

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CREATIVE LEGISLATION

By Steven Horsford

Recently, legislators have introduced innovative ways to meet the concerns of their constituents and deal with issues that would otherwise be ignored. As a legislative intern, I have been able to put into perspective how introduced legislation will affect our community either positively or negatively.

Here are some newly introduced legislation and issues facing the legislature in the coming weeks:

Governor Miller is attempting to create ways to reinvent government in Nevada. Following models in California and other leading legislative states, the governor has proposed various conservative taxes that will al-

leged offset the high cost of medical care, welfare, education, and other social programs within the state. Miller has received considerable opposition over an administrative proposal to renew and change the tax created in 1991 to help cope with high costs on medical care for the economically disadvantaged. The tax is targeted at hospitals and will make them accountable to pay more for their share of higher medical costs. This will be an intense battle in the upcoming months.

TEEN-AGERS BEWARE: Senate Bill 272 introduced in the committee on transportation will require all teen agers to take a blood test to receive their driver's license. The bill was introduced

to curb drunk driving and driving under the influence of drugs or other narcotics. Although a progressive bill, the measure would require more bureaucracy and red tape for student drivers.

Other bills introduced would require room tax for strip and downtown resorts in Northern and Southern Nevada. The tax would create revenue to pay for increases in growth in Nevada. The hotel executives are worried that tourists will not be happy paying the extra charge and are pushing for other creative legislation to pay for the growth.

Assembly Bill 379 is a bill that would attempt to curb high crime rates and protect police officers during routine traffic stops. Introduced by Assembly-

woman Chowning, D- Las Vegas, the bill would prohibit tinted windows on the front passenger or driver side of the automobile. The legislation follows a precedent set in the California legislature.

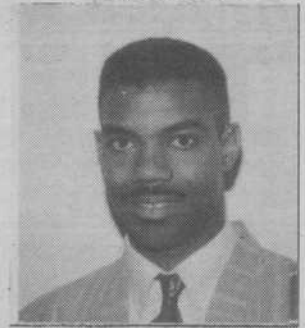
Lawmakers are looking into whether or not additional government documents should be open for public knowledge. Constituents are requesting that more documents be made public for the purpose of serving the open meeting law and avoiding political scandal.

Governor Miller will not be considered for the "Education Governor Award," this according to his recent record with making less money available to existing programs and developing programs within public instruction. Assembly Bill 98 died in ways and means after the committee concluded that there is not enough money to fund new programs. State Education officials say that Miller's proposed per pupil support is the worst in twelve years. The status quo of 1991's fiscal allocation of \$3,312 per student will remain. State Education officials, school districts, and teacher alike will have to make their own "creative education" proposals to meet the needs of Nevada's children.

Assembly Government Affairs concluded that "None of the above" on election ballots can

not win the election. Senate Bill 250 died after a subcommittee reviewed the statute and decided that "none of the above" is merely a protest vote and that the human candidate with the most votes must be appointed to the position they are running for.

The Assembly Judiciary



STEVEN HORSFORD

Committee squabbled over whether drug dealers should be included in drug treatment treatment. (See Legislative, Page 13)



Rodney King finally got his justice.

Two years ago, the black motorist was beaten by four L.A. police officers. Luckily someone had video taped the whole thing. The policemen were charged. The trial was in Simi Valley because they got a change of venue.

I didn't understand, you might not either. Here is what I found out. A change of venue means changing the place where the trial is held, but you have to prove you can't get a fair trial. This is why the trial ended up in Simi Valley.

As you all know they were found not guilty and that's how the riots started. Lots of people were shocked. Then the officers were charged with violating King's Civil Rights. Another thing I learned is that you can't be charged with the same crime twice, because that's called "Double Jeopardy." This time the U.S. Government charged them.

This time around, people get ready for the riots in L.A. and Vegas. Security guards were seen on top of a local Casino. A group called "ALL OF US TOGETHER" was started. Another group called "COMMUNITY PEACE" knocked on people's doors and asked them what they thought about the Rodney King verdict.

There was a rumor-hotline that you could call. There were extra police to make sure riots didn't start. Some of us at school wondered what the verdict would be. The teachers didn't talk about it, but they wore "ALL OF US TOGETHER" buttons.

The verdict was announced Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. We were all happy. President Clinton, Jesse Jackson, and people all over the world were glad that two were found guilty.

I think the verdict was fair but all four should have been found guilty. If they were there they should have been convicted too, because they didn't stop it.

I'm glad there were no riots because last year I was scared. I was scared when my brothers left the house and I was scared to go the bus stop. The day after the riots a group of white teens hollered, "White Power!" as they passed me.

This year after the verdict I was happy and went to the march downtown. The march made me feel proud. The group "ALL OF US TOGETHER" should have supported the marchers. I agreed with Wendell Williams when he said at the march "it's more than bumper stickers and buttons."

I'd like to welcome The National Association of Black Journalist to Las Vegas.

HARRIS



EXPERIENCED:

- Re-elected to serve three terms as a councilman; served as Mayor Pro Tempore for the past eight years
- Chairman, Economic Opportunity Board
- Vice Chairman, Regional Transportation Commission
- Member, Clark County Regional Flood Control District
- Chairman, Windsor Park Task Force
- Chairman, North Las Vegas Capital Improvement Task Force
- Chairman, North Las Vegas City Bonding Task Force
- Board Member, Clark County School District Foundation
- Board Member, Frontier Girl Scouts

COMMITTED:

- Actively sought to establish new parks in Northwest part of city
- Strengthened law enforcement by working to put more police officers on our streets
- Raised millions of dollars to help residents of the troubled Windsor Park neighborhood move their homes
- Worked to cut waste from the city budget, saving tax dollars
- Always responsive to constituent needs and always available to answer questions
- Established programs for seniors and disadvantaged citizens

QUALIFIED:

- Named 1992 Public Official of the Year by Nevada League of Cities
- Employed 27 years by the Clark County School District, retiring as a school Principal
- Bachelor of Arts degree and Masters Degree in Elementary Education
- North Las Vegas resident for nearly 30 years

A Message from Councilman Goynes

This is my personal letter to you, seeking your support in the upcoming election for the City Council of North Las Vegas.

In my 29 years as a resident of this community, I have seen many changes.

I have also been instrumental in bringing about some of these changes. They have been both rewarding and challenging, and we must continue to work to improve our city and keep it a quality place to live.

It has always been my belief that the city of North Las Vegas needs experienced, committed and qualified leadership. As your City Councilman, I feel I have exhibited these qualities in the past years, and would like to continue to work for you.

Again, I ask for your support for my re-election to the North Las Vegas City Council on May 4, 1993. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 642-7098.



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