

## EQUAL

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Coulee Dam in Spokane, Washington. Large numbers of Boulder Dam workers left this project, since it was drawing near completion, and rushed to Washington with the hopes of getting in on the ground floor with the new project. The fact that that occurred at a time when the project had in its employ the peak number of workers would suggest that there would be even more possible openings for Blacks. Contrarily, as the number of workers increased and the number of job opportunities expanded with the accompanying exodus of workers to the state of Washington, the number of Blacks hired on this project decreased.

So far as is known, only a total of 44 different Blacks worked on the Boulder Dam project. For the duration of the project, including turnovers, there had been an excess of 20,000 different workers. Those figures compute out to one Black worker for every 500 who worked on the project.

Because of the establishment of the CCLPA, the NAACP and the VFW Post, Blacks in Las Vegas became organized. Their numbers were small but they functioned as a unit and they had support from the National office of the NAACP. The change in the manner in which they were perceived by local whites can be seen in the fact that during the campaign for

Mayor of the City of Las Vegas in 1935, the winning candidate, Leonard Arnett, appealed to those organizations for support. The LAS VEGAS AGE reports that his request for support was answered. Blacks were actively involved in the fight for jobs, political recognition and other Constitutional rights. Ray Lyman Wilber had predicted, in 1932, that "Hoover Dam will create a unique tourists' meca." His prediction had come true even before the dam was completed. The reports of visitors for 1934 range between 250,000 and 365,000. Those tourists needed accommodations. Those accommodations came about in the form of hotels, restaurants and other services. All of these brought about new jobs -- for which Blacks would once again have to wage a running war to get.

The changes, few though they might have been, which took place on the Boulder Dam project, were the result of the efforts of the NAACP. The organization was right in the thick of things at a time when no other organizations were there to help. The membership was limited but, the heart was great. The efforts put forth by them helped to create an environment more conducive to an enhanced quality of life for Black people in Las Vegas. No one should ever forget the fact.

Blacks continued their fight for jobs on the Project throughout the duration of the construction of the dam. Once the dust had settled

and all concerned were convinced that they had done enough -- the token gestures had been made -- blacks were once again forgotten. In this respect, then, even the New Deal itself, as it operated in Nevada on the Boulder Dam Project, proved to be the same "old deal" for Blacks. It is ironic that even on a project located in the Black Canyon, Blacks were not welcome.

The 1930s closed out, as far as employment opportunities were concerned, with the termination of the dam project. Things returned to normal but not for long. As the new decade approached, so too did the winds of war. The war which would ultimately be fought in Europe and the South Pacific, was to have profound effects on the employment picture of Las Vegas. The dust of Basic Magnesium would be stirred up and, when it settled, a new and profoundly different Las Vegas Valley would appear.

### Trip to Hawaii to be awarded at Fashion Fair

A trip for two on American Airlines to the lovely island state of Hawaii is the grand door prize to be awarded at the Ebony Fashion Fair in Las Vegas on April 6.

The two round trip tickets will be good for travel to either Honolulu on the island of Oahu or to Kahului Airport on the island of Maui.

American chose Hawaii as the destination for the door prize because year after year Hawaii's beautiful resorts are among the most popular vacation choices of its customers.

The lucky winner of the two tickets on American to Hawaii will receive them at the Fashion Fair to be held in Holiday Inn Casino Hotel at 7 p.m. It is being sponsored locally by Gamma Phi Delta Sorority.

### Bayless fights school district termination practice

Kermit Bayless, a onetime Olympic Class Performer in Track and Field, has reached the final stage in his grievance with the Clark County School System where he was terminated while on medical leave.

Bayless, a counselor and former teacher in the Clark County School District for nine years, was dismissed from his position, he claims, because of an error with forms submitted to him to sign while under medical treatment.

Recently inducted into the Hall of Fame at Cal State Univ. Hayward, Bayless was a top 400 meter sprinter and Olympic Candidate in 1972. He has charged that discrimination within the Clark County School System denied him a chance to coach track and field -- claiming others with little or no experience in the sport were given coaching assignments while he was denied.

Bayless, claims his problems with the District stem from his allegations of discrimination over the coaching positions. While promoted from teacher at Roy Martin Junior High School, the promotion could have been a way to pacify him while still denying him the opportunity to be involved in his chosen coaching profession.

His recent clash with the District brought him several denials to appeals with the School System, where District Officials are supporting his termination

even though he never signed a resignation form. Now reaching the final stages of his grievance (level IV), the next appeal date, an open hearing, is set for March 13, 1986, 7:00 p.m. at Clark County School District.

Bayless, recently received a favorable decision in his claims against the District by the State Unemployment Dept., which awarded him benefits over the District's objections.

State Officials agreed with Bayless, saying, "Your employer chose to consider your negative reply as to whether you intended to return to duty for school year 1985-1986 as a resignation..." "Since you were uncertain if you could return to duty for the 85-86 school year as you were on medical leave which could have, with an extension, gone beyond that period, the negative response was the best of two poor choices," officials stated.

The State Officers concluded that, "Since substance must always override form, and your actions indicate it was not your desire to resign, you were discharged while on medical leave and no disqualification is assessed. You are eligible for benefits..."

Bayless, believes that State decision will help School Officials see their fault in his upcoming last stages of appeals, and that it may result in backpay and re-instatement.

### Women's day to be held at Zion United Methodist Church

The women of Zion are busily preparing for the Annual Women's Day Program. It will be held on Sunday, March 9 at 11:00 a.m. at Zion United Methodist Church located at 2108 N. Revere St. in North Las Vegas.

The message will be

delivered by Evangelist Almary Gaston. Mrs. Gaston, who is a member of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, has been in the ministry since 1967.

The public is invited to join the women of Zion United Methodist Church and make this a most memorable service.

## PEARSON

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wants, we support."

But Pearson said Tuesday, "In spite of what was done before, most of them (Westside residents) want to be included. Unless something is done over there, it will be the same as it is now in 20 years"

City Councilman Bob Nolen, whose district includes the Westside, said the city will meet with representatives of the Black Chamber of Commerce and area organizations later this month.

Nolen said he will abide by the wishes of the West Las Vegas who attend the meeting. He said he expects the rest of the City Council to do the same.

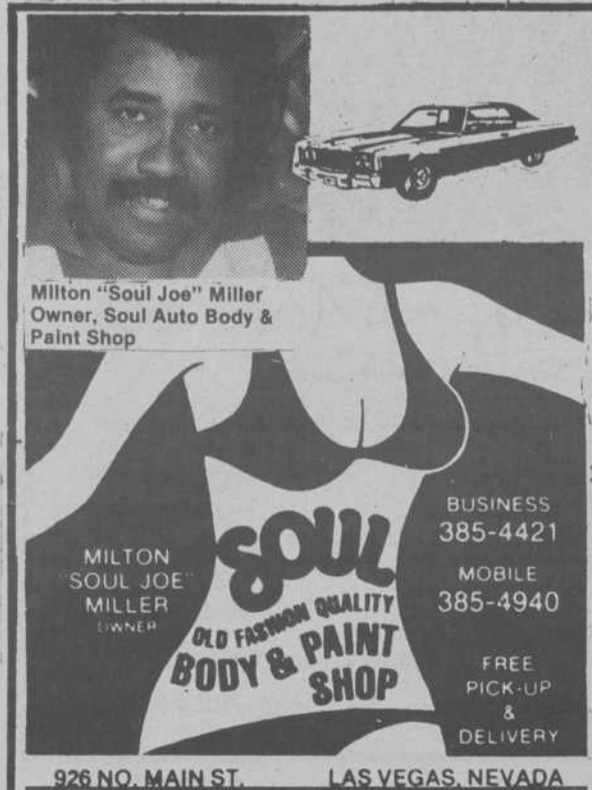
Amending the redevelopment plan to include the Westside could take five months, Nolen said, because of a lengthy legal procedure required under the state law. For that reason, Pearson said in his letter he wants the Westside included as part of the original plan.

In addition to the power to force the sale of land at its fair market value, the redevelopment plan also would give the city authority to raise money to help finance private developers through tax increment financing.

Tax increment financing would allow the city to spend property taxes paid within the redevelopment district on new buildings or on the increased value of property.

Both governments have accused the city of designating too much of downtown for redevelopment. The redevelopment plan encompasses almost 19 percent of the city's assessed valuation.

Pearson suggested the city limit the percentage of its assessed valuation included in the redevelopment area to the 10 percent allowed under the city charter.



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Training Union -- 6:00 p.m.  
Monday Mission -- 7:00 p.m.  
Usher Board -- 1st & 3rd Monday  
New Member Class -- Tuesday -- 7 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting & Bible Class -- Wednesday -- 7 p.m.  
Brotherhood -- Thursday -- 6 p.m.  
Saturday -- 3 p.m. -- Teachers Meeting & Easter Program Rehearsal  
4 p.m. -- Senior & Junior Choir Rehearsal

EASTER PROGRAM - March 30, 1986  
9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

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