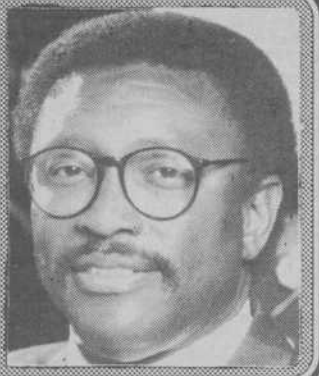


THE RAY WILLIS REPORT
BY RAY E. WILLIS



THE X FACTOR

Las Vegas City Councilmen Frank Hawkins and Ken Brass face a serious challenge in separate bids to retain their individual council seats in the upcoming general election. I've openly expressed my views in previous columns that Hawkins is the most consummate African American politician in Nevada history. His track-record speaks volumes for his exceptional skills and ability to get things done at City Hall.

By the same token, I would be remiss if I did not also pay my respects for the savvy shown by Brass, a political newcomer, who, as an appointee, has amassed an excellent record of public service during his brief time so far on the council.

In the primary, Brass was a second place finisher to barber Gary Reese while Hawkins placed first against his top opponent, Metro Policeman Michael MacDonald.

Winning their respective elections against formidable but politically inexperienced opponents who happen to both be White, will take considerable doing on the part of the two incumbent councilmen and they know it.

Both have picked up the pace and revved their respective campaigns into high gear as election day approaches.

Even though I am optimistic that with sterling individual track records and solid campaign backing, Hawkins and Brass will win, sometimes I have flashbacks to the stunning upset defeat suffered by former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley in his unsuccessful attempt to become California's first Black governor.

Everyone was predicting an easy victory for Bradley; saying he was a shoe-in to win. But when he lost the campaign by a fairly slim margin, everyone

came forward with an explanation. In the final analysis it was determined that an unspoken X factor was discovered to be the reluctance of White voters to cast their ballot for a Black man.

Its a sad commentary on our times that race still dominates the total destiny of a people like us who constantly have to prove ourselves against unthinkable odds.

On the plus side though, I'm encouraged that the fate that befell Bradley is not likely in store for Hawkins and Brass. One indicator of the changing times is in Dallas, Texas, which just recently elected its first Black mayor. And throughout the nation, the rule rather than the exception is fast becoming that more and more competent African American candidates are vying successfully to be elected to public office.

Let's face it. In order to get elected to office virtually anywhere in America, a Black candidate has to secure a substantial number of White votes. It's a shame that we have to think about winning an election in racial terms when the candidate is African American, but that's the way it is.

I strongly urge everyone who will be voting in the upcoming Las Vegas municipal election to fully consider the total qualifications of each candidate and to not let a candidate's race stand in the way of your deciding who to vote for.

An effective leader is one who protects the interests of his constituents. Clearly, in my judgment, Hawkins and Brass have demonstrated their utmost regard for the betterment of all those whom they serve.

Consider these points when you go to the polls to vote.

To know is to grow. Until next week.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION

RELIGION II

By James S. Tate Jr., M.D.,
Chairperson, NAARPR

After last week's article, I happened to be talking to Brother Talib Hall, our Vice-Chair at the local branch of the NAARPR, discussing religion, and one of the points that he made was...if

you look at those who have founded, or caused to be founded, major religions in the world, they were all militant activists. Whether it was Christ, Mohammed, or anyone else that you could name, they were always agitating for change

which would bring about a more just society. In fact, the purpose of religion ought to be to train people to agitate for change for a just society, not to agitate for conversion to this religion or that religion, but to advocate for a change in society (so it is a just society that everyone will have choices available to them). If one chooses not to lead an exemplary life, it will also be their choice. If one chooses not to lead an exemplary life, it will also be their choice. But take away the necessity to lead less than an exemplary life, take away the



JAMES S. TATE JR., MD

necessity to rob, cheat and steal in order to survive or in order to get ahead, and you'll indeed have a just society in which individuals make choices based on their own personal desires as opposed to necessity. I see few of the world's religions who (See NAARPR Report, Pg 21)

NLV...THE WESTSIDE STORY

ONE LOVE!

By R.K. Brown

As we watch the hate and distrust cover the whole fabric of American society, some might wonder is this any place for morality and religion.

It would seem that the only answer to the problems we have is to get tough and make it happen. While it is indeed true that we need determination to get to the top, without love, the whole equation falls apart.

And you see, this is the whole problem with human society...there is no love for one another...many blacks have suggested to me that the reason whites were able to put blacks in chains in the first place was because blacks got tricked into believing Christianity. White slave masters showed blacks passages in the bible which said, "followers" should be passive and submissive.

Today, blacks contend that the bible is trickery written by whites to keep blacks down. I like the concept, but it has no historical value. We must all understand that the bible and Koran were both written by African people. Whites didn't trick blacks or make anything up. Blacks were the only ones who knew how to write at that time, so they wrote these holy narrations.

Blacks today say religion gets in our way to progress. Well, there has to be some guidelines for morality in the way we treat people. If not, we find a world like the one we live in today. African people, the original people, were smart enough to believe in some form of religion. Either it was worshipping the sun, moon, stars or animals; they were smart enough to know people didn't get here by

accident.

We must remember that the two greatest movements for (See Westside Story, Page 21)



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