

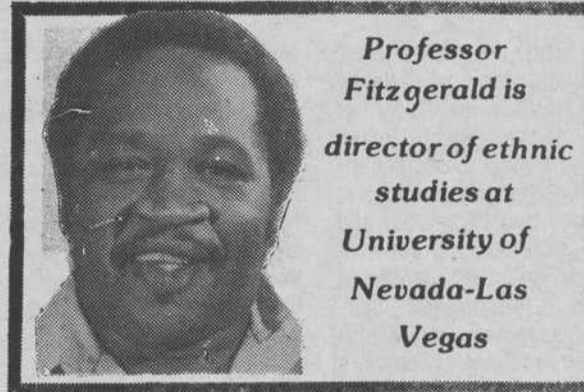
GREAT SCOTT, IT'S DRED SCOTT

I guess I should have said something about the Ordinance of 1787 in last week's piece, but I can't remember everything. Anyway, it is sometimes called the Northwest Ordinance. The Ordinance contained six provisions and one provided that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude would be permitted in the Old Northwest Territory or in the states which would be ultimately carved therefrom. Those future states would include Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Those were years in which many new states entered the Union. With the exception of the efforts made to maintain a balance between slave and free, none of those events were noteworthy in and of themselves. At least, that's the way it seemed. More often than not, it is difficult to determine the far-reaching

effects of a single event-- which drop of water causes a dike to break?

Forty seven years following the adoption of the Northwest Ordinance, in 1834, a young, black slave man was taken from St. Louis, Missouri, a slave-holding town in a slave-holding state, to Rock Island, Illinois and then to Fort Snelling in the Wisconsin Territory. Slavery had been forbidden in both places. Dr. John Emerson, an army surgeon, owing to his reassignments, took the slave Dred Scott out of a slave holding state onto free soil. The hiatus continued for almost four years. Eight years following their return to Missouri, in 1846, Scott sued for his liberty in the Missouri courts on the grounds that he had become free because of his stay on free soil in Illinois and



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Wisconsin. The lower court ruled in favor of Scott but that ruling was overturned in 1852 by the state supreme court. Ironically, that same court had previously ruled, in similar cases, that the slave became free upon his return to Missouri. An appeal to the Federal district court, and

finally the United States Supreme Court followed.

The case of Dred Scott vs. Sandford (the actual spelling is Sanford but it was misspelled in the official reports) became one of the landmark Supreme Court cases of our times. It addressed three points: Dred

Scott's citizenship status and whether he was entitled to bring a suit in a Federal court; the question of whether residency on free soil and freedom remained valid following return to Missouri; and whether or not the Missouri Compromise was constitutional in its prohibition of slavery north of 36°30'.

The majority opinion of the court, with that of Chief Justice Roger B. Taney being accepted as that of the majority of the justices, ruled on the three issues. First, it was decided that Scott, and therefore all black slaves and their descendants, was not a citizen of either the United States or the state of Missouri and therefore did not have the right to sue in the federal courts. Second, Scott's status was determined by the laws of the state in which he resided

when the question of his freedom was raised and therefore his temporary residency on free soil was moot. Third, The Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional on the ground that under the 5th Amendment, Congress was prohibited from depriving persons of their property without due process of law.

The Dred Scott decision became the first case since the historic Marbury vs. Madison case of 1803 in which the Court declared an act of Congress unconstitutional. In declaring the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, the court opened the door for the further expansion of slavery. Without the restrictions imposed by the Missouri Compromise, the results of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1853 which provided that the

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THE BIG LIE

Some politicians think if they tell a lie big enough and often enough, people will believe it.

It's called the "big lie" and it's happening right here in Assembly District 6.

Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams has been attacked by his opponent. His opponent, by mailing his lies to selected areas — and keeping them away from others — thought he could fool the voters.

Here are the facts, and it is public record.

FACT: Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams sponsored legislation protecting our young people from being used by pushers to sell drugs.

His opponent says this harms our youth.

FACT: Assemblyman Williams passed a law with stiff penalties for selling drugs in schools or where children gather. He believes our schools should be drug free.

His opponent says this law is bad for our children.

FACT: Assemblyman Williams passed a law with tough penalties for drive-by shootings, especially when innocent people are put in danger.

His opponent wants you to believe this helps make innocent young men become "better criminals."

FACT: Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams has been a leader in proposing "boot camps," counseling, house arrest and other means to help young, nonviolent offenders stay out of prison and get back on the right track.

His opponent has done nothing.

FACT: Assemblyman Williams has no sympathy for drive-by shooters, big-time drug pushers, and cowards who use children for crime. He believes they should be in jail.

His opponent wants you to believe these criminals deserve our sympathy and UNLV scholarships.

FACT: Wendell P. Williams has been a leader in our community, helping young people find a better way. He has organized marches against drugs, started after school tutoring programs, counseled inmates in prison, and worked with our youngsters in numerous ways.

His opponent has twisted Wendell's fine record into "the big lie."

If Wendell P. Williams' opponent tells lies like this now, what would he do if he was elected?

Vote for someone who campaigns on his record, not on lies; vote to re-elect Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams.



Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams has organized three community marches against drugs and crime.

What will his opponent do next? Claim Assemblyman Williams is leading these children to jail?

Re-elect

wendell
WILLIAMS

DEMOCRAT assembly 6