

Point of View

EDITORIAL

CITY HALL CONTINUES TO PLAY GAMES

WITH West Las Vegas

Where's the Money?

At the Channel 13 Town Meeting held at Heritage Hall on July 10, it was revealed that the "powers that be" in City Hall are sitting on long-overdue funds which should have been released to Rowe, Inc. for them to begin their new project - the renovation of vehicles - which in turn, would provide much needed jobs for the unemployed in the Las Vegas impacted area.

At the Town Meeting Councilman Steve Miller, before he could really be questioned about the status of the funds, quickly grasped the microphone and told the citizens in attendance - and the television audience at large on July 15 when the Town Meeting was televised - that he would, on the following day, July 11, check into the matter and find out for the citizens of West Las Vegas why the allocated funds for Rowe, Inc. have not been released.

Well, that was 2½ weeks ago, and to our knowledge, the citizens of West Las Vegas - and Rowe, Inc., for that matter - have yet to be told why City Hall is sitting on these allocated funds.

When we spoke with Ms. Boulware, Executive Director for Rowe, Inc. today, July 26, she stated that, while they have been seeking answers as to why the funds have not been released, they have received no explanations. She stated further, that Councilman Miller has been working on the problem (he says), and has told them he will try to find out what is going on at the next city council meeting.

Come on, Councilman, you can do better than That!

So what are we to think? Are we to assume that Councilman Miller has fallen into a hole and has been unable to extricate himself therefrom, thus making it impossible for him to investigate the situation and get an answer as he said he would? Or are we to assume that City Hall - including Councilman Miller, is playing games with the citizens of West Las Vegas again --- and as usual?

Who's Kidding Who Here?

You cannot possibly imagine my shock when I awoke yesterday (Tuesday, July 25) at 6:30 a.m. and was flicking my radio dial, to hear 2 radio announcers - one male, one female - on Radio KEYV-FM, discussing the fact that the City Council was sponsoring an OPEN MEETING at the Old West Las Vegas School for the purpose of giving the citizens the opportunity to air their views as to whether or not the lettered streets (A through N) in the predominately Black community should be renamed for prominent Black leaders. What was even more disturbing about this broadcast was that the two commentators were openly disagreeing over the airwaves as to where the streets in question were located - in West Las Vegas or North Las Vegas. They never really settled the disagreement, and they would have done better just to simply report the meeting and let it go at that.

However, there were several things flabbergasting about hearing this broadcast - at least to me. First of all, the report was that this OPEN MEETING was to be held on the SAME EVENING as this broadcast. I immediately reread my final edition of Monday's Review Journal, thinking that somehow I must have just missed seeing an article that surely must have been printed publicizing the meeting. Secondly, I was irritated to realize that such a meeting had not been publicized in the Black community newspaper. Later on, I DID hear the meeting announced once over our predominantly Black oriented station KCEP-FM88.

And thirdly, obviously this meeting which is important to the Black Community was being publicized at the very last moment, not really giving the West Las Vegas citizens a chance to even learn that the meeting was being held, much less plan to be present to air their opinions.

It should be noted, too, that when other Public Meetings are being held, for whatever reason, they are always well publicized often weeks in advance of the date they are to be

To Be Equal

Civil Rights 25 Years Later

by John E. Jacob

The recent White House celebration of the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a reminder that race remains a major national issue.

In 1964, the nation struggled to overturn legal segregation and to assure African Americans and other minorities basic constitutional protections other citizens took for granted.

In 1989, there is a worrying lack of consensus about how we can remove race as a factor that limits people's aspirations and accomplishments.



John E. Jacob

The White House ceremony took place in the shadow of recent Supreme Court rulings that reflect the conservative tide of the past decade -- a new national mood unwilling to tolerate the necessary efforts to remedy the legacy of racial oppression and the persistence of discrimination.

And it took place at a time held.

Finally, in the final edition of Tuesday's R-J there was a short article concerning the meetin to be held that night. The article stated that Richard Blue, executive assistant to the City Manager, who has been in charge of the entire process of considering renaming the streets., said that he was relying on the media to inform people of the meeting.

The entire scenario smacks and from the manner in which the whole thing has been handled, I can assume any of three things: First, that those in charge of the street-naming project are totally incompetent, or secondly, that City Hall indeed is again playing games with the citizens of West Las Vegas, or thirdly, both of the aforementioned.

The most important issue here, however, is what the Black community decides to do about these situations. Are we going to join City Hall and make it known that we are just as ineffective as they appear to be, by allowing them to play these types of games with us? Or are we going to join together and let them know that "game time is over?"

when a Census Bureau analysis of poverty statistics found little change since the late 1960s.

For a while in the decade of the sixties, the poverty gap was closing and black income rose. But with the anti-poor mood of the 1980s, the Bureau has found that the poverty gap has grown. Today's poor are further below the poverty line than yesterday's.

Some say that's not a civil rights issue -- but it is. You can't separate rights from status and economic outcomes.

Our system was built on exploitation of black labor and the exclusion of African Americans from equal opportunity. The civil rights laws

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of the 1960s sought to remove the legal basis for that inequality and to enable minorities to compete on an equal footing.

It's not enough to say that the laws have made us a colorblind society when the practices of our society result in very color-conscious outcomes such as disproportionate black poverty.

The original civil rights movement was well aware of that distinction -- the 1963 March on Washington that

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Political Points

By

Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams

"Politics is not a spectator sport." Those were the words of Ron Brown two weeks ago as he addressed a crowd of Democratic supporters at the Cashman Field Complex here in Las Vegas. As Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, Brown said his key objective is to "work to effectuate a plan to establish a mass number of political players throughout America."

I totally agree with Chairman Brown, because today's politics, which has to be new, fresh and creative, has no room for spectators. The absolute reality is that if our communities expect to attain true economic, cultural, educational, and spiritual power, each citizen must in his or her own way become a player and learn how to score political points; points for the betterment of all and not just for self.

In 1872, when he ran for Vice-President of the U.S., Fredrick Douglass perceived the dilemma of the American two-party system and he proclaimed that the time has come when the principals of eternal justice and human equity should be carried into or legislative halls, our courts, and marketplaces.

Now 117 years later in 1989 we find ourselves in the same political bind. We find ourselves still in a political system that is unresponsive to the needs of all people.

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Judge Hastings And Ollie North -- 2 Examples Of U.S. Justice?

Well, Oliver North walked, while Fla. Federal Judge Alcee L. Hastings was ordered to stand in the impeachment dock.

Ironically, the same judge, Gerhard A. Gesell, issued both decrees. On virtually the same day. With one hand he sprung convicted felon North who had shredded the Constitution, with the other he slapped down Hastings' appeal to stop the impeachment process. Hastings had argued that since he was cleared of charges he accepted a bribe and lied under oath, impeachment places him in the unconstitutional position of suffering double-jeopardy.

It is difficult to follow the convoluted thinking process of U.S. District Judge Gesell. And it takes on an even more sinister look when you consider that his ruling also affects U.S. District Judge Walter L. Nixon (of Mississippi) who had intervened in the case of behalf of Hastings. Nixon is a convicted felon and is now serving a five-year sentence for lying to a grand jury investigating

his alleged criminal conduct. Nixon, who is white, still draws his federal pay and for all intents and purposes is a federal judge yet in good standing while languishing in the pokeny. The impeachment process will attempt to correct this.

But Hastings is a horse of a different color, or better, a federal judge in different circumstances. He has not been convicted of anything. Even an ethics unit of the Dept. of Justice found him as clean as Mean Joe Greene.

Why, then, is this Black judge forced to face impeachment before a lily-white U.S. Senate, the ultimate judge and jury? This is certainly not a jury of his peers, and on those grounds alone the process should be thrown out. And if you think race will not play a large role in his unraveling fate, perhaps I can interest you in a piece of property I own that I'll sell at a bargain price -- the Brooklyn Bridge.

The entire Hastings' ordeal has the ripe smell of racism. A cabal of conservative white

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