

FOURTH OF JULY INTERVIEW WITH NEVADA SENATOR HARRY REID



Harry Reid (R) took time out of his busy schedule to speak with Ramon Savoy at Sentinel-Voice office recently. Photo by Sawyer/LVS-Voice

by Ramon Savoy
PART II

SAVOY: I know that you keep abreast of the current events that are taking place. Recently Denny's has been hit with several discrimination law suits by African-Americans, and the parent company, Flagstar, which is a pretty recognized company. They recently signed an agreement with the NAACP to spend \$1 billion through the year 2000 to hire and train African-American executives and work with African-American businesses. Apparently, African-Americans only comprise 4.4% of this management team, and there is only one African-American franchise out of 1,485 restaurants. With staggering numbers such

as these, appearing to be common place in corporate America. What steps can you do or would you propose to do, to correct this institutional racism?

REID: I'm not too sure that much can be done by government. We in addition to what we have on the books and that's why the situation at Denny's is being approved right now because people that have complained vocally, through the courts and otherwise about the treatment of African-Americans at Denny's restaurants. With only an instance here and an instance there, we could turn our head and say it's a big organization, those kinds of things happen, but the fact of the matter is in Washington, D.C.; alone we've

had some instances in the past couple of months that are really unbelievable. Who was it, that came to be served. One group of people wouldn't serve them...

SAVOY: There also was the incident with the CIA...

REID: They came in and they served the white agents but not the black agents. And there are many examples of this all over the country. So Denny's has had a problem. And I think certainly what's happened in the past couple of months would be affirmative action programs of different interest groups has focused attention on Denny's, they've had to have lost a lot of business in the past two months, and two, they had to be significantly embarrassed, and three, and that's acknowledged by the fact that they have entered into a consent decree to do what the law says that have to do.

SAVOY: Well I know that right here in Southern Nevada we can almost look at that situation with our gaming, because when you look at the ranks of management with African-Americans here, there aren't any high-ranking African-Americans sitting around the executive board table

of any of these large facilities. They say statistically about 5% African-Americans come here as tourists. However, there are \$0 spent toward African-Americans to bring them here or to get a campaign which change that image. You, being the Senator from Nevada, knowing that what we want to keep is a good squeaky clean image to get more tourists, especially with the growth here, what are some of the things that you feel that you can do to help push this along?

REID: Well, on the federal level, I can't do much to help bring people who are members of our country to Las Vegas, but I can, as a member of Congress, work to bring international visitors to Nevada. And I've done that. Why? Because out of every tourist dollar spent in America, we get about a nickel, which is pretty good, small comparatively speaking for Las Vegas and I think that we should devote more efforts to bringing people to America, in other words, push our advertising dollars to spend more money on bringing in tourism. I think it's an excellent idea to, if we focused some of that advertising, some of that work on bringing in people from African countries, for example, Brazil, where there's a huge Black population. Focusing on Black tourists coming to Nevada, I think it would be great!

SAVOY: One of the great leaders in America's history made a statement pertaining to Jews. And I would just like to read a part of it to you.

REID: Who said this?

SAVOY: This was said by Benjamin Franklin. In whatever country Jews have settled in any great numbers, they have lowered its mortal tone; depreciated its commercial integrity; have

segregated themselves, and have not been assimilated; have sneered at and tried to undermine the Christian religion upon

which that nation is founded by objecting to its restrictions, have built up a state within a state, (See Interview, Page 5)

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY WHAT'S MINE

By R.K. Brown

When you stop and think about it, the worst thing about black America is the way we scatter like flies from our community, once we gain success. Let's define what we are talking about. Each man or woman's mission in the inner city, is to get out.

Doctor, athlete, professional, or player; only to get away is the ultimate prize. Black America of course, comes with it's crime, poverty, uncertainty, and frustration. These things alone make the want to exodus our communities urgent. If we then look at Green Valley, or the Lakes, you are forced to want "the ultimate in comfort and community protection."

Any group in it's right mind, is going to want for luxury and contemporary first world technology. The Benz, the million dollar mansion, the diamonds, and the gold. The ultimate expressions of success, are displayed in white neighborhoods. I didn't say this to attract any of the rich brothas in the Valley. Basically, there is no choice in Las Vegas or the rest of black America, about where we can reach for the American dream.

If you want a car you must buy it from the white man. A home, some food, clothes, you name it; the answer is the same. Here lies the problem. What's mine is mine! But we don't have anything. If you want the biggest house, or the badest dress suit, you must beg white America.

We have an unending variety of professional black achiev-

ers in Las Vegas and across the nation. Because of past segregation and blatant discrimination, we have a late start in developing business and public services.

Why isn't there a black Beverly Hills in California or Nevada? Why isn't there a black Nike or Starter? We sell all "da shoes." Because our great minds migrate out of the community, we help maintain the place of White America. Lost eventually are the great achievements of every black generation. Our music gets copied, or our idea gets stolen. In the end, many achievers die penniless and broke.

Today is the time to end that suicide pattern. The many professionals in black America must realize all of their greatest personal visions and ambitions. If blacks want to live in a rich exclusive community, they should build it themselves. If they want to drive in class, they should develop 21st century automobiles.

If rich blacks owned business, homes, services, and private agencies in black America we wouldn't have to move away from our "homelands". In fact, white America would most likely move in massive herds to the heart of black America. You know the story; jazz, Rock and Roll, Blues, Entertainment, dress, and manner; we make America what it is! Soon we will move in this direction. Blacks will own their own communities in the 21st century, and that prosperity will mean the salvation of the black world. peace...

CORRECTION

In the Sentinel-Voice, Vol. 14, No. 12, entitled "WAAK-UP Donates \$1000 to H.P. Fitzgerald Elementary School," it was noted that all donations to WAAK-UP should be made to account number 025284514. The story, however, failed to mention that all donations can be made at any Bank of America branch and are tax deductible.

The story also failed to mention that the Omega Fraternity won the WAAK-UP raffle contest first prize of a 13 inch Magnovox TV in the first drawing held at Frank Hawkins Sports Lounge. They donated the TV set back to WAAK-UP to raise more funds for the Prime 6 schools.



NAARPR REPORT

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necessary is a Congressional delegation from Nevada that reflects the population in terms of it's cultural diversity, and in terms of it's political ideological diversity. We can no longer afford to continue to have people, who represent Nevada as a fourth Reich, the Mississippi of the West, etc. etc. We must develop very very long memories. When Congressional primaries and Congressional elections are held, those people who have sinned in the past, must be held accountable for their sins and summarily booted out. La Lucha Continua! The Struggle Continues!

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY

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been the case. As students and more importantly, as victims of his-story Africans should understand that the freedom we so desperately seek must be taken and seized with our own hands. Freedom and the powers associated with it will never be given up.

Consider this: human nature, for the most part, dictates that what we are given is seldom, if ever, cherished us is much as that which we must earn and get for ourselves. So I am weary of those who cherish a so called freedom that was given to you. You have not earned it so you do not fully comprehend the poignancy of it.

The point here is not to get you to take up arms and start "blowin" away your oppressors but to get you to think of this precious commodity called freedom and the means and methods by which you hope to achieve it. If "by any means necessary" is applicable then so be it.

Until next week this has been the Minister of Information.