

# SENSE

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enough about society's attitudes toward sexual activity to realize that the result is more likely to be fewer young people taking advantage of family planning services and a lot more unwanted teenage pregnancies.

If the authors of the rules wanted to assert the role of parents they needn't have bothered to change the existing rule requiring that family planning projects encourage family participation to the extent practical. Instead of "encouraging" it, the new rule would mandate it.

The proposed rule

has resulted in a storm of protests and letters from doctors, parents and young people. One young woman wrote:

"My baby will be three months old and I would not have been pregnant if I knew I could have come to the clinic without telling my mother."

This fresh attempt to hinder family planning clinics is part of a larger campaign to make abortion illegal. The clinics don't perform abortions, but can refer patients to places that do.

By making birth control information available they help people to make intelligent, informed choices about whether they want children and if so, when and how many.

The abortion issue is

probably the hottest issue around, subject to violent emotions on both sides. But it is too often a controversy concerned with theories of morality and not sufficiently concerned about that individual young person whose entire life could be changed for the worse by bearing children before she is mature enough for motherhood.

Nor is it sufficiently concerned with the fate of unwanted children who must start life with enormous disadvantages. Again, it is instructive that the most vocal supporters of the anti-abortion drive are also opponents of the programs that help disadvantaged people survive

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dr. Charles I. West is the first Black physician to practice medicine in the State of Nevada. He is the founding publisher of the Las Vegas Voice newspaper, Nevada's first Black Newspaper. Dr. West is retired as a doctor and a political activist. He and the Voice played a large part in Senator Howard Cannon's 1964 re-election campaign, and has been supportive of Senator Cannon throughout the latter's career.

Dear Editor:

As this letter is being directed to you, Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina is a leading filibuster on the floor of the United States Senate against the extension of the Voting Rights Bill. As you know, there are many who consider passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act as the most important of all civil rights legislation, and that those who now oppose an extension of that Bill are blatantly working against the best interests of the total citizenry.

It is not surprising that Senator Helms of North Carolina is opposed to built-in safeguards in the Voting Rights Bill which would insure that all Americans can exercise their constitutional right to freedom of the Ballot, but it is a matter of concern that there remain factions in this "land of the free" that will never accept the idea and the ideal of equal rights for all Americans.

It is most disturbing to me and should be to all Nevadans that our Nevada Congressman, James Santini, who covets Senator Howard Cannon's seat in the Senate is an established cohort of Republican Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina. It is alarming to note that Howard Phillips, director of the Conservative Caucus, Inc. told the Christian Science Monitor that Democrats such as Mr. Santini can expect Conservative Caucus support. Only this week one of our local papers, in an editorial warning to Nevadans, wrote that political television commercials will soon be forthcoming in our State attempting to portray Senator Howard Cannon as "anti-Nevadan." It frightens me that Congressman Santini is attractive to folk of that ilk and has evoked that kind of support. It is a source of grave concern to me that Santini's candidacy for the Senate is embraced by those detrimental forces in the nation who have decided that "they" no longer want Senator Cannon in the United States Senate. I charge that who represents Nevada in the U.S. Senate is a decision for Nevadans to make.

From the beginning it bothered me that Congressman Santini filed against our distinguished Senator Cannon who enjoys powerful seniority in the Senate, but my misgivings were certainly given weight when I read that Congressman Santini and Jesse Helms were jointly honored at a fund-raising Reception and Dinner sponsored by the Texas Policy Institute at the Hotel Galvez in Galveston, Texas on February 5 of this year.

Some Sentinel readers will remember that the 1964 Civil Rights Bill passed by one vote in the United States Senate. Senator Howard Cannon of Nevada voted for that Bill. When the 1968 Fair

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# BLACK

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fessor Wilson notes, the growth of this underclass of black poor is directly linked to a process of disintegration of family structures. He demonstrates, for example, that while 90 percent of black children from middle-income families live with both parents, only 18 percent of the black children from low-income families live with both parents.

Clearly, economic pressures brought about by living in poverty or on its edge have a devastating effect on family stability and on the possibility for black children to live a life in which their basic needs are essentially satisfied.

Regrettably, the policies to which the current Administration is committed do nothing to address this disturbing trend of disintegration of family life among low-income blacks.

Despite President Reagan's rhetoric of commitment to the values of the family, in the first 18 months of his Administration he has shown himself to be callously indifferent to the consequences of his policies for the family life of the poor.

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**Cars On Display**

Members of the local chapter of the Sports Car Club of America will hold a special one-day display of their cars at The Meadows Mall on Saturday, June 19.

The exhibit will include a Dino Ferrari, a McClaren M6B Can-Am.

The cars can be seen free of charge at The Meadows from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.