

01-21

CIVIL RIGHTS JOURNAL:
AFRICAN-AMERICAN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT
By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. SEE PAGE 2

NAARPR REPORT:
"THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CHILDREN"
By James S. Tate Jr, M.D. SEE PAGE 3

NAACP AND YOU:
STANLEY JOHNSON'S PRINCIPAL MUST GO
By Rev. Jesse Scott SEE PAGE 4

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

BLACK EXECUTIVE CLEARED OF FRAUD CHARGES FEDERAL CASE AGAINST ROWE INC. DISMISSED



WITH FEDERAL CASE BEHIND HIM, STANLEY CAMPBELL, JR. HOPES TO BRING ROWE, INC. BACK TO WEST LAS VEGAS.. Photo by Bill Lee

By Joan Shepard
L.V. SENTINEL-VOICE

The federal fraud case against West Las Vegas businessman Stanley Campbell Jr., and his four co-defendants was thrown out of court on Tuesday by Judge Philip Pro in Nevada District Federal Court.

Following four years of investigation, the federal government constructed an elaborate fraud case against Campbell, founder and president of Rowe Inc., which overhauled heavy equipment for the U.S. Navy. The company, founded in 1987, trained and employed a predominantly non-white work force across from Nucleus Plaza. When the firm was forced to close in 1989 because of the investigation, the company laid-off 42 people.

The federal government claimed that Campbell created a dummy parts corporation, New Tech, in order to siphon off funds. Judge Pro said on Tuesday, there was simply no evidence to support the government charges.

Despite a costly and painful experience with the federal government,

Campbell said Tuesday, he planned to re-open Rowe, Inc. in West Las Vegas. "If I re-open, it will be the best thing for the pride and dignity of African-American folks in West Las Vegas in 50 years."

Campbell described West Las Vegas as Nevada's Soweto, cordoned off by the freeway and purposefully neglected. "Look, there is not even a McDonald's on the Westside," said the 37 year-old businessman and former Navy test pilot.

Campbell's troubles began in 1988 when he fired the handpicked management team of Jack Thomason, the city's director of economic and urban development. Campbell said he had no choice in hiring. The management team were retired Air Force officers, and cronies of Thomason, a retired Air Force Colonel.

Before firing the Thomason-picked managers, Campbell said his firm delivered two overhauled vehicles to the Navy. With his new management team in place, Campbell's firm delivered 7 overhauled vehicles in 30 days.

Campbell said the Navy was pleased and offered him a \$42-million contract for more work.

However, two or more of the fired managers instigated the investigation, claimed Campbell.

The full weight of the U.S. government came down on Campbell when it used a whole battery of federal agencies including the FBI, SBA, IRS, DEA, and the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy for the investigation of Campbell and his associates: Barry Brown, Henry Newbold, Jacqueline Johnson, and Amos Clarke.

"The government never had a case," said Campbell, "and the judge knew it. I did everything by the book. The Navy testified in court as to the excellence of our work, as well as the early delivery of the equipment."

One of the holes in the government's case was its failure to enter Campbell's contract with the U.S. Navy as evidence. Although the federal prosecutor, Anne Perry said the contract was irrelevant, Judge Pro said that
(See ROWE, INC., Page 4)

LUNT PRINCIPAL TO KEEP JOB

Citing that it was the Metropolitan Police Department, and not Lunt Elementary School Principal Elizabeth Ventura, that decided that 10-year-old Stanley Johnson should be arrested in his classroom instead of being called to the school's administrative offices, School Superintendent Brian Cram said at Tuesday's school board meeting that Ventura would not be fired.

Stanley Johnson was arrested by three Metro officers on Monday, January 4, 1993, after another student reportedly received a death threat off school grounds.

Stanley was subsequently handcuffed in front of his fifth grade class and taken away.

A short time later, the Metropolitan Police Department, saying they acted properly, cleared the three officers of any wrong-doing.

The arrest angered the vast majority of the Black community, and local NAACP President, Rev. Jesse

Scott, had given Cram until Wednesday to fire Ventura, who they say violated school district policy by allowing the arrest in the classroom, and for not notifying a parent or guardian.

With Ventura keeping her position, the NAACP now says that its prepared to take a series of actions against the school district.

A meeting set up by the local chapter last Monday at Second Baptist Church drew a full-house of citizens outraged over the incident.

The NAACP has now planned a demonstration at Lunt Elementary School which began today at 7:00 a.m. and will end at 3:00 p.m. They plan to be there daily until Ventura is no longer a principal or administrator at the school.

Several school principals showed up at Tuesday's board meeting in support of Ventura, who has been an administrator with the school district for the past three years.

MILLER APPOINTS PAYNE-STARK AS NEW STATE SUBSTANCE ABUSE CHIEF

Governor Bob Miller Tuesday named Julie Payne-Stark, who has been both a counselor and administrator of substance abuse programs, as the state's coordinator of the Program for Substance Abuse Education, Prevention, Enforcement and Treatment.

Payne-Stark replaces Mujahid Ramadan, who left the position last year to become the director of Nevada Partners, a public-private partnership initiated by Miller and aimed at increasing employment services to economically-disadvantaged Las Vegas.

"As a counselor, Julie Payne-Stark has seen firsthand the devastation drug and substance abuse inflicts on our communities," Miller said. "This, coupled with her administrative skills, make her an excellent choice for this difficult job." Since 1990, Payne-Stark, 49, has

been with Vitality Center in Elko, where she has been that substance abuse center's personnel director.

From 1980 to 1990, she was employed by the state Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. From 1982 to 1990, she supervised community program development in Las Vegas and helped established employee substance abuse assistance programs.

Payne-Stark was a supervisor and intake counselor for the Southern Nevada Drug Abuse Council from 1978 to 1980, and for two years before that she was the senior counselor for the Alcohol Program for Southern Nevada, an outpatient clinic.

Payne-Stark lived in Las Vegas for 30 years before moving to Elko in 1990. Among her community involvement in Las Vegas, she was active in the



JULIE PAYNE-STARK
M.A.D.D. Red Ribbon campaigns and was a member of the AIDS Minority task Force.

The salary for the state alcohol and substance abuse coordinator is \$44,772 a year.

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