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role, true, but a good leader is educated during each of his or her experiences. If he or she has good qualities and a good background and supportive staff, you'll have a good strong leader. To me, education represents *positivism* to a degree. It's knowledge."

Education and the West Las Vegas Leadership: The Past. The Present. The Future.

Has the leadership improved overall during the past few years in regards to education and sophistication?

"Ten to twenty years ago," Brewster responded to that question, "our leaders were educated. Many weren't as aware of the political system per se., so we missed out on many opportunities due to not being politically educated or politically astute. During the past ten years, however, we have become more politically astute as to how we can benefit from being more educated. I can see the next ten years as being quite positive for West Las Vegas as separate, but part of the Clark County political community."

"I don't feel that we've reached the point of sophistication that we should have reached in the last few years," Fitzgerald stated. He continued on by saying, "Now, what the problems are, I don't know."

Personally, I'm tired, but I can't let go until I see someone both capable and strong taking hold, and we need that sort of person not just in education, but in politics, religion, labor and other vital areas. We need strong young leaders to move into leadership roles. We are now faced with a vacuum in West Las Vegas leadership. I don't see enough young Blacks grooming themselves for leadership roles."

Wilson felt somewhat opposite in his estimation of the present young leadership "taking hold." "I would have to agree with what President Kennedy said in 1961, when he stated: "The torch has been passed from one generation to another: In West Las Vegas, it's now in the process of being passed," Wilson said. He felt that younger ones are now beginning to "take up the slack." He went on by saying, "Those now receiving the torch of leadership "tend" to have more formal education than those 10-15 years ago; however, those to whom it's been passed will indeed need to rely upon the experiences of those who are passing the torch." Wilson said humorously, yet sincerely, "I've had my day, and I'll support the young man or woman who's striving to become the leader we need for West Las Vegas. Physically and emotionally, they're more able."

The Importance of Unity

All three interviewed agreed with the fact that unity is so very vital and important when one speaks of progress.

Wilson was firm in his conviction that "without unity, there is no strength. We need it. It's a must!" He took note of the different West Las Vegas organizations and their individual leaders. "Of all the

groups who are trying to do the same things, the leadership must come together in a coalition and present *one united front!*" He gave as an example, "We have Bob Bailey at NEDCO; Rev. Wilson of the Ministerial Alliance; Rev. Roberson of JAMA; Sarann Preddy of the Chamber of Commerce, and Ruby Duncan of Operation Life, just to name a few. Now I feel that a coalition of these groups should be formed instead of each group "singing a different song." Basically, they should all be one group. There's a real need for unity through *coalition efforts* in regards to West Las Vegas or any other community."

Fitzgerald's feelings on unity: "Without unity, forget it! You've got to have teamwork, or you won't make it." Fitzgerald cited two true examples of the effectiveness of unity. "Take for example the immigrants. They were together. It was unity that gave them an 'in' in the mainstream. We, too, could move in the mainstream much faster if we were more united. I recall a few years back when I was principal at Kit Carson school. I had a community problem and needed the district's support. I called up the superintendent and informed him of it, and the first question he asked me was, 'How many parents are you dealing with?' I responded, four or five. That's all I heard from him until I realized that he considered four or five parents only, out of a whole community of thousands, as representing disunity. Well, I called him back a few days later and told him of my problem, and when he asked, 'How many parents are involved?' I responded, 'It's the whole community.' Well, 15-30 minutes later, I had both him and other key school district personnel at Kit Carson. You see, the whole community represented *unity.*"

"Where there's unity, there's strength!" Those were the words of Brewster. She went on by saying, "Oneness will create a totally different atmosphere for the West Las Vegas community. When youths are surrounded by progression and togetherness, they'll become more energetic to attain and be a part of those same qualities."

The Educational Leadership — Are They Doing Enough

"We could definitely be doing more," contended Brewster. "The Associate Superintendents and key Black personnel should be making themselves more visible. They should be striving to dismiss the myth in some instances, but a reality in others, that every child is not able to read. They must focus their attentions on these serious matters concerning some of our youths. We can never say we're doing enough!"

How does Wilson feel about this? "No, we're not doing enough, but we must take into consideration some physical limitations. Basically, the Black educational leadership in West Las Vegas is or has been making attempts to provide activities aimed at improving the quality of life in the community; however, there is a need for a more unified effort in order to accomplish all of the things that *must be done* in order to improve the basic quality of life in West Las Vegas."

And Fitzgerald's comment on the matter: "No, we're not doing enough. The educational leadership needs to come back on a periodic basis and help with ones felt left behind. We have at least 40 key Black administrators, and they're just not involved enough with the community. They've just got to get more involved."

Next Week: Three KEY Clark County Administrative educators, and the role they play in the West Las Vegas Power Structure.

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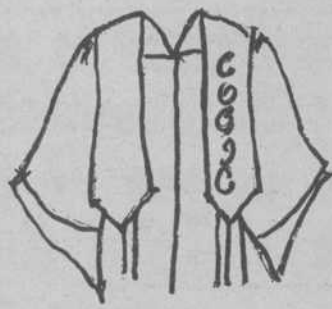
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