

## HOUSING

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Mr. Watson had no matching experience in a chief administrative role in his background, although he did have excellent qualifications. "We had to select the best qualified candidate," Conner said. "Due to the sensitive nature of the Housing Authority at that time, we needed someone qualified in administration to turn the Authority around and Mr. Rowe is that man."

"It had nothing to do with race or funding," he said. "All candidates were considered on the basis of merit."

As to the allegations of "receiving illegal funds" for his business from the City of Las Vegas, Conner agreed that he did receive legitimate "Block Grant Funds" four years ago for "equipment only" and that he did not use the Block Grant money to re-hab his building. "I used personal funds to re-hab my building and did not purchase equipment until October of 1989," he said.

Conner stated that he felt he acted properly in his vote and vowed that he would stand by his decision and his

candidate. He said further that he had nothing to gain by sitting on the board. "I have nothing to gain personally from sitting on the Board. I just want to give back something to the community because they have been good to me," he said.

In the meantime, Brown and Gonzales and other members of the Tenants' Rights Association are focusing their efforts on improving the "quality of life" for the residents in the projects. Some concerns they are preparing to address are 1) diverting funds back into maintenance, 2) re-activating recreation centers (all have been closed), 3) stepping up resident/police relationships for more adequate patrol of necessary areas, and 4) addressing other concerns now under litigation.

Mr. Brown said that the Tenants Association is willing to give Rowe a "fair chance" to assert his leadership and institute his programs. He has even agreed to meet with Rowe to discuss pressing resident issues. Brown has already met with Mr. Goldson, but a meeting is yet to take place

between him and Rowe.

A meeting is also being scheduled with Mr. Jack Kemp, the national Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and members of the Tenants Rights Association in two to three weeks. Brown says that he has "devoted his life to fighting for the poor" and that he will fight until the tenants receive what they deserve.

Brown had just met with District Attorney Rex Bell prior to our interview.

Watch future issues of the Sentinel-Voice for our continuing coverage of this story.

### LVPBF Holds Dinner-Dance

The Professional Black Firefighters of Las Vegas will hold its Installation of Officers Dinner and Dance on March 24, 1990 beginning at 8 P.M.

Guest speaker for the affair which will be held at Heritage Hall, 932 W. Owens, will be Dr. Al Gourrier, Principal of Lois Craig Elementary School.

Donations are \$15.00 per person.

## JOURNAL POINTS

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grades. The method in which the schools have administered prevented African American children from changing their assigned academic level. We interviewed many African American high school seniors who stated that they were forced to stay in "level 3" the entire twelve years of their education in the Selma school system. As a result, these students were not permitted to take basic algebra or mathematics classes because these subjects are reserved for "level 1" students.

In a school system that is 80 percent African American, it is a crime against humanity for these students to be tracked away from minimum academic competence. Generations of African American youth from Selma have been denied entrance into college not because they lack intelligence or ability but directly because of the deliberate racial discrimination they have suffered in the school system.

That is why Selma's first African American school superintendent, Dr. Norward Roussell, attempted to change the tracking system. He was fired by the school board. Incidentally, the school board, in a city that is predominantly African American is comprised of six whites and five African Americans. The school board is appointed by the predominantly white city council which is controlled by long-time Mayor Joe Smitherman. Mayor Smitherman was the mayor of Selma twenty-five years ago when "Bloody Sunday" occurred across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The school board has determined that six members constitute a quorum and therefore the white members of the school board effectively maintain the racial tracking system.

A renowned psychologist, Dr. Bobby Wright, once said that to systematically destroy or to prevent the development of a person's mind is to commit a form of genocide which he termed "menticide." Twenty-five years ago the issue was the right to vote without racial discrimination and intimidation. Today the issue in Selma, Alabama is the right to education without racial tracking, discrimination and intimidation.

The children of Selma are paying a heavy price. Please do not see this as just a local

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The Census Bureau has identified 60 federal programs, from drug rehabilitation services to public education, that distribute funds through formula grants based on population size and these funds totalled 73.2 billion dollars to all states including Nevada in 1988 alone.

Finally, African-American men have hurt us more than anyone else. Nine percent of all African-American men were not counted in 1980, compared to three percent of African-American females. Our men between the ages of 35-54 were undercounted by 20 percent.

These men are believed to be undercounted because of lack of awareness; mistrust of government, including the belief that information would not be kept confidential; and a concern that the information would be used to interfere with family incomes from welfare or eviction from public housing. **COME ON BROTHERS WAKE UP!**

**FOCAL POINT:** If future federal dollars supporting vital programs are to be fairly allocated and African-American citizens are to be adequately represented in Congress and government bodies, we must act now. The stakes are high. Unfortunately, many Americans view the census as a mundane activity that has little impact on their lives other than infringement of privacy. However, the census results have significant implications for the lives of all U.S. citizens, particularly African-American. In addition the census determines which states will gain or lose congressional seats, boundaries of thousands of State, County, Municipal Legislative Districts as well as Legislative District Boundaries - and therefore the makeup of the people who live within them often to the background and ethnicity of the persons elected as representatives. Therefore, whether we are represented by people of our choice in the 1990's will be greatly influenced by the 1990 Census. **COME ON LET'S SCORE SOME REAL POINTS!**

**POINT OF VIEW:** Truth is that which serves the interests of a people. Two groups of people locked in combat cannot be expected to have the same truth. - *Albert Buford Cleage, Jr.*

**POINTS IN HISTORY:** - 180 years ago on March 23, the New York African Society was established.

78 years ago on March 24, Civil Rights Activist Dorothy Height was born.

59 years ago on March 25, the Scottsboro Boys were arrested in Point Rock, Alabama.

### Two Police Attacked and Injured Sunday Night

After responding to a West-side-area disturbance, two police officers were attacked by a bystander, authorities reported.

The disturbance occurred at a residence on "H" Street and Van Buren about 8:00 P.M. last Sunday night.

It was reported that when the officers arrived on the scene to attempt to break up a fight, they were attacked by a bystander and a riot broke out. About 150 people or more gathered at the scene and there were reports of rocks being thrown at police as well as at private cars.

issue. We are now receiving calls daily from many different communities throughout the country attesting that a similar racial tracking is occurring in their schools. Let the word go out that we shall challenge this form of American apartheid. Yes, a mind is a terrible thing to waste and we cannot allow the minds of children of Selma or anywhere else to be tracked and destroyed.

The alleged police attacker, Kotton Gerale Woody, aged 24, was arrested.

More officers arrived at the scene as the crowd grew larger. More fights broke out, lasting about 10 minutes. Two officers were punched in the face and one officer was bitten in the knuckle, it was reported. "One officer who thought he had a broken nose and cut on the ear was taken to University Medical Center and another officer took himself to the hospital," police spokesman Lt. Randy Oaks said.

The two officers were treated and released.

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