

# ARRESTS MADE IN FOOD STAMP FRAUD INVESTIGATION

More than 50 people have been arrested in the sweeping federal and state investigation of food stamp fraud in Nevada and law enforcement personnel continued rounding up suspects at SENTINEL press time.

It was reported that another dozen individuals received summonses in the matter and four others were to be picked up, said Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney Ed Kane, who is heading up the investigation.

All those arrested will be arraigned at 9 a.m. Friday before U.S. Magistrate Phillip Pro.

Under the federal speedy trial act, they must be brought to trial within 60 days after arrest, Kane said.

The wave of arrests, which began last Thursday night, culminated a joint four-month probe by the Department of Agriculture, Secret Service and U.S. Attorney's office.

Federal arrest war-

rants were issued for 68 persons on food stamp trafficking charges and 44 more face state charges for fraud against the food stamp program.

Food stamp trafficking consists of the illegal use of food stamps. Individuals arrested were allegedly using the food stamps for cash. The stamps had an exchange value of 50 cents for a \$1 coupon and were used to purchase cars, television sets, radios, tools, jewelry, guns, auto parts and repairs and drugs.

The "sting" operation has perplexed a large number from the black community. "Entrapment" and "coercion" are words they chose last Saturday to explain the methods federal agents used to snag individuals into a criminal web.

There are people with low incomes, or unemployed and relying on disability pensions. They have no history of arrests and

they feel they have been singled out unfairly because they can't afford to defend themselves.

In a related food stamp fraud report, federal authorities in New Orleans have charged 31 people with food stamp fraud, including Hammond City Councilman Wilbert Dangerfield and a local woman who allegedly obtained \$6,600 in duplicate coupons.

Many of those indicted were grocers who bought the coupons at less than face value, or sold items like liquor and cigarettes - ineligible under federal guidelines - in exchange for stamps.

In Las Vegas, the Ministers Alliance has called a community meeting at the True Love Missionary Baptist Church on Thursday night, July 21, to discuss these matters and a course of action to be taken to "get to the bottom of this operation."

## WAITING CHILDREN

Krystl is a pretty biracial (black/white) five-year-old child. She was born with a congenital metabolic defect called phenylketonuria (PKU). Her body cannot handle the amino acid, phenylalanine, which built up in her system and caused brain damage. She is on a special diet which is low in phenylalanine and is on medication. It is difficult to feed Krystl because she also has a weak esophagus.



Krystl attends a special education program which she enjoys very much. She can identify parts of her body and responds well to directions. Her verbal abilities are weak, but she can say a few words and

understands more. Krystl can "belly crawl" but is otherwise non-ambulatory. She has a wheelchair, but she usually rides in a stroller.

Krystl has a delightful smile and is pleasant to be around. She likes pictures of animals and enjoys television. She responds well to music and likes to clap along. She can recognize familiar people and will get very excited, smile and laugh when she sees someone she knows.

In spite of Krystl's profound special needs, she still wants the love and attention from caring parents as all children do. However, currently Krystl lives in an institution while a search is being made for that very rare couple which is willing to adopt her. The agency will consider all families for Krystl. Anyone interested in adopting Krystl must be prepared to make a long-term commitment to this little girl as Krystl will never be able to live independently as an adult.

## HOW YOU CAN ADOPT

The children described in this column are waiting for adoption. Nationwide, there are over 300,000 children who, for various reasons, have not found permanent parents. Some have physical, mental or emotional handicaps; some are of mixed racial background; some are older; others are siblings.

The Las Vegas SENTINEL, working with AASK (Aid to Adoption of Special Kids) hopes to find homes for these children. AASK is looking for people who can give love and nurturing to hard-to-place children. Prospective parents may be single or married.

Subsidies (payments to the adopting family each month and medical expenses) are available for many of the children. Subsidies depend on the financial situation of the adoptive family.

If you'd like more information on how to adopt a special child or how you can help financially support the AASK program, please call 876-7420 or write AASK Adoption Agency, 3305 W. Spring Mountain Road, Suite 92, Las Vegas, 89102.

Adoption is a specific legal matter, and the Las Vegas SENTINEL can answer no questions concerning the children.

### Washington To Manage Assembly

#### Aspirant Arberry

David L. Washington has been selected by Morse Arberry to manage his campaign in his bid for Assembly Seat, District 7.

Washington, a native of Delhi, Louisiana, who has been a resident of Las Vegas since 1955, said he accepts the appointment because he believes there is a need for a change in leadership within Assembly District 7, which has a direct effect on the entire community.

Washington says this will be one of the greatest challenges he has ever encountered. Nevertheless, he believes he can put together the team of people needed to make Arberry victorious.



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