

LETTER TO EDITOR

In the Aug. 19 issue of the *SENTINEL*, columnist Alice Key made reference to the activities of the Las Vegas Ministerial Alliance. The Representatives of the Alliance, at a later date, contacted this paper to state their dissatisfaction on a certain reference made in the column. The *SENTINEL* publisher invited the Ministerial Alliance to respond to the article and suggested that it be done through a letter to this paper. The foregoing letter was received from the Alliance and its contents are printed below:

Dear Editor:

Last week Alice Key, in her column, made a frantic and highly inaccurate attack on the Minister Alliance and those associated with the organization. This letter is to set the record straight and to hopefully enlighten your readers in the process.

The reason for the Minister Alliance is to collectively change the sorry conditions of the community that we live in, through christian fellowship. Is this so "STRANGE"? Is it so "strange" Ministers are concerned about the well-being of their membership and community? Every day people of all denominations bring very traumatic problems to the Minister Alliance to solve. Many of these problems have roots in social, employment, political and racial injustices. Someone must respond. This is "the reason for being." Ministers must look out for the best interests of all of the people.

Alice Key's article opens the door for discussion of a few concerns of ours that we have not openly discussed before, and just maybe, now is as good a time as any to bring things out front.

First, the Minister Alliance has never taken as much as a dime from any candidate in support for a political office or in any other manner. The Minister Alliance has never authorized a request for funds from a candidate, nor put on a party for voter registration.

Second, it appears that an underhand political trick by some of Senator Cannon's supporters backfired on them. The word is that they promised the Senator a ninety (90) percent Black vote for him and they are afraid maybe that won't happen.

The Ministers interviewed both Senator Cannon and Congressman Santini. Yes, the Ministers were more impressed with Santini. He spoke of creating jobs, being committed to the development of our community and hopefully using his office to help

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Black people become competitive in business ownership. Senator Cannon talked of increasing welfare, even though this was highly unlikely with the federal and state budget cuts. When one of the pastors asked about housing developments in the Black community, Senator Cannon's response was that no one would finance housing in the Westside, because when they were built before, Blacks tore them up. This indicated that if we wanted jobs, business, and community development we go with Santini, and if we wanted more welfare and an attitude toward the Black community of 20 years ago, we go with Cannon.

A group of men appeared before the Minister Alliance with the stated intention of conducting a public service television program on the Black community, and they needed the status and good graces of the Minister Alliance to get it on. They said they needed Doolittle Park and asked if the ministers would sign the request for it. This was the only relationship the ministers had with these people until the day of the event when it was learned that political officials were being invited and that in fact this was a political rally for special candidates. Even at that, the ministers allowed it to proceed. They just refused to be a part of it. We understand that Senator Cannon showed up, and no one was there. It appears that Alice Key and others, in trying a trick to gain the endorsement of the Minister Alliance for Senator Cannon, out-smarted themselves.

We can only believe that Alice Key panicked, and distorted the truth in her column to give a different impression of the facts, in an attempt to cloud the issues and focus attention away from her candidate. Apparently she is attempting to win at all costs, to show a doctor friends of hers, that he is wrong, that she has not been a failure for the last

forty years, and in his words, will continue to be a failure.

MINISTER ALLIANCE
Rev. I. W. Wilson, President

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Brenda Dumas moved to Las Vegas from Pomona, California, in 1975. Brenda has been serving her real estate clients and customers for over two years. She and her husband, Joe, are members of Saint James Catholic Church. Brenda's hobbies include reading, bowling and her recently born daughter, Ebonee.



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