

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

IT AIN'T OVER TILL THE BUDGET IS BALANCED

By Steven Horsford
Legislative intern to
Assemblyman Wendell P.
Williams (District 6)

Talk in Carson City suggests that in one week the sixty-seventh session of the Nevada Legislature will be sine die (over). Many of the budgets were closed last week in Assembly Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees. The legislators worked through the last two weekends to clarify questionable legislation and work compromises on others.

Major issues that have been holding up this year's session were finally decided on. The failing SIRS system has been dissected and the Governor signed off on Senate Bill 316 that can cut the SIRS budget \$241 million in the next fiscal year and \$300 million in subsequent years. Both the Democratic and Republican representatives were satisfied in the "consensus" decision which eliminates the five member governing board, replaced by Centel-Nevada President James Kropid. The worker will be hurt in some policies set by the bill but other measures within the bill protect both the employer and employee rights.

I reported last week that the Education budget was cut \$18 million dollars proposed by governor Miller. The Assembly Ways and Means committee re-negotiated the budget and allocated \$15.7 million of the \$18 million requested. This was a huge victory for the education system and the lobbyist who fought to

protect the future of education in Nevada. The Assembly Education Committee is now cleaning up prior legislation that has been pending the committee.

The Clark County Library District found itself guilty during an audit requested by their own attorney. The district failed to accurately report and follow the Local Government Purchasing Act that requires purchases funded with taxpayers money to be contracted through advertised bids. The audit revealed many of Chairman of Education Wendell Williams's concerns over the lack of accountability of the library district.

During a Senate Resource Committee hearing, some legislators were proud of the fact that the library district had been honored with architectural awards. The problem, as citizens in West Las Vegas are aware of however; there is no equality throughout the district. While West Charleston and Summerlin Libraries receive honors for great buildings, the West Las Vegas Library won't get the same facilities or materials necessary to meet the needs of the community. The Senate now has the bill. I strongly encourage concerned citizens of West Las Vegas to contact Chairman of Senate Human Resources Ray Rawson, and express your concern for support of Assembly Bill 468 introduced by Assemblyman Wendell P. Williams.

Looking over the past six months as a legislative intern to Assemblyman Wendell Williams,

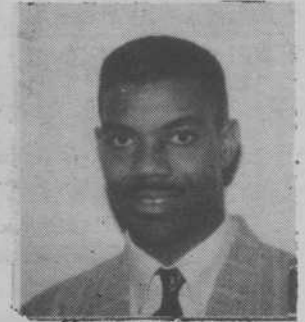
I have learned a lot about the legislative process. The greatest lesson has been that the government is representative of the people. If the people care about issues such as education, health care, and job opportunities, then their representatives will care as well. The West Las Vegas community has Assem-

blymen that care about the community and the future.

MESSAGE TO THE GRADUATES: Congratulations to the high school graduates of 1993. Your dedication and persistence has paid off. Now is the time to put the knowledge you have gained to work. Our generation must take the initiative to

promote positive change for the future.

As future doctors, lawyers, politicians, educators, and inventors we must evoke new ideas and create innovative ways to answer the problems that our communities have been plagued with in the past. As a 1991 Clark High School graduate and Uni-



STEVEN HORSFORD
University of Nevada, Reno student,
I can attest that education is the key to the future. Good luck and God bless you!

NAACP AND YOU

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Bus Company. Paradise Road and Twain was sage brush and so was all of Green Valley.

Orin Gregson was Mayor and Mike O'Callighan was Governor of the state. The Governor's office was located at 215 Bonanza Road.

The freeway was not built and some fine homes were where Valley Foods is now, on the corner of Bonanza and "D" Streets.

One of those homes that came very distinctly to my memory was that of Rev. J.L. Simmons, the former pastor of St. James Baptist Church.

Las Vegas has it's police department and Clark County had it's Sheriff Department.

Sam's Town properties were still sage brush and the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel was the International Hotel located on Paradise Road.

The Community College of Southern Nevada on Cheyenne was only two years old and UNLV was just a dozen buildings on Maryland Parkway.

Caesar's Palace was a body and Bally's had not been built. Attorney Robert Archie gave up the presidency of the Las Ve-

gas branch NAACP to become the Director of the Nevada State Department of Employment Security.

Before KCEP Radio came into prominence which was located in the EOB Building (Nucleus Plaza) on Owens Avenue. Evelyn Newman's KVOV Radio was the most listened to radio station in the black community.

In those days three prominent local black names were in the news almost every day, namely: Senator Joe Neal, Mrs. Ruby Duncan and Mrs. Erma O'Neal.

While the rest of Las Vegas Valley was growing very fast, West Las Vegas was, and is still growing very slowly.

Contrary to federal regulations the Community Reenactment Act, which states that if a local bank accepts your deposits that bank must make loans to the residents of that community, many of our local banks will only make loans to business people who live in "redline" area postal zones 89106 and 89030 that are guaranteed by SBA (Small Business Administration) only.

Thirty years later these deplorable events still remain and

we must do something about it now! Such as: withdraw your money from those banks that refuse to do business with you.

Influence your church, family members or clubs to withdraw their funds also.

Stop doing business with anyone who does not do business in the black community,

which is not limited to but should include: carpentry, plumbing, appraisals, contractors, electricians, cement masons and architects.

Our motto must be "we will do business with you if you do business with us."

Join the NAACP and become a solicitor.

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

December 30th 1992 marked the end of an era in Las Vegas. It was the day the other Minister of Information did his last Minister of Information show on KCEP Radio. You remember: every morning the incomparable one, Kamau Khalfani, would come on the air and drop some knowledge on the community. Now, although the program was only some 10 to 15 minutes long, the information presented during that time span was poignant, powerful and people-oriented.

In the time since Brother Kamau's departure from the radio station very little fuss was or has been made about the silencing of this strong voice. As in the norm for Africans in America, we are frequently happy with what we are given and seldom, if ever, complain when it is taken from us. So when there was no protest march planned or executed to demonstrate against the removal of Brother Kamau, it was no big surprise.

But don't despair! The incomparable one is back and he's bigger and better than before. No! He won't be back on KCEP, but that voice, that personality, that enlightened us every week, will be back. Starting tonight, June 24, 1993 at 8:00 pm he can be heard on his own hour long program called The Learning Tree on KLAV Radio 1230 on your AM dial.

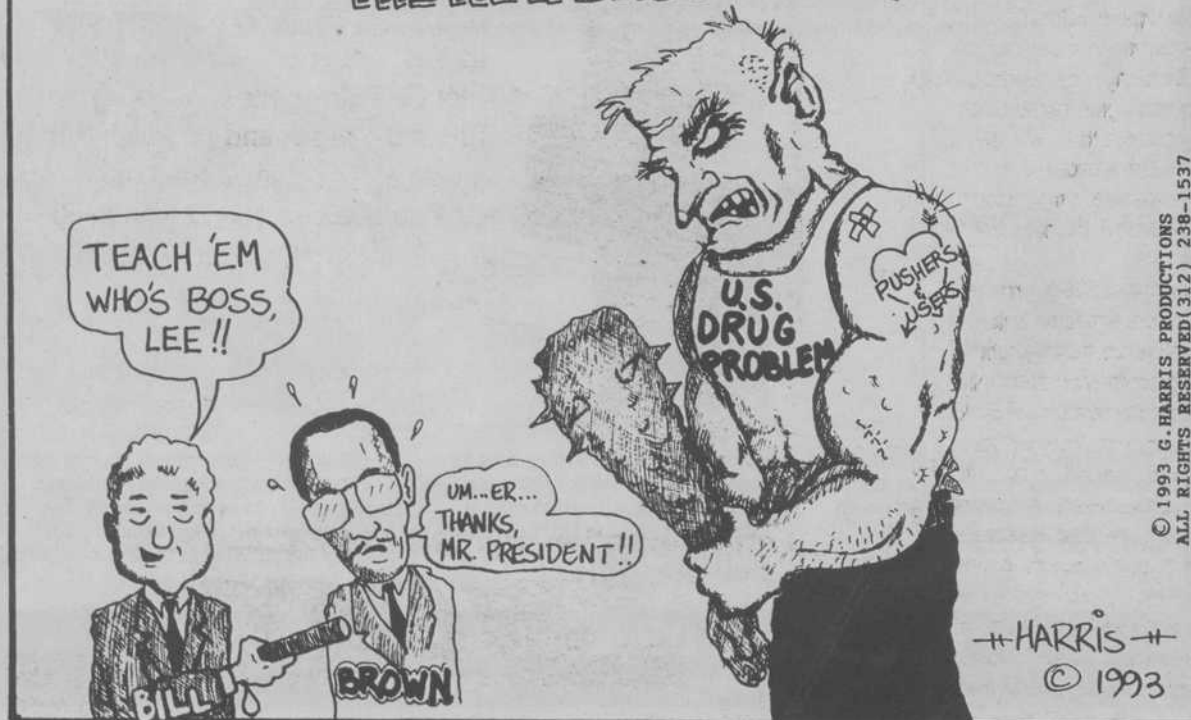
If you liked what the brotha had to say in 15 minutes, then you'll appreciate his probing, hour long program as he delves into issues and their impact on Africans throughout the diaspora. Tune in every Thursday night at 8:00 pm as he does for the community what KCEP ultimately was afraid he'd do: enlighten, educate and inspire you.

Brotha Minister is looking for any support he can garner from the community. As the program is not free, he is soliciting small businesses and individual enterprises to become commercial sponsors. Anyone interested in sponsoring this innovative radio show please call Brotha Kamau at 225-8363 for more details.

Those of you familiar with my brother know what to expect — those of you who aren't are in for a treat. Until next week this has been the Minister of Information.

HARRIS

THE NEW DRUG CZAR!



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"WHERE THERE'S A WILLDEN THERE'S A WAY"

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DODGE**

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