

To Whom Does It Belong?

The West Las Vegas Power Structure Part VIII

By George A. Burns

The Power Brokers Of West Las Vegas

It has become more evident since this series began as to who really wields the power in regards to the West Las Vegas community and who sits proudly at the "top of the helm". Also, since this series began we see a lot of drastic changes occurring in the West Las Vegas community. Changes that have "realistically" changed the balance of power in the community, tilting it towards new leadership. Many examples can be given of this fact. For beginners, (1) a newly formed organization, Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce, has suddenly taken off and has assumed a very powerful and influential position on both a city and statewide level. This organization has dedicated itself to produce other entities under its own auspices in the future that will have to be recognized by both the local community and taken very seriously by the "powers that be." (2) An evergrowing organization calling itself the Ministers Alliance is becoming an even more powerful and "clout"-filled organization in the community of West Las Vegas and in the state of Nevada as well. (3) An organization called JAMA (Jackson Avenue Merchants Association) is rapidly gaining more influence not only in the West Las Vegas community, but is one which is gaining the attention of "commercial" Las Vegas, as well as its fellow Ministerial Alliance. (4) NEDCO (Nevada Economic Development Company) has open channels to not only influential leaders, businesses, institutions and organizations throughout the state of Nevada, but the nation as well. (5) "The Nucleus Associates has breathed life into a dead commercial site, one which could prove to be an essential aid to future progress for the community. (6) The reliance even more so on a

community health center, Operation Life, by its community residents, and (7) how could we not mention the "fall and rise" of one of America's oldest Black Organizations here in Las Vegas, The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). Since the election of its new president, that organization seems to be gearing itself up to take a strong leadership role in challenging and "seeing through" that equality and justice for all Las Vegas. prevail whether they be Black or White, and standing firm, united and together with the other leadership organizations in the West Las Vegas community, with its intentions seeming to be in the words of its current president, "righting some wrongs that have been going unnoticed."

Not only have Alliances, Corporations, Organizations and Companies guided and directed by influential Black leaders, both in and outside of the community, been the center of growth, they have by contrast, been faced with power dissolution the past few weeks. The same holds true of some individual leaders of West Las Vegas.

Cases in point: One local Assemblyman has been the target of controversy regarding his business dealings and it threatens to have a long lasting affect on both his business and another organization headed by his brother - not to mention his own political future. (Case number 2): The first Black City Commissioner for Las Vegas, who was appointed to that post last year, will be fighting to retain it during the next few weeks. (Case 3) finds a very popular and charismatic County Commissioner "allegedly" being involved in a scandal that has "rocked" the entire state, a test for him that could put his career on the line. (Case 4) finds another noted North Las Vegas City

Councilman recently directed towards negative accusations, all of which have been unproven.

What this series has discovered through intense interviews, investigations and research is simply this. Though the present powerful leadership roles of some have been threatened to a degree by challenges, innuendos and controversies, on the horizons await some young and very enthusiastic and intelligent individuals "biding their time", waiting for their opportunities - opportunities that may not be long in the waiting.

Call them "The Best and the Brightest" if you will; (a name referred to by the "brain trust" of advisors of a former U.S. President) these young men and women are beginning to form bases, at the present time, to assume leadership positions in the not too distant future. The drive, determination, dedication and sincerity that they display, when they speak of their plans for the future and how they hope to be at the forefront in helping to cause some positive change for West Las Vegas and their state, causes a certain sense of believability.

Also, this series has brought to surface the probabilities of other influential organizations which may be on the horizon. Organizations such as the newly formed "New Dawn" Corporation, organizations that will stress unity, togetherness, economic development and PRIDE.

In part IX of the "Power Structure" series, those leaders of the present organizations just named will state briefly just what they're doing (and their organizations as well) to help solidify unity in the West Las Vegas community, and shall speak to some of the "Old Guards" of the past and present structure, and some of the new up and coming younger ones known unofficially as "The Best and the Brightest."

Black Chamber To Be Honored By Legislature

It was announced at the recently held luncheon of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce by its Executive Director Gwyn Brown, that a branch of the NBCC is being considered for the Sparks - Carson City - Reno area.

Brown took special delight also in announcing that the Nevada Legislature would be presenting to the chamber a special "Nevada Black Chamber Day of Recognition" on April 29th at the State Capitol.

All interested parties are invited to join the bus ride to Carson City on April 28. Brown said that there would be a \$25.00 fee for expenses.

More information regarding the pending trip can be obtained by calling the local office of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce at 648-6222.



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ATTENTION TAXPAYERS!

A new law requiring partial withholding of taxes on interest and dividend income will take effect July 1, 1983.

If you have an interest-earning account or receive dividend payments, this law will affect you!

This is *not* a new tax. Like withholding on salary checks, it merely changes the way taxes are collected.

Exemptions are available for older Americans, lower income individuals and those with small savings accounts. To see if you qualify, contact your bank, financial institution or the Internal Revenue Service in your area.

A public service message from
the Internal Revenue Service

CORRECTIONS ON TAX RETURN CAN BE MADE

Taxpayers who file their federal income tax returns and later discover that they failed to report some income, claimed deductions or credits not deserved, or did not claim deductions or credits they were entitled to, may correct the original return by filing an amended return, according to Steve Altig, Chief of Taxpayer Service for IRS in Nevada.

The amended return is filed on Form 1040X,