

THE NAACP AND YOU!



Rev. Jesse D. Scott
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



To: William Penn Sr., NAACP
From: Rev. Jesse Scott
Date: Feb. 5, 1993
Re: Charges made against Las Vegas Branch NAACP as dated Dec. 23, 1993

I, Jesse D. Scott, President of the Las Vegas Branch NAACP and the Election Supervisor Committee categorically deny that there is any truth to any of the allegations that were made by 25 persons who signed the appeal form. Very few, if any, of these people have attended any NAACP Branch meetings on a regular basis, nor have any of them served on any of the Branch's standing or special committees to assist in doing the Branch's work.

A large number of the people who signed the appeal form along with others represent the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee and were the same people who came as a group to the NAACP Nominating Committee meeting on December 6, 1992, with the obvious intention of taking over the leadership of the branch. Their intentions were further made apparent by fielding a list of candidates who were on their slate.

The Martin Luther King candidate for president was Mrs. Joanna Wesley-Lee, who lost the election almost 2 to 1. One of Mrs. Lee's campaign workers came into the NAACP office on Monday, December 21, 1992, in the presence of two (2) witnesses and said she was still writing NAACP memberships and I gave her between eight (8) and ten (10) membership applications.

Assemblyman Wendell Williams is the President of the

Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee. And State Senator Joe Neal is a 20 year veteran of the State Senate. He is a friend and hard worker of Las Vegas NAACP Branch. Senator Neal also served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee of the Las Vegas Branch for the 1992 election.

Some of the work of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee is a duplication of NAACP programs. This committee has been operating in Las Vegas for twelve (12) years and the NAACP has been serving this community for sixty-five (65) years.

CHARGES

Charge: #1. Mishandling of the list of eligible members.

ANSWER: #1. During the election the Branch Membership List remained in the possession of the Secretary of the branch until she turned it over to the Election Supervisory Committee.

Charge: #1A. List kept in the possession of incumbent's campaign staff.

ANSWER: #1A. The Secretary of the branch made the membership list available to all of the candidates for president at the same time and allowed each of the candidates to have up to five (5) people to copy names and addresses from the membership list. I did not send out any mailers to NAACP members members soliciting voters.

Charge: #1B. Challengers not having access or same opportunity of membership list.

ANSWER: #1B. The Branch had its membership computer

The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE

list and when the National Office NAACP Membership List of Las Vegas finally came, both lists were placed in the hands of the Election Supervisory Committee.

Charge: #1C. Election supervisory committee not able to get information about list or information from National Office.

ANSWER: #1C. When membership list finally arrived from National Office it was immediately turned over to the Election Supervisory Committee.

Charge: #2. Membership applications turned in by the deadline of November 20, 1992 to the membership committee of the NAACP branch of Las Vegas were not included on the membership list on the day of the election.

ANSWER: #2. Mrs. Lee had her house trailer parked imme-

diately outside of the election headquarters where people were seen going in and out during the election. For what reason we do not know.

Remember the other two candidates for the presidency of the branch did not register any complaints with the National Office. Why? Evidently, there were none.

Charge: #3. Members who were not included on the membership listing were randomly allowed the ability to cast their ballot's while others were not.

ANSWER: #3 This statement is untrue. The Election Supervisory Committee was composed of an equal number of people from each candidate in addition to those who were elected by the branch and any irregularities would have been seen by them.

Charge: #4. The challenge

box was not opened nor were the votes contained in it counted at the conclusion of the election. The incumbent's campaign manager stated that the ballots were null and void.

ANSWER: #4. There were seventeen (17) contested ballots which were not counted at the conclusion of the election by the Election Supervisory Committee. The Election Supervisory Committee made a list of the names and addresses of each person who filed a contested ballot.

Charge: #5 The incumbent utilized the NAACP stationery to enlist support from potential voters.

ANSWER: #5 This statement is absolutely untrue. Some of the candidates sent out letters to the membership seeking votes but all of my contacts were made by telephone.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Steven Horsford,
Legislative Intern

Now that the 1993 Session of the Nevada State Legislatures are meeting in Las Vegas it will give the citizens an opportunity to see first hand what occurs during the session. The two most important issues that legislators will be discussing are the water woes and the ailing worker's compensation program.

A significant number of concerned parents, however, have contacted their Assembly representative to question the procedure of the Metropolitan police force when arresting young people from the public school system will be an issue at the Assembly Education Committee Hearing on Friday, February 12. This, following the incident of the 12 year old young man that was removed from his classroom for allegedly threatening a classmate at Lunt Elementary School.

Other issues that legislators are debating about concern social concerns. A bill introduced to the Assembly Judiciary

Committee that would allow the tapping of phones of suspected child abusers with out getting a judge's approval was an emotional debate during last Thursday's hearing of the committee. Bill of Rights and constitutionality will go head to head against State and private social work agencies who feel a need for this procedure to be enacted.

Most assembly representatives are taking a closer look at the Governor's proposal of a reorganization policy. Some of the suggestions made by Governor Miller will affect every district in the State and primarily those areas of human resources and state employees. In the Department of Education, for example, the proposal to merge the Human Resources of Education (which happens to be a majority of the State's employees) under the umbrella of other state human resource departments is a new measure taken. No other state in the nation has opted to take this step. Other states have recommended collaborative merges where state agencies will work together to mainstream personnel, but no legislation in regards to the Governor's proposal.

I am beginning to realize the difficulty associated with new legislation. Especially when there are no other models to follow from precedent setting

cases from other state legislatures. All the information must be thoroughly researched and analyzed by the Research Specialist before the legislators can even introduce it in this committees or on the floor.

While Assemblyman Wendell Williams D-District 6 convenes in Las Vegas, Assemblyman Morse Arberry D-District 7 will be heading up the Assembly Ways and Means Committee during a joint session with the Senate Finance Committee. Their primary concern will be to take the suggestions of the Governor's State of the State Address with the concerns of the elected officials to balance the next fiscal budget. Before any money can be allocated, these two committees must come to a consensus of which

McWilliams Townsite

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Association of Las Vegas, which was organized to furnish skilled workers in all vocations, brought in William Pickens, the Field Secretary of the NAACP to speak against discrimination. Nevada U.S. Senator Tasker Oddie began to investigate the matter and later President Roosevelt became aware of the situation.

Finally, in June, 1932, Six Companies agreed to hire blacks and by July the first ten were

WELFARE STATE

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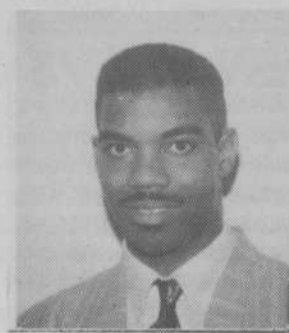
taxes, in a form of exploitation which insures that we have to be provided for. In no way do they want us to take this same earned compensation, and provide for ourselves. By providing the most basic housing and no jobs, they insure the control of a whole community. Just as conservatives wouldn't give blacks land after reconstruction, you better believe that modern racists will continue to operate the minority welfare state. Peace.....

February 11, 1993

I am informed that on election day those who attempted to vote in the Las Vegas NAACP election on December 20, 1992, with a NAACP receipt, and their name did not appear on the branch leadership computer list or the National Office list from Las Vegas, were allowed to vote a contested ballot.

The Las Vegas Branch NAACP is one of the fastest growing branches on the West Coast, membership wise; having grown from 300 members and now six (6) years later, have more than 1250 members. The people who are now complaining are doing so because they failed to take over the branch leadership and have never worked for or supported the NAACP.

Our goal is to increase our membership rolls to 10,000 for 1993!



STEVEN HORSFORD

programs will be made priority. And with the Senate having a Republican majority (by one) and the Assembly having a Democrat majority the compromise will be difficult.

Legislators are elected officials. Being such, they are accountable to the people of their district. The best way to insure that the issues you feel strongly about are being addressed is to write or contact by phone your district's representative. The phone number for more information is 384-2225.

hired. A total of 44 were employed during construction: 30 as miners in the diversion tunnels and 14 as common laborers.

Segregation rapidly became a way of life in Las Vegas. Residents, who had been in town since its inception and had long been used to personal freedom, found themselves even banned from bars and restaurants they formerly frequented.

In spite of this new attitude, some blacks continued to run prosperous businesses. Marion Wilson owned and operated the Gateway Hotel on Stewart and Main for some years and it was about this time that Tom and Azelle Harris ran the only ice cream parlor in town.

In 1931 Jake and Donnie (See McWilliams, Page 5)

HARRIS

