

Leonard Mason Withdraws From County Commission Race

(Cites lack of support as reason!)

BY ED BROWN

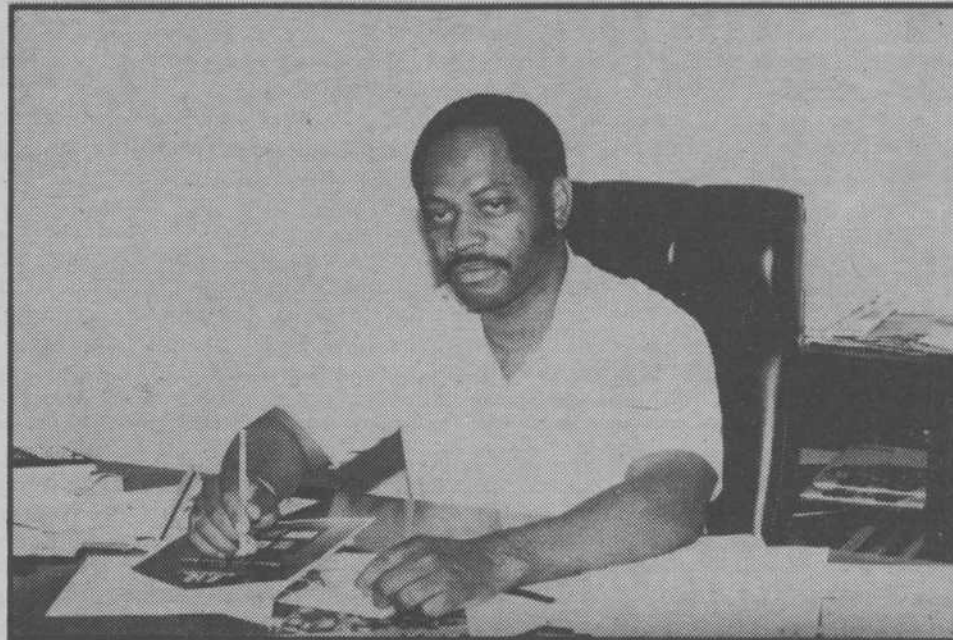
Leonard Mason, president of the Mason Construction, Inc. and who, last week, announced his candidacy for County Commissioner seat held by Sam Bowler, is withdrawing from the race.

The Nevada Voter League — the political arm of the Las Vegas chapter, NAACP, had been considering backing Mason in the upcoming election.

Dissatisfied with what he called Bowler's "absentee-landlord" representation of the black community, NAACP President Dr. James McMillan had said the league would probably support Mason if he were the only black candidate to file for the position by the July 16 deadline. The league did not throw its full support behind Mason.

Earlier this year, the NAACP vowed to unseat Bowler because he totally neglected to represent the people of his district (Dist. D), choosing instead to be "a power broker" for the Strip, according to McMillan.

"The votes are just not there," complained Mason. "Over the holiday weekend, we went over



LEONARD MASON...the time is not yet ripe

the entire district to analyze the situation. We don't see the votes nor the financial support needed to win the election. It's just not there.

"It will take two years work to adequately set up machinery to get someone elected to the County Commission seat, or any elected seat insofar as that is concerned. It's still "Bowler Country."

"Initially, I had planned to use some of my personal funds to launch the campaign. I knew that it would take a considerable amount to wage an adequate campaign. But I was willing to drop some seed money to get it started."

Mason said his work in the construction business is increasing tremendously and, at this time, has limited his ability to really get fully involved in the political picture. He anticipates great growth in his business should the

M-X missile project go through.

Early Monday morning, Mason had contacted McMillan to announce his withdrawal from the race. He said McMillan had expressed regret over the decision.

Mason said it appears that Woodrow Wilson, the first black State Assemblyman, is now considering "throwing his hat into the ring for the County Commission seat." Should Wilson decide to enter his candidacy, Mason foresees increased support but questions whether it will be enough at this particular time.

"I still maintain that it will take two years to put this thing together," Mason continued.

Leonard Mason's attention is now redirected toward the November elections at the Las Vegas chapter, NAACP. He plans to run for the

presidency. His energies are now directed toward helping with the NAACP's membership drive and aiding with its overall program.

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