

## Black Texas Mayor Stripped of Power

Hempstead, Texas Mayor Leroy Singleton, the town's first black mayor and in office only four months is hitting a rough road whereby the City Council has stripped him of the power to hire and fire and is denied a key to City Hall. A councilman calls Singleton a "troublemaker."

Inspired by the Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential candidacy, Singleton's followers registered 580 black voters and produced the largest voter turnout in the town's 128-year history for April's election. By a vote of 558-504, Singleton ousted a 75-year-old grocer and liquor store owner seeking his second term.

Since taking office, Singleton, 42, a funeral director with a master's degree in education, has antagonized businessmen by advocating chain stores in the town, 50 miles northwest of Houston and the seat of Waller County. He also angered the City Council by making public the salaries of the 27 paid municipal workers.

Singleton says he's trying to make the government more open and efficient and complains that blacks have been shortchanged by the town.

Singleton complains that public funds are used to maintain the town's white cemetery but not its two black graveyards. He also says black neighborhoods have been shortchanged on city services such as streets, curbs and sewers.

"Leroy's got a lot of good ideas, but he doesn't know how to get them over," A.S. Wier, 76, Waller County's election administrator, told the Dallas Times Herald. "In a small town like this, he's going to have to take it slow."

Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem Tommy L. Warren, who operates a real-estate and insurance firm, called Singleton "a troublemaker" who doesn't understand that Hempstead's unpaid mayor is supposed to be "more or less a figurehead" who only votes in case of a

## "Cannon" Shannon Arraigned On Auto Theft Charges Monday

Former lightweight boxer Willie Shannon was arraigned Monday in Justice Court on auto theft charges that resulted in his arrest last Thursday.

Shortly after his arrest, Shannon filed an "excessive force" complaint against arresting Metro Police officers Theodore Moody and Dennis Cobb.

Judge Kelly Slade set Shannon's preliminary hearing for 9 a.m. Nov. 9

tie.

At Singleton's first council meeting, the panel voted 4-1 — two members are black — to strip him of his authority to hire and fire city employees.

Council members said the fast action on the hiring and firing power was taken because Singleton intended to dismiss Willie Mae Burch, the town's secretary, treasurer and tax collector, who has refused to give Singleton a key to City Hall.

City Councilman Bobby Lee Repka, 40, said Singleton is "stirring up the black-and-white issue — and if he keeps stirring up stuff, there may be a recall election."

on charges of grand theft auto and attempting to escape.

He was not given an earlier court date be-



Willie Cannon

cause he is scheduled to stand trial next week in District Court on charges of attempted murder and battery with attempt to commit sexual assault involving a 29-year-old woman.

Shannon was arrested in the 1400 block of Tonopah Drive after he allegedly took a woman's 1980 Corvette.

Shannon claims the officers used "rough and unnecessary force and harsh language to him" when they took him into custody.

After Shannon was handcuffed, he allegedly tried to escape by running away.

Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman to serve in the U.S. Congress, will deliver the keynote speech Saturday at the Women and Politics conference sponsored by the Nevada Women's Political Caucus.

Chisholm, who was nominated for president in the 1972 Democratic Convention, gained a reputation as a maverick during the 14 years she represented New York's 12th district in the U.S. House of Representatives.



Shirley Chisholm

During her years in Congress, she worked on behalf of black colleges, compensatory education, minimum wage for domestics, American Indians, Haitian refugees, migrant farmworkers, and the poor.

Her speech, "Of Course Women Dare," is

scheduled for 1:30 p.m. at the Sahara Hotel.

Reservations may be obtained by calling 382-3323 or 878-3376.

A former teacher and a director of a day nursery, Chisholm entered public service in 1964

when she was elected to the New York State Assembly.

She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Nov. 30, 1924, but spent her early childhood on the island of Barbados in the West Indies.

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