

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



--The Black Family Lacks Love--

In recent years there has been a rash of statistical data validating the fact that the Black family in America is literally coming loose at the seams. The close family ties that we once knew are no longer there.

I remember very well in my life how my entire family, grandfather, grandmother, uncles, aunts, cousins, sisters, brothers, neighbors and friends all showed care

and concern for me and the rest of my family. My family lived together, ate and drank together, prayed together and went to Sunday School and church together. We had joys and sadness together, we laughed and cried together.

There were ten of us in our family and my father and mother were tenant farmers. We did not have much of this world's goods but we had

plenty of love to share.

I'm convinced of the fact that the real underline reason why some of our children as well as some of our Black people treat one another the way we do is because love is no longer the center of our lives.

In our family, we shared what we had with one another as well as our neighbors. We shared food, one with the other, our clothes was handed down from the older ones to the younger ones.

As children when we disobeyed our parents, they would spank us to demonstrate their love for us. If our neighbors and friends would tell our parents that we had said or done something wrong, they would spank us on their word.

Someone reading this

column might conclude in his or her mind that my parents were mean and cruel to us, just the contrary, they love us enough to let us know when we were wrong.

The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from his ways".

Thou shall love thy neighbor as thou love thy self. Everybody everywhere is your neighbor.

--Family Situations Hinder Black Community Progress--

In a copyright story in the Los Angeles Times/Washington Post Feb. 5, 1986, was an article in which said by way of statistics what all of us already know, that the family unit of any racial group determines what the religious, social, political and economic climate of that community is going to be like.

Over 40 percent of all Black families are headed by women. These families comprise a third of the Black population and half of all Black children.

These families are by definition weak economic units. Their median income in 1984 was \$8,648.00 and over 50 percent lived below the poverty line.

By contrast where both

husband and wife were in the home, the median income in 1984 was \$23,418.00 and the poverty line was about 14 percent.

There were problems in the two parent families but they were manageable. The trend toward one parent families exist with Whites as well but it has not reached the critical proportions as Blacks. The median Black family income in 1984 was 56 percent of Whites. In other words for every 56¢ Blacks had to spend, Whites had \$1.

Finally this writer

80% of black men are out of poverty

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Eighty percent of black working men today are out of poverty, vs. 25 percent in 1940, says a census analysis out Monday.

"But 20 percent (of the men) remain left out and left behind in the poor black underclass," earning less than \$6,700 a year, says the report prepared by economist James P. Smith of The Rand Corp.

Black males earn 73 percent as much as white men, compared with 43 percent in 1940. "If you look at a 40-year horizon, the extent of progress is really very large," he said.

Sixty percent of the money gains are due to more education, says Smith. The average black worker is a

high school grad with a year's less education than his white competitor.

The family that prays together is the family that stays together. Rev. Jesse Jackson says, "that fatherhood begins at the birth of a child but it does not end until you have kept your responsibility to adulthood."

Come or call the NAACP office, take out a membership and make a report on the West Las Vegas library. P.O. Box 4887, Las Vegas, NV 89127 646-1662.

The increase in black families headed by women "is the most serious issue facing the black community right now," Smith says. "A lot of black economic progress is being lost."

Key findings:

- 18 percent of black families were headed by women in 1940, vs. 40 percent by 1980.
- In 1980, 56 percent of these woman-led families fell below the poverty line.
- Intact black families were earning 82 percent as much as white families in 1980, up from 41 percent in 1940.

— From USA Today

City of Las Vegas

CORPORATE CHALLENGE

1986

City of Las Vegas
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
RECREATION
CULTURAL AND
SENIOR CITIZEN
ACTIVITIES



TAKE THE CHALLENGE

APRIL 11 TO 20, 1986

Employees see your contact person _____

FOR INFORMATION CALL 386-6588

BICYCLING 13 miles

BOCCI

BOWLING

GOLF

HORSESHOES

POOL

RACQUETBALL

RUN 5 miles

SKEET SHOOT

SOFTBALL Slow-pitch

SWIMMING

TENNIS

TRACK

TUG OF WAR

VOLLEYBALL



CITY OF LAS VEGAS
Mayor: Bill Buntz
Councilmen: Ron Lurie, Al Levy, Bob Heller, W. Wayne Burke
City Manager: Ashley Hall
Department of Parks, Recreation & Senior Citizen Activities: Chris Marshall, Director
Cultural and Community Affairs Division: Joanne L. Nevins, Administrator

THE COMMUNITY TRIBUNAL SEGMENTS AND THEIR POWER

Blacks started to flock to Southern Nevada in the 1930s. They came to help construct Hoover Dam, and in the 1940s they came to work at the magnesium plant in Henderson.

Most of the new arrivals came from three Southern states: Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

At first, the living conditions were worst than what they had experienced in the South. They had to live in tents, hastily constructed abodes and many slept on the ground.

They had to tote water from nearby wells. There was no running water. They had to walk in roads dust that covered their shoes. When it rained, mud came almost up to their knees.

Former Clark County Commissioner Woodrow Wilson said he and his family slept in a little decrepit structure that leaked tar on them while they slept. In the morning, they had to use coal oil to wipe the tar from their bodies.

Early in the morning and late afternoons dust cloud could be seen coming and going to the plant in Henderson. The clouds were formed by their cars.

At first blacks could not patronize the casinos downtown and on the Strip. The only work they could get at the resorts was as porters and maids.

For night-life they frequented the few small clubs on the westside.

More and more blacks began to come to Las Vegas as the word of the great opportunities for blacks spread back to the South to friends and relatives of those already here.

Soon natural alliances began to form between friends and relatives from the same communities in the three states.

Those alliances helped to get Woodrow Wilson elected as the first black in the State Legislature and Joe Neal as the first black in the State Senate.

Neal is from Louisiana and Wilson from Mississippi. The Louisiana alliance eventually made former Assemblyman Lonnie Chaney and his brother, Jim, two of the most powerful men in the county.

Jim Chaney once bragged that on any given day he and his brother's political machine could put at least 50 people in the streets to work for any political candidate they supported.

EDITORS NOTE: In the next couple of weeks the Sentinel-Voice will delve into those alliances, now known as tribes or tribunal, to see how they were formed, their present status, just how much influence they once had and how much they still have, and the pocket neighborhoods that give them that political power.

By Bob Palm