



DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS — Stanley S. Scott, vice president of Philip Morris Incorporated receives a Doctorate of Humane Letters degree from Texas Southern University (TSU), Houston, TX., moments before he gave the commencement address for the school's graduating seniors. Dr. Leonard H.O. Spearman, left, confers the honorary degree. Scott, who urged the Class of '85 to strive for excellence, said that industry and government were looking for the best of all the million and a half graduates from all American colleges and universities. A corporate vice president and director of corporate affairs for Philip Morris Incorporated, a \$14-billion international conglomerate, Scott said the TSU graduates would find that most of the leading firms and agencies in this nation's "leaner and more aggressive economy" will be looking for the "best" of the graduates, without regard to color.

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Robert Hill convicted for accepting an illegal gratuity from Chaney

A federal jury Monday convicted former EDA director Robert Hill of accepting an illegal gratuity from one-time Las Vegas poverty agency chief James Chaney.

Hill, who was the Western regional director for the Economic Development Administration, could be sentenced up to two years in prison on the felony charge. He is scheduled for sentencing Aug. 9 by U.S. District Judge Lloyd George.

The jury returned the verdict after 3½ hours of deliberations. It meant both defeat and redemption for Hill, who the government had accused of taking a \$1,000 bribe from Chaney, the former executive director of the Las Vegas Opportunities Industrialization Center.

The jurors found Hill innocent of the more serious charges of conspiracy and bribery. Had Hill, 46, been convicted on those charges he would have faced the possibility of a maximum combined sentence of 20

years imprisonment.

By convicting the former EDA chief of the lesser included offense, the jurors found that Hill had taken the money because of his position for official acts he had or was about to perform. As the EDA's Western regional director, he held great influence over the disbursement of federal poverty funds in the Las Vegas area.

Linda Ryan, the state official who blew the whistle on a \$1,000 payment to former federal official Robert Hill by James Chaney, burst into tears Thursday after testifying that Hill attempted to persuade her to "squell" the investigation.

"This was a very stressful situation because I was friends with Mr. Hill and Mr. Chaney," she said, crying.

Ryan, the director of the state Office of Community Services, said she learned of the cash payment in May 1983 from James Chaney, then the head of the Las Vegas OIC.

Black Chamber endorses Moulin Rouge bid for gaming license

The Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce has strongly endorsed the bid by Sarann Knight-Preddy to transfer her unrestricted gaming license to the Moulin Rouge Hotel while terming the licensure "crucial for future business development in West Las Vegas."

Preddy, a well-known businesswoman and civic leader who fell less than a hundred votes shy of becoming the first Black elected to the Las Vegas City Council in 1980, has applied to move her unrestricted gaming license from another Westside locale to the Moulin Rouge where she recently opened up for business, without gaming.

The Moulin Rouge, located at 900 West Bonanza Road, is owned by Leo Frey, who in the past has refused to come forward for suitability hearings before state gaming officials.

Preddy, the only Black woman in the U.S. and possibly the world to hold an unrestricted gaming license, has been blocked in her bid

to establish gaming at the Moulin Rouge because she is leasing the facility from Frey.

Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce President Bob Bailey said there is no logical reason why Preddy should be denied an opportunity to have live gaming at the Moulin Rouge. "She has a proven track record in gaming at a former establishment that she successfully operated in West Las Vegas," Bailey said.

"We just don't understand why a lease arrangement for use of a facility should prevent someone from being able to do business," Bailey further stated. "Sarann's lease agreement only deals with use of the facility. Since the lease is not based on a percentage but is a flat fee she will be paying the same amount whether or not there was live gaming involved."

To further emphasize that point Bailey stated "she (Sarann) will be running the show entirely, and making all the decisions."

"We (Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce) remain optimistic that something can be worked out," said Bailey, "to permit Sarann to implement gaming at the Moulin Rouge."

Police Seek Vagrant Stabbing Suspect

Metro Police are looking for a vagrant who reportedly stabbed another transient during an argument over food stamps.

Officers said Charles Boyd, 47, was stabbed in the back while standing behind St. Vincent's Dining Hall at 650 S. Main St. earlier this week.

A man, identified only as "ET," is being sought for questioning in the stabbing. Boyd was reported in stable condition at Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital.

Nevada Black Chamber Notes

June 25 — Finance Committee is scheduled for 12 noon.

June 27 — The Board of Directors will have their meeting at 7:30 a.m.

June 28 — The monthly mixer with its VIP Night gets underway at 5:30 p.m. at the Moulin Rouge.

The next regular membership luncheon meeting will be held at the Moulin Rouge on July 5 at 11:30 a.m.

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