

# Our Leaders Of Tomorrow

By George A. Burns

## Today's Profile -Booker Evans-

Name - BOOKER EVANS  
 Position - Ass't U.S. Attorney  
 Community Status - Present and Future Leader  
 Aim - "To Get Our Community Youths To Commit Themselves To The System and Then Better It"

Newly appointed Assistant United States Attorney Booker Evans can be described as a "Maverick" most definitely on the move.

After graduating from the University of Missouri at St. Louis in 1975, Evans decided to join the Clark County District Attorney's Office in 1978 as a Deputy District Attorney, and later promoted to Chief Deputy District Attorney in 1980. He spoke highly of his tenure with that office by stating, "Well, after prosecuting 98 jury trials in my 4 1/2 years with the D A's Office, the experience made me extremely skillful in terms of courtroom tactics. It made me more comfortable and increased dramatically my quickness in both reaction and response. I learned to think quickly on my feet. It was a truly rewarding experience and was, I felt, a great job. I didn't leave due to unhappiness." Evans' only regret was that there were no other Black attorneys in his division in the D A's Office.

Evans both described



Booker T. Evans

and defined his job with the U.S. Attorney's Office. While focusing in on crimes of all sorts, he stressed that this office was more concerned with "white collar" crime. "Individuals who violate federal codes such as those involved in organized crime, illegal gambling, book-making, loansharking, etc. Well, we at this level of criminal prosecution focus in on this class of criminal. They are the 'substantial money holders.'"

The Assistant U.S. Attorney was firm in his belief that narcotic travel from other states such as Florida, Texas, California, etc., had major impacts on local crime. "This," he said, "had a major impact on petty crime." Though the cases in his office aren't as publicized as those in

his former office, Evans felt that his newer office deals with crime on a broader basis because more things can be done with more agencies. Evans noted that his office works with other federal entities, such as the F.B.I., Secret Service, Postal Service and I.R.S., just to name a few. "We cover a broader spectrum ranging from the highly visible political figure to the person running an organized criminal syndicate," he said.

Evans, who was born in Mississippi, did not always possess the dream to be the noted and recognized attorney that he is. "It wasn't until I was about 21 or 22 that I ever met a lawyer," he said. In pondering back

**"When it's all said and done, I hope what they say about me is that I was an individual who went his own way, made his own decisions and was fair and honest as I could possibly be."**

on T.V. program lawyers (naming Perry Mason and Judd For The Defense) Evans noted a real distinction between them and reality, but he continued, "I wanted to be those good, decent and great-type lawyers." In law school, Evans noted that there was a stressing of wielding and really understanding "power" and its utilization. "Power makes the decision," he continued. After

receiving his Masters Degree in Psychology in 1975, he pursued a career in law.

The charismatic legal whiz noted that his own father could take as much credit as anyone for this successful career thus far. "He was the person I looked up to the most," he stated proudly. "I really admire him for his decision to pursue a collegiate career at the age of 55 in 1974. He's the man I'd most like to be if I weren't me. He supported me financially, emotionally and spiritually."

Evans described leaders in two forms. "There are people who lead by their example, and there are those whose objectives as leaders are to define, locate and advocate solutions to problems." While Evans was quick

to note superb leaders such as Martin Luther King and Gandhi, he was just as quick to assert that leaders of their type and caliber will probably never again rise, due to society being more exposed and intelligent. "We as Blacks have no great uproar calling for a united coalition as we did twenty years ago. We have no strong "common bond" to coalesce our efforts today. Our interests are more diverse. Unless something occurs to create a one single interest, there won't be another leader such as King."

This leader of both today and tomorrow will decide within the next 4 or 5 years just what direction he'll take in regard to a political career that will compliment his already successful legal one. "I'll keep in contact with our community youths and key organizations. At this point and time, I don't foresee myself in any decision making position, "politically" speaking, but when and if I do seek and pursue a political career, I'll be a politician with honesty and integrity." "When it's all said and done," he continued. "I hope what they say about me is that I was an individual who went his own way, made his own decisions and was fair and honest as I could possibly be."

# Nolen Pledges Total Involvement, Commitment To West Las Vegas, And Ward III

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Newly elected Las Vegas City Commissioner Robert (Bob) Nolen stressed the need for total involvement on the parts of both the citizenry and himself in regards to West Las Vegas and Ward III as a whole.

The Commissioner, in an exclusive interview with the Sentinel/Voice said that he's already familiarizing himself with the various problems that exist in West Las Vegas by starting and then continually holding meetings with a variation of community leaders. Nolen stated that he had in fact held meetings with the Ministerial Alliance, The Jackson Avenue Merchants Association, the N.A.A.C.P., and other groups. What he has seen to be the main concern of those groups has been the increasing of youth gangs and "dope selling" at reputable business establishments and at Doolittle recreation center. "We've got to do something to halt this type thing at business establishments," he noted. He continued by saying that "people are fearful and afraid of them, and that type climate just isn't good for business. We've got to get those kids involved in worthwhile activities."

Jobs were the solution to this problem, he noted. In fact, the commissioner said that by establishing businesses such as Univox and other interested companies considering locating in West Las Vegas, jobs will be created, perhaps in as little as six months, at which point the employment picture for the community youths will brighten.

Nolen promised that he would become and stay involved in the community. "I'll be asking my people about their needs instead of waiting for them to come to me." He also commented about seeing that qualified Blacks and other minorities were being appointed to key decision-making positions by saying that he'll be assisting the entire commission in this area by helping to appoint those individuals "who are both involved and knowledgeable."

The Commissioner stressed the need for community input and support. He stated that he had in fact been receiving some positive input, but added that "if they don't continue to voice either their support or opposition during controversial matters, then when its all said and done, it'll be too late."

Nolen said in the interview that he was really enjoying his new job, and said that both his fellow commissioners and Mayor Braire all have been just "super," and followed up this praise by saying, "that alone is a good feeling."

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**THE LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE**

Nevada's largest and most complete black community newspaper.

Published every Thursday by the Brown Publishing Co., 1201 So. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. Telephone: 383-4030.

Ed Brown, President & Advertising Sales Manager; Betty Brown, Vice President, Publisher-Editor; Cornilla Johnson, Business Manager.

Subscription payable in advance  
 Six months \$15.00  
 Twelve months \$25.00  
 The rates apply to Continental United States Only

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