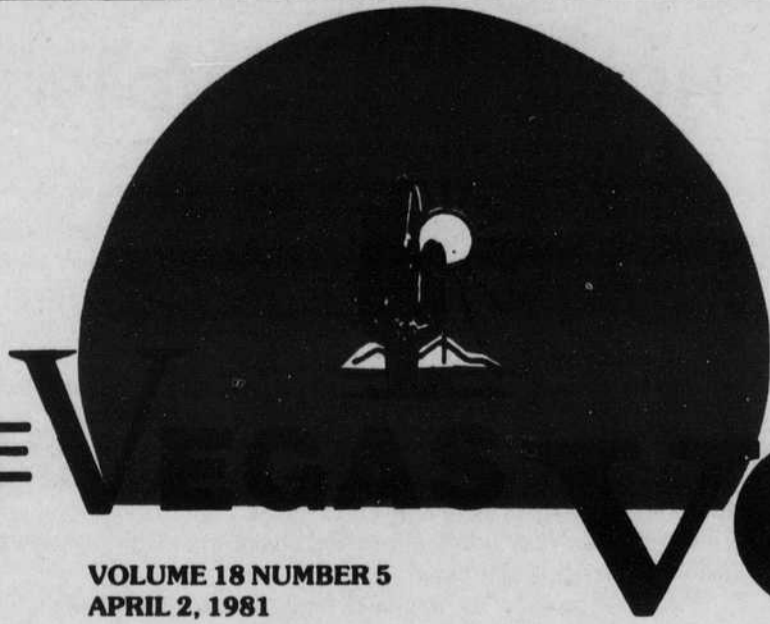


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## TO BUS OR NOT TO BUS

BY BILL HUNTER

I am at a loss as to what the heading of this column should be. At first I wanted to call it, "To bus or not to bus, that is the question." But after sitting and thinking for a long time, thoughts about events in my life, thoughts about events in other peoples lives - where we're at today as a nation, where we're going tomorrow as a nation. As for myself, I remember as a youngster in the fortys...maybe I was not a youngster, I guess I was sixteen, maybe that is a youngster. By today's standards it's not. My first trip to the South by automobile was from New York City. It was my first experience in stopping at a restaurant and that restaurant was for Whites only. I remember stopping at a gas station and it has colored bathrooms and it had White bathrooms, colored drinking fountains and White drinking fountains. As a sixteen year old it was a little difficult for me to understand what the difference was. I had never been exposed to segregation. When I entered the Marine Corp we had segregation in the 1940's. Blacks were used as laborers or truck drivers. I remember Harry Truman became president and he intergrated the Armed Forces. Til then, I had never seen a Black in the barracks or in the mess hall. They had their own mess halls, just as they did when I was a kid on my first trip back to the South. That really amazed me. Here we were, all wearing the same uniform, all exposed to the great dangers and ye we were segregated. Our skin color was different, but our blood color was the same—it ran red whether we be Black or White. I remember the civil rights movement and how it all got started with a Black lady in Montgomery, Alabama. Her name was Rosa Parks. Rosa Parks was on a bus coming home from work and she was pretty tired. And the bus driver wanted her to move to the rear of the bus. But Rosa refused. She wasn't going anywhere, she was tired and she just wanted to sit where she was. Well eventually they carried her off that bus. But at that time in Montgomery there was a young preacher and his name was Martin Luther King. I am sure everybody knows that Martin Luther King had a dream—what the dream was allabout—and what Marin Luther King died for. But there had been other deaths. There was the death of a woman. I remember her first name, it was Rose. She was a White lady from Detroit, Michigan. On the march to Selma, Alabama she would go and bring food to the marchers. One day in her car on her return she was shotgunned to death. There was Medgar Evers, shot to death. There were three young men, two from New ork, White boys, and a Black, and they were in Philadelphia, Mississippi. What they were doing there was taking Black's to vote and showing them how to vote. Their names were Schwerner, Goodman and Chaney. They were beaten first, then shot to death and buried in an earthen dam. All this in the name of civil rights and in the name of intergration. I guess here is where my confusion comes in. I've been hearing and have heard for may years the term Black Power. I remember in the Olympics—I believe it was in Mexico City where some Blacks won a gold and bronze medal. It is customary for those winners to raise an American Flag, but these men raised their hands in a clenched fist for Black Power. Our own newspaper that you read has a little box and it says that Black's must control their own community, my question is why? 'when you speak of Black Power, you speak of segregation, you speak of your own bathrooms, your own drinking fountain, and your own places to sit in the theatre. Same thing I saw when I was sixteen years old and that's going back a lot of years. So my confusion is, do we go with Martin Luther King's dream, or do we go for Black Power. I don't know if you can have both. And now a week ago our president, Mr. Ronald Reagan, gave to the states the right to bus or not to bus, and immediately the city of Los Angeles, quite a large city—dropped its busing. That's where my fear comes in. If President Reagan is going to give to the states, the right to bus or not to bus, what else is he going to give the states? What else is he going to give places like mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia? It's frightening. I wonder if this is the beginning of the end of civil rights. I doubt it. It's

covered by the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution which states that all persons born in the United States by virtue of their birth are citizens of the United States, entitled to an equal opportunity. But I'll tell you this busing has me just a little frightened. I don't know if I have ever been for busing. At one time I was, then I kind of thought it was ridiculous, because the purpose of busing was to give equal education to all children. Why not bus the teachers? I don't mean literally put them on a bus. Assign good teachers to every neighborhood. If you feel that the Black schools do not have qualified teachers then appeal to the city or county school board for the same teachers that teach in other school—as opposed to taking 50 or 60 kids 10 miles to get those teachers. But now that Los Angeles has dropped busing, I am looking with hesitation at what other cities are going to do. If any of you readers can clear up the confusion in my mind I would appreciate your writing the Voice and writing to Bill Hunter and tell me what it's all about. Do we want the dream of Martin Luther King or do we want Black Power or can we have both. I just don't know. So please write me.

## Reverend Wilson May Run For NLV Mayor



The Rev. J.W. Wilson may upset the North Las Vegas Mayoral race sometime this week by announcing his candidacy for the post.

Wilson, who has one of the largest congregations in the Black community, could strongly challenge the other candidates in the race, councilmen Mary Kinkaid and Jim Seastrand - another Black, Edward M. Smith, has also filed in the Mayor's race.

Wilson, pastor of the True Love Missionary Baptist Church at 1941 N. "H" str., said this weekend his running depends on whether he is drafted by the Black Ministeral Alliance, scheduled to meet Tuesday night.

"If they draft me, I feel like I shouldn't turn them down," Wilson said.

However, the SUN has learned that the alliance asked Wilson to run Saturday for the post, but could not draft him at the meetings because he was present. To have done so would have violated the alliance's bylaws, a source said.

"Wilson has been offered campaign funds, 100 free signs by community members, filing fees and pledges of support from many black preachers and activists," according to Leonard Mason, a member of the Clark County Republican Central Committee.

Mason added, "The man has the background and experience and has one of the largest congregations and followings in the black community."

Mason said Wilson also has "the character, prestige and integrity to pull it off."

Mason who has lived in Las Vegas all of his 38 years, said Wilson has such a good chance of winning the seat because "75 percent of the concentrated black population lives in North Las Vegas, and it is estimated they comprise about 45 percent of the city's population."