



NAACP Regional Director Virna Canson speaks to the crowd at the NAACP meeting held at Zion Methodist Church last Sunday.

Political Infighting Hampers Meeting

# NAACP CHAPTER MEETING ENDS IN CHAOS

A local daily newspaper on Monday carried a banner "NAACP CHAPTER IN CHAOS." It was referring to the Las Vegas branch of the NAACP meeting held Sunday at the Zion Methodist Church, site of the assembly attended by approximately 75 people.

The newspaper described the meeting as ending in a "turbulence." Virna Canson, director of the West Coast region of the National Association of Colored People, abruptly left the meeting, Lovell Gaines, branch president, followed closely behind. As he left, Gaines said he was "saddened."

Canson attempted to conduct a nomination session but was constantly interrupted by two foes of the branch's leadership.

After a nominating committee failed to select a slate of can-

didates for new offices, the branch was placed in a disarray.

Canson said she will immediately make a report to the NAACP national office about the turmoil. The national office will have to determine the branch's future she said. "It has impaired the branch's ability to function. I saw a case of intimidation of the majority by a few. It's part of some of the sickness of society" she continued.

Canson asked members to choose another nominating committee but that also failed to occur.

Gaines a correctional officer at the Jean Prison said he will not seek re-election for another two-year term citing the need to

devote more time to his career and his family.

James Veal was reported to have approached the podium several times to voice objections and the meeting was illegal because Gaines had been removed from of-

office. "We have a dictator" Veal was alleged to have said. "He has not served the black community. There was also a charge that \$11,000 of chapter funds were missing.

Gaines flatly denies the charge saying the funds will be accounted for in an audit.

The election of officers had been scheduled for Dec. 12, but that date is now in doubt because nominations have not been held.

# WESTSIDE CHARTER SERVICE ACCUSED OF FUND MISUSE

The Las Vegas Review Journal reported in its Wednesday edition that Federal funds may have been illegally funneled to the Westside Charter Service, listing as officers Vernon Williams, president; Assemblyman Lonie Chaney; and Joycelyn Chaney as secretary.

The paper reported the allegations involved the Las Vegas Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) — a poverty agen-

cy headed by James Chaney with involvement by Lonie Chaney, former state Assemblyman Marion Bennett and the Westside Charter Service, Inc.

The detailed report showed on its front page story pictures of four checks said to be scrutinized by state, federal and Clark County authorities. They alleged federal funds were passed to the bus company with two of the checks paid to Vern Williams, totaling

\$5,000 and the other two written for the Westside Charter totaling \$10,000.

OIC, which offers programs such as job training and home weatherization for low-income persons, obtained, according to a report, a \$150,000 federal grant in August 1979 to fund a proposal for a foreign trade zone in Las Vegas.

Lonie Chaney and Jim Chaney were not available for comment at the Sentinel press time.

## Signing of the Tri-Partite Agreement Held

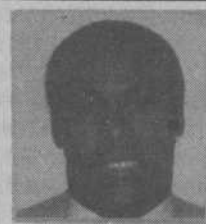
The signing of the Tri-Partite agreement, which involves the City of Las Vegas, the Nevada Economic Development Company (NEDCO), and the Jackson Avenue Merchants Association (JAMA) in continuing support for a Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization project, was held in the Mayor's Office last Friday morning.

Each of the parties to the agreement have specific responsibilities of support for the ongoing redevelopment program in the West Las Vegas community.

The basic agreement is renewed at the end of each fiscal year and the respective signatories formalize their continuing support to the project through the signing of this docu-

ment.

Those represented at this occasion included Mayor Briare and Commissioner William Pearson of the City of Las Vegas, Bob Bailey of NEDCO (Nevada Economic Development Company) and Reverend Sam Roberson of the Jackson Avenue Merchants Association (JAMA).



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