

# SNEDC FILES SUIT AGAINST GOVERNMENT

The Southern Nevada Economic Development Council has filed suit in federal court against the U.S. Commerce Department.

The civil suit by SNEDC and its executive director, Otis Harris, alleges the government deliberately delayed payment of the grant.

The council, established to attract business to the city's predominately black community; has been under investigation by federal authorities for allegedly misusing a \$965,200 government grant earmarked for economic revitalization

in low-income areas.

"The Southern Nevada Economic Development Council has answered the audit question," said Harris.

"They sent up half of the San Francisco staff and spent three months going through our books and found nothing. They have filed no charges against us. The suit we've filed gives us a chance to tell our side of the story. It appears to be harrassment."

A federal Economic Development Administration spokesman in Seattle said authorities are still trying to obtain additional financial

records.

Harris and the agency are seeking a minimum of \$192,000 in special damages and \$10,000 general damages. A separate action seeks a minimum of \$10,000 in general damages for injury to the reputation of the plaintiffs.

The suit claims that by delaying the payment of the grant, the government prevented the development council from fulfilling contractual obligations. It also alleges the government "deliberately attempted to undermine community and state support" for the agency.



**HOLD THAT BUS!** — Florene Williamson was aboard a chartered bus headed from Memphis to Los Angeles when the driver stopped briefly at Slots A Fun Casino on the Strip. The 35 passengers, en route to a family reunion, accepted a one-hour delay when Williamson won an authentic

restored Ford Model A. Slot shift manager Dick Boucher offered her the keys but she chose \$12,000 cash. "First, I'll take my two daughters shopping, then I'll redecorate my house," she said. The car will remain available for some other lucky player.



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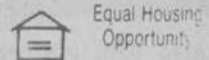
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