

OUR LEADERS OF TOMORROW

By George A. Burns

Name: Charles Stevenson

Position: Assistance Vice-President/General Manager of NLV/WLV Valley Bank

Aim: "To get the community to the point that they feel the way that I feel about Valley Bank; that being, 'it's the *only* bank in North and West Las Vegas!'"

Since May of this year, the North and West Las Vegas branch of Valley Bank has been bestowed with Charles Stevenson as its Assistant Vice-President and General Manager.

As Chief of Operations of that branch, Stevenson has, as both obligations and responsibilities, to see to it that the bank operates smoothly on a day-to-day basis, and is directly responsible for loans, deposits and overall customer service pertaining to that branch.

Stevenson disclosed that he had been with Valley Bank of Nevada since June '82. Prior to Valley, he was employed by Security Bank of Nevada in Reno. Before that, he'd spent nine years

with Valley National Bank of Arizona in Tucson. The Political Science major graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He noted that after his graduation from N.A.U., Valley National was the only organization that seemed to want to give him a chance to prove himself. After agreeing to work for that bank, he was put on their management training program.

When asked his definition of "leader," Stevenson replied that he didn't consider himself personally to be one, "but to answer your question, it would be a person being in a position to lead. I do, however feel that I'm in a position to give young ones in the community a goal or something

worthwhile that they can strive for." While elaborating on whether or not he considered himself to be a "role-model," he said: "The young ones that I have talked with feel that people in industry all are role-models for our youths, to some degree."

Even though Stevenson did major in political science, he does not intend to pursue a political career. "I do not have a whole lot of aspiration to get into politics," he noted. He continued by saying, "It takes a different breed, I feel, to be a politician. They have to wear too many hats. They have to please too many people. Plus you have the problem of too many elections being decided through party affiliation instead of voting for the best person, regardless of the party. We should be concerned moreso with voting for the man who'll get the job done, despite his party affiliation."

"Our youths must realize that they have to go to school and pursue

that higher education by attending a school of higher learning." That was the message that Stevenson gave when asked, "How do we inspire our youths to reach out and assume more responsibilities and positions putting them in the economic/political leadership mainstream?" He followed that up by saying that, "after graduating, you must show people in the private sector that you're trainable. The main objective must be to become educated and find a job and then grow in that job and reach out for more responsibilities with the company. It can be done. I'm a prime example of this."

Stevenson didn't know exactly how many blacks there were throughout our state that held a position such as his, but he did maintain that "Valley Bank of Nevada is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and the minorities that I've seen that work for this company have great opportunities for further growth and advancement than

in any other organization that I've ever been associated with."

On the subject of community involvement, Stevenson noted that companies, especially Valley Bank, felt it to be a necessity that their executives and management personnel become involved in community activities and organizations. "It's expected and part of our job," he said. "If we're not involved in our communities, then we won't have a job, because the community makes us or breaks us. My company is very supportive of community participation."

What is Charles Stevenson's ultimate career goal? "Well, being that I've been in banking for approximately 15 years, I realize that there are good jobs in staff positions. Eventually, I would like to be in a "management staff" position whereas I can assist in bank policy and decision making as it pertains to the overall organization. I would, as

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Black Africans Urged to Boycott Elections

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Black people denied political rights under the apartheid system began voting Friday for 25 new town and village councils, with critics urging them to boycott the elections.

Observers said the government was keenly watching the turnout as an indicator of how far blacks were prepared to accept the new councils as a genuine attempt at reform.

But critics say the beefed-up municipal authorities, rather than being another step in Prime Minister Pieter Botha's reformist initiative, are designed to stifle the clamor by urban blacks for voting power at the central government level.

Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice has moved its offices to a new location at 1201 South Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas.

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