

# Point of View

## EDITORIAL

### It's Time to Separate the Men from the Boys

That all-important day is just about here again - VOTING DAY. On this coming Tuesday, September 4, all concerned citizens will go to the polls to cast their vote for those whom they would like to represent them and be their leaders for the next few years.

This year, however, voters in Districts 6 and 7 need to be particularly careful about for whom they vote. It's time for them to "separate the men from the boys" - the 'good 'ole boys', that is.

We're speaking about those 'good 'ole boys', who find it so easy to slander their opponents, misrepresent their opponents' records, and talk about all of the terrible things that they perceive their opponents to have done. However, these same 'good 'ole boys' don't seem to have gotten around to saying what THEY have done for the good of their community (Could it be that they have done little or close to nothing?), nor what they WILL do for their community should they be elected. Districts 6 and 7 voters should be very aware of what the candidates' platforms are and where they stand on the issues that are of particular significance in the Afro-American community. They should also familiarize themselves with what each candidate has done for the betterment of the community.

Voters from Districts 6 and 7 should also be wary of signing absentee ballots. Absentee ballots should be signed and submitted only if one is ill and/or home-bound, or will be out of town on Voting Day.

Above all, voters should be sure that they vote only one time. If you send in an absentee ballot, then you cannot go to the polls on election day to cast another ballot. Nor can a voter go to more than one polling place and cast a ballot at each one. It is against the law to do any of these things.

Most important of all, voters should remember that casting their vote on election day is both a privilege and a solemn responsibility. Voters should not allow ANYONE to coerce them into casting their votes for someone other than their own choosing, and they should never allow their vote to be bought for money, gifts, or the like. Any candidate who attempts to get your vote in any of these ways is not worthy of your vote. He is merely showing you that he is a crooked politician who has no business in the race and he is also showing you that he feels you have no intelligence.

So beware of the 'good 'ole boys', who play all those 'good 'ole boys' tricks' mentioned above.

Aside from those smutty instances mentioned above, the political races for the Assembly seats in Districts 6 and 7 have been particularly quiet. Some campaign literature has been sent out and some candidates have been taking their campaign door to door. But even so, members of the community are voicing concern and bewilderment at the lack of candidates' letting the constituents know where they stand on important issues. "Are they all hiding under the carpet?" one might ask.

Maybe most, maybe some, but not ONE. Incumbent Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams is not hiding under the carpet. Unless you've had your head in a hole in the ground for the past four years, you KNOW who Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams is, where he stands on the issues and what he has done and continues to do for the African-American community. Assemblyman Williams has not been a one-month representative for his community. He is on the job 365 days of the year, always doing what he can to improve the quality of life for his community and always at the beck and call of those who need him.

Nor has he found it necessary to stoop to the shoddy level of the campaign tactics of some of his opponents. He deals strictly with the issues.

Therefore, because of his forthrightness, honesty and dedication to not only his constituents in District 6, but to all African Americans and underprivileged persons in Las Vegas, the SENTINEL-VOICE sets a precedent and endorses incumbent Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams (NO. 47 on

## United Church of Christ Commission for Racial Justice CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL

BY Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

### AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

Traditionally, each summer provides the time for numerous national conventions, conferences, seminars and family reunions. In Kansas City, Missouri a very important national conference was held in July concerning the problems that confront African American men in American society. Over the last several years research studies have revealed the often painful reality that African American men in particular face throughout the nation. From one of the highest rates of homicide, imprisonment, unemployment, to the problems of drug addiction, inadequate health care and poverty, African American men are being "targeted" as an endangered species.

Dr. Ronald Taylor, an African American sociologist at the University of Connecticut was one of the organizers of the conference. Dr. Taylor along with more than 200 other scholars, ministers and community activists from across the United States assembled in Kansas City to address the current problems that particularly beset African American males. Dr. Taylor stated "It's hard for even the Black community to comprehend" the complexity of the combination of serious problems African American males face today.

Dr. Alvin Poussaint, noted psychiatrist at Harvard Medical School, explained "Black men are coming together, and when they talk about the problems, yes, it's very personal...this is a social movement to deal with social ills. It has gotten more and more momentum as the statistics have gotten worse."

The conference called for the establishment of a

clearinghouse for the study of the more than 18 million African American males in the United States. Morehouse College in Atlanta has established the Morehouse Research Institute to research and analyze problems concerning African American males. Dr. 'Ida R. Mukenge who is Executive Director of the Morehouse Institute, said "It is true that there are a lot of groups and people working in the same area...but I'm not concerned about the effort being too diffuse. There is enough work to be done and enough points to be attacked."

A new organization to deal with this issue has been established. The National Coalition of African American Men (NCAAM) has been organized to provide advocacy, research and programs focusing on the plight of African American males. Dr. Richard Majors, a psychologist at Harvard Medical School, is the Chairman of the National Coalition of African American Men. Dr. Majors stated, "There is a lot of ignorance, myths and stereotypes about Black men. The bottom line is not only educating the public but empowering and improving the lives of Black men."

African American women also attended the conference and expressed their support. When African American men are oppressed, African American women are also oppressed. This view was held by Dr. Gloria Alibaruho, a sociologist at Morehouse College. She affirmed, "If a Black man is in prison, on the street corner or dead from drugs, we are victims too...We are without

See JOURNAL, Page 8

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your ballot) for reelection as Assemblyman for District 6.

BE SURE TO VOTE ON SEPT. 4

Betty Brown

## If There Were No Demand, There Would Be No Supply

By Tony Brown

Last week, I appeared on "CBS This Morning," the network TV show, with Lee Brown, New York's police commissioner, as the other guest. We were invited to discuss the newest government study on how many "African-Americans" are killing each other.

The homicide rate has increased alarmingly. The U.S. is already leading all industrialized nations in this nefarious category. Among African-Americans, the victims per 100,000 people is almost 27%; among Caucasians it is 4.6%.

For the first six months of 1990, the number of homicides has increased over 1989 in Seattle (75%), Boston (56%), New York (45%), San Francisco (41%), Memphis (31%), Milwaukee (25%), Dallas (20%), Philadelphia (19%), Chicago (14%), New Orleans (14%) and Houston (12%).

If you're African-American, you probably saw your city above in double

digits, since over 50% of the African-American population lives in the top 20 markets (cities). These are the single-digit homicide growth AREAS: Los Angeles (8%), Detroit (6%), Fort Worth (6%), St. Louis (1%) and Washington, D.C. (1%).

Surprised to see D.C., the



Tony Brown

media's favorite "Black-city whipping boy," with only a 1% increase in homicide? Other cities have even had a

See BROWN, Page 5

## NOTES FROM THE HILL

By George Wilson

### Minority Construction Taking a Backward Step

Building and road construction are common sights in most urban centers around the country. African-American participation in this lucrative field has begun to increase mainly because of mandated minority set-asides. However, recent Supreme Court decisions have produced a result that does not bode well for the future of minority contractors.

In January 1989, the Supreme Court eliminated a Richmond, Virginia ordinance which required that 30 percent of city construction contracts be awarded to minority-owned businesses. As a result of the high court's decision, San Francisco, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Birmingham, Alabama, Jacksonville, Florida, Dayton, Ohio and the State of Michigan have eliminated their set-aside initiatives. It's a virtual certainty that other cities and states will add

their names to the list of those who no longer see the need for legally mandated set-asides.

The Richmond decision has meant a substantial loss of income for minority contractors. A contractor in Atlanta says that his income from work in progress dropped from \$13 million in 1989 to \$5 million this year. In Richmond, the percentage of city contracts awarded to minority-owned businesses declined from 32 percent in 1986 to 11 percent in 1989.

The debate on this issue is quite similar to the discussion surrounding the Civil Rights bill which recently passed the Senate in spite of President Bush's threat of a veto. "Quota" is the operative word in both cases. It seems that whenever there is an effort to even the playing field for those who have been traditionally

See WILSON, Page 5