

National Urban League's V-P Meets Southern Nevada League's Board

By George A. Burns

The Vice-President of the National Urban League was briefly in Las Vegas on Tuesday to discuss with the Southern Nevada Urban League's interim Board of Directors recommendations that would get it affiliated with the national branch.

Clarence Wood reiterated the recommendations of the Southern Nevada League's President William McGarry in stating that "important requirements in attaining official affiliation are 1) reaching all necessary financial goals; 2) having the support of the United Way of Southern Nevada; 3) outlining what the program activities will be, and 4) requesting letters from worthwhile organizations openly welcoming the Southern Nevada League and supporting it.

Wood said that it would be essential for both the newly established league here and the national office to be on the "same wave length." He too called for a budget which must be both sensible and reasonable. President McGarry assured him that one had already been put together.

In quickly noting that the Urban League was fundamentally about "black folks" and their unique problems, Wood was just as quick to note that the make-up of that organization's board "must be a mixture of all types of individuals regardless of color." He was happy with the caliber of the local board

members, was very pleased to note the make-up of it and followed up by saying that "all chapters must follow the example of the National Urban League's office when it comes to board make-up." "We have," he continued, "on our board, the chairmen of such corporations as Xerox, IBM, J.C. Penney's, Coca-Cola, Allstate, and the list goes on and on. We start at the top in the Urban League in stressing by example the importance of trained professionals to make things happen.

Wood also stressed the importance of not having the league become an "employment agency." He called for the organization to be involved in areas such as "health and welfare when it pertained to the underprivileged, the molding of character in our young folks, urban plight, teenage pregnancies and going to the side of Las Vegas where blacks reside and enhancing both their businesses and development."

A suggestion was put to Wood to have a national executive committee meeting in Las Vegas in the future. He was very receptive to that suggestion and guaranteed the local board that he would put it before the national board at their next meeting. He also promised the board that if a meeting did occur, he would personally bring those corporate chairmen and board members into West Las Vegas to help "dismiss the idea that poverty does not exist in Las Vegas."

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