

KEY

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to the ground, one choked to near extinction, and all called "you black niggers," illustrates the point. The youths were arrested but subsequently released without being charged — a mistake.

The NAACP Police-Citizen Violence Project director observed that "It is no wonder that many in the black community view the police as an armed occupying force present only to surveil black behavior and contain any 'undesirable' individual or collective action." She also observes, however, that "on the other hand, there are those who believe that the police are present to protect the property of those who have acquired any, and the lives of those who are potential crime victims." Attorney Fleetwood made the objective conclusion that "the reality, as with most controversial issues, lies somewhere between these two views."

As mentioned earlier, the NAACP Project is not in effect in Las Vegas, but there is an election in the offing. One of the more hotly contested races is for the office of Sheriff of Clark County. It seems to me that the now obvious lack of interest in the Sheriff's race among blacks, would do a quick turnaround if a candidate for Sheriff would evince a sincere interest in the concerns Clark County Blacks have with regard to METRO.

I suggest that it would greatly influence police-community relations if the Department would acquaint its officers with the aforementioned 1980 report of the National Minority Advisory Council on Criminal Justice.

I think, if police were able to give objective consideration to the advisory council's report that "urban blacks made up 49.7 percent of all arrests for violent crimes in 1978, but the white rate of involvement in white-collar crimes such as bribery, embezzlement, consumer fraud and corruption doubled that of blacks, it would prepare them for the Council's conclusion and, perhaps, mark the emergence of open acknowledgement of the need

for better communications and working police-citizens relations with Las Vegas Blacks.

"While minorities are over-represented among those persons arrested and imprisoned for crime, they are not responsible for the majority of the crimes committed in this country," flatly stated the report from the National Minority Advisory Council on Criminal Justice.

It continued, "There is no data to explain this obvious discrepancy other than the conscious

choices of key decision-makers to focus on crimes committed more frequently by minorities."

NOTE TO MIKE O'CALLAGHAN: Thank you for putting the great food stamp "sting" in its proper perspective — a cruel farce.

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