

County Commissioner William U. Pearson

"A Leader Doing His Job"

The month of January symbolized a new beginning in the year of 1985. It was the beginning of a new era in CLARK COUNTY. This was the commencement of the four year term of DR. WILLIAM U. PEARSON on the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS of CLARK COUNTY. Since that time there have been a considerable number of monumental and positive changes that have occurred, particularly in the area of minority advancement. Such changes have been both tangible and intangible in scope. The quiet "MAN OF INTEGRITY," as referenced by the Master of Ceremonies at the occasion of the grand opening of McCarran International Airport, has successfully accomplished those positive changes with a smoothness unparalleled by others who may have held that position.

Due to the sensitivity of one's efforts to ensure parity within the minority community, as it relates to others, the difficulty of such tasks is overwhelming. The "perfect mesh" of the personalities of the Commissioners now sitting on the Board is enhanced by "Doc's" presence. The working relationship of this body is at an all time high and accordingly the desire to "do what is right" has minimized, to a certain extent, the clashes that would normally develop with those efforts.

Commissioner Pearson, since his election to the office, has made a concentrated effort to enhance the quality of life for ALL Southern Nevadans, particularly the Blacks and minorities of his constituency. He has sought

and succeeded in the appointments of the highest number of Blacks to Boards and Commissions, inclusive of the Community Development Advisory Committee, the Commission on Bonding, the Clark County Housing Authority, the Efficiency and Cost Control Committee, the West Las Vegas Site Selection Committee and other vital committees within the County.

One of the first



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implementations made by the Commissioner was to ensure that the post of Affirmative Action Officer become more than a future plan. He sought and succeeded in filling the position. Commissioner Pearson initiated efforts to bring top notch, qualified Blacks into County government and to elevate others who for years may have been stagnated by the "old regime." Most notably the County HAS BENEFITTED with recent additions in the County Manager's Office and at the airport at the management level. A considerable number of positions of "lesser significance" has also been filled by minorities since his election. Although it is of a less tangible nature, Doc has suggested to his counterparts outside of

County government that there are qualified Blacks who could successfully hold positions in their firms if only given the opportunity.

One of the prime efforts being undertaken and researched at this writing is an OVERALL MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM which will assist the minority procurement efforts by both Blacks and Hispanics. Doc has always been an advocate of the minority entrepreneur and consistently encourages minorities to partake in the contracting and procurement process of the County. Due to the lack of a consistent and comprehensive MBE program, there has been an inability of minorities to effectively compete in the major, or even minor, contracts at the airport and other areas within the County. Also, Commissioner Pearson continued the necessary follow through to ensure the success of the present concessionaires at the airport (only four).

His concern about the needs of the children of the West Las Vegas community prompted his efforts to seek the support of the City of Las Vegas and the Clark County Library District to commit to the building of a NEW library in that community. Those efforts are currently blossoming into fruition with the commitment to construct a library and cultural arts center. The construction of a NEW library will encourage further building and economic redevelopment in West Las Vegas, as well as about the wasting away of the minds of the children in the community.

In addition, Commissioner See PEARSON, Page 5

Westside Group To Receive Award

The Westside Community Development Commission, a non-profit organization chartered in 1975 by local Black elected officials to clean up and fix up West Las Vegas, has been nominated to receive one of only three awards for having done the most to clean up a local community. More than 30 individuals and organizations were presented to the Southern Nevada Clean Communities (Keep America Beautiful System) for consideration for an award.

The awards will be presented to the Commission and the two other recipients at a banquet to be held at the Las Vegas YMCA building on Meadows Lane at 5 p.m., April 25. The Westside Community Development Commission will also participate in the Henderson Industrial Parade on Saturday, April 19, beginning at noon in downtown Henderson. The Commission will enter a float and a drill team from West Las Vegas.

Between July 1, 1977 and June 30, 1985, the Commission refurbished more than 2,100 homes and structures throughout Las Vegas, mainly in West Las Vegas, saving the homeowners more than \$2,000,000, and training more than 1,900 area citizens in the basics of minor home repairs and general building trades instruction. Many of the trainees who were unskilled upon entering the program are gainfully employed in many various careers and fields of work.

The Keep America Beautiful/Southern Nevada Clean Communities Committees Week will be celebrated throughout Southern Nevada the week of April 19-27. Terri Guerra is executive director of the

Southern Nevada Clean Communities Organization, and H.P. Fitzgerald is the coordinator of the West Las Vegas 1986 Keep America Beautiful Campaign.

The Westside Community Development Commission Board of Trustees are Rev. Marion D. Bennett,

Chairman; Lonnie Chaney, Secretary; and Dan Curtis, J. David Hoggard, Sr., Nathaniel Hughes, Catherine Joseph, Erma O'Neal, Clarence Ray, Dr. Lee Rayford, and June Whitley, Members. H.P. Fitzgerald is the Commission's Executive Director.

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