

Woofter Sidesteps Debate, Seeks CETA Board Position

Las Vegas City Commissioner Roy Woofter is seeking a post on the Comprehensive Employment And Training Act (CETA) executive board as the city's representative. This move is allegedly made in response to requests from blacks that he serve on the panel.

The black community is now viewing this move as Woofter's strategy to sidestep the brewing debate showdown between him and State Senator Joe Neal (D-Las Vegas).

Commissioner Ron Lurie, currently the city's CETA representative, met with Woofter last week to discuss the possibility of Woofter replacing Lurie on the board.

Woofter has been criticized by the Las Vegas chapter, NAACP, for not "stepping forth to be heard," when it ap-

peared that the CETA board favored assigning more federal funds to Spanish programs than those in the black community. As a result, the NAACP members had threatened to launch a recall election against Woofter "for lack of representation" of the black community.

Some of the members of the black community have suggested that Woofter would better serve the constituency by serving on the CETA board.

Woofter has been giving consideration to the possibility of serving on the CETA board after meeting with Assemblymen Rev. Marion Bennett and Lonie Chaney. The question of suspending CETA funds from the Marion Bennett Youth Center tipped the scales prompting the meeting.

There were discussions

last week between Lurie and Woofter on the matter. It was reported that Lurie may give consideration to Woofter filling the seat, "if he can be assured Woofter will represent the entire city," not just the black community.

"I hope he's not being pressured by the black community to speak on their behalf," responded Lurie. "The program is not a black program. It's a program for economically disadvantaged people. He pointed out the area has more disadvantaged whites and Latinos than blacks. Lurie favors giving positive consideration to the change on the CETA board seat if he can be assured Woofter would be objective.

In the meantime, Lurie wants to be appointed to another board seat if he gives up the CETA job.

Apathy Helps Reagan

WASHINGTON - (NBNS) - Widespread apathy among Blacks may cause them to ignore the November elections and Black political strategists fear a sharp dilution in their political power would result.

The alienation Blacks feel in this Presidential election year is heightened by the general opinion that Carter would not be President now were it not for their support in 1976.

Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, the psychologist, said in a recent interview that there was a possibility of "a record Black stayaway" from the polls in November.

Dr. Clark, who is also president of Data-Black, the national Black polling organization, said that a survey of 1,177 Blacks in early April showed that much of the disillusionment came out of the diminution of Blacks faith in President Carter.

The survey also found a "general disaffection among many Blacks for civil rights leaders and groups and the traditional political parties."

Dissident Blacks, mostly in all-Black, specialized and grass-roots community organizations, are predicting that "the widespread disenchantment" will lead Blacks into a new political thrust essentially independent of the traditional parties as well as the better-known Black leadership.

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