

**THE RAY WILLIS REPORT**

**THE CENSUS "RACE"**



RAY E. WILLIS

**By Ray Willis**  
For decades it has been a buzzword in Black communities and accepted as gospel truth that census takers purposely undercount Blacks. Whether real or imagined, there are several concrete reasons why this perception exists.

One viewpoint has it that census workers are remiss to visit certain areas because they are fearful of bodily harm being inflicted on them by menacing Blacks.

Whatever the reasons or the rationale, it is apparent that there is a severely disproportionate Black census undercount. That point was dramatically demonstrated by a recent report out of Washington, DC stating that the "experts are baffled" and can't seem to figure out "what happened to nearly 2.5 million Blacks they expected to be counted."

The debate over the size of the Black population comes as many statisticians are marveling at the increases in population of other minorities.

Even right here in Clark County there are conflicting reports concerning how many Black residents there are. The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce last year reported there are 103,000 Blacks who reside in the Greater Las Vegas area. The figure was even ballyhooed in the local press.

But that all changed with the recent release of so-called official 1990 figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, which places the total Black countywide population at a mere 70,738. Amazingly, this figure is substantially below the "estimated" 1990 Hispanic count for Clark County which is 82,904.

In the wake of the severe

disparity in the census count for African-Americans, several groups and individuals locally have expressed grave concerns. Among them, the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce which is closely examining the shortfall.

Community activist Leonard Mason, an expert on area-wide Black statistical data, is also personally concerned. Right now, he is drafting a formal letter of complaint about the undercount.

Interestingly, it's not just Blacks who are challenging countywide census figures. Several groups and individuals in the community at large have also filed formal complaints. Even if some of the Black

undercount is restored, it seems apparent that African-Americans in Clark County for the first time, will fall from first to second-place in minority group size. What this means is an inevitable shift in the politics of race, ushering in a

new era in Hispanic/Black relations.

**THE ATTACK ON AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AND THE REASON FOR IT**

**By James S. Tate Jr., M.D.**

Recently Ms. Angela Davis, who is the Co-Chairperson of the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression, spoke here in Las Vegas. It was interesting the type of attempt at character assassination that occurred before she appeared here.

It is reminiscent of the same attacks that were perpetrated on Reverend Jesse Jackson and Minister Louis Farrakhan when they came to Las Vegas.

As an Afro-American community we must be very careful and ever vigilant against the attempt on the part of our enemies to define our leaders. We are too often gullible in parroting what the great white father says about African American leadership such as they're Communist, they're rebel rousers, they're racist, ect.

Indeed if our enemies feel that a leader is worthy then we should very carefully re-examine what that individual is doing to make sure that what is happening is not that we are being sold down the river by a erstwhile leader.

In too many cases, especially here in Las Vegas, that has been the situation. We must

also understand that leadership carries with it certain responsibilities both to those who are selected as leaders as well as those who those leaders claim to lead. In other words, electing or selecting an individual as a "leader" does not relieve the lead

from continuously re-evaluating the performance and the position of those who occupy the leadership positions.

Indeed the followers should be constantly re-evaluating the leaders, only in that way can we be insured that the struggle for

freedom will continue on the right track. In the case of Ms. Davis, Reverend Jackson and Minister Farrakhan objective evaluations of their performance would in this writers opinion indicate they are definitely on the right track and have the correct position on

all major issues. We therefore need to reject forcefully and very clearly masters attempts at deciding for us who shall be our chosen leaders, but for the time being, let it be clear if master don't like them, they must be doing something right.!

**FRANK HAWKINS AND NICOLE STUPAK TO SQUARE OFF IN CITY COUNCIL RACE**

**JAN JONES ELECTED MAYOR**

Jan Laverty Jones was elected Las Vegas first female mayor during this Tuesday primary election, beating out her opponent Councilman Steve Miller by nearly a 2-1 vote.

Jones received 21,758 voted (52% compared to Millers 11,377 (27%). Also in the running was Monterey Brookman who received (15%) of the votes.

Miller, who felt the race would have to be decided in the June 4 general election, was very upbeat in the early stages of the election, however, he was warned by his campaign manager, John Davies, that he would be lucky not to lose the race in the primary.

Jones, 42, attributed her victory to the support of females, as well as, what she felt was a "whole new attitude in the city."

In the bid for the City Council Ward 1 race, former football player and local businessman, Frank Hawkins will face Nicole Stupak, whose own father, Vegas World owner Bob Stupak,



The proud parents of the newly elected mayor, Mr. and Mrs. Laverty, stand tall after their daughter Jan makes history. (photo by Savoy, Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice)

had discounted her candidacy.

Hawkins, 31, was considered a front runner all along while Stupak, 22, was never given much of a chance.

Hawkins led with 3,822 votes

compared to Stupak's 3,222.

In other elections results, incumbents Willaim Robinson and Mary Kincaid survived the North Las Vegas City Council race, and will be joined by Bob

Cullins Jr. and Connie Glass in the June 4 general election.

Robinson received 1705 votes or 26% of the ballots, while Kincaid received 1,561 votes or 24%.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN SUMMIT COMMITTEE (AASC) HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL "SUMMIT"**

The Second Annual "Summit" of the AASC will be held May 16-19 at the Mable Hoggard Sixth Grade Center. The Thursday activity will be a bus ride to the Indian Springs Prison. Friday's activities begin at 6:00 P.M. with a keynote address by Habibullah Saleem. Saturday will be a workshop with local and state consultants addressing issues in the Political, Economic, and Social areas. The program begins at

9 A.M. with registration. Sunday afternoon activities begin at 1:00 P.M. with a "Youth Speak Out" followed by a "Summit" wrap up. All activities are free and open to the public except the Saturday luncheon which will be \$10.00. Booths exhibiting various African American history, culture and businesses will be provided.

For more information, call K. Paylor at 871-5011

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