks any longer.

SENTINEL: Are there any other problem areas?

MASON: Yes. The other problem we have, in terms of getting blacks elected, is that we're looking at a district where we have a declining population. There's no new housing being built in this area because of freeways, urban renewal, urban redevelopment, highway projects, etc. It has eliminated people and residences.

SENTINEL: Are blacks moving elsewhere?

MASON: They are moving elsewhere. They're moving throughout the valley. The decline is in the West Las Vegas area, per se. You have blacks who are now becoming more economically astute, (See Mason, page 23)

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