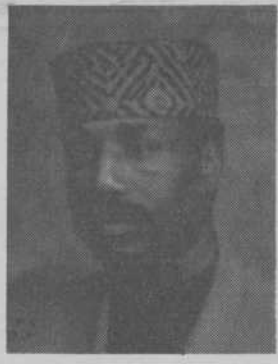


THE NAACP AND YOU



Rev. James Rogers
President
Las Vegas, NAACP



Stepping Up — Moving Forward

Well, it looks as if the lines are drawn. It has finally come down to whether the candidates are black or white. The emphasis is no longer on who is best qualified.

Did you have a chance to read Monday's column in the Las Vegas Review Journal, written by Susan Greene? In the Nevada Section on the paper on pages 1B & 3B entitled "NLV hopefuls try to please all," Greene made a point of clearly defining the poverty, affluent and racial dividing lines for voters.

Here begins the racial issue — not qualifications. Beginning at paragraph six, we read, "Primary election results show voters in the city's mature Highland Heights area and its burgeoning northwest section seem to be attracted less to name than to candidate's racial and economic backgrounds." However, it does not stop there. It continues to the tenth paragraph. "North Las Vegas has a significant black population and is the only city in Nevada to have elected three black council members." Tell me, why is it such headline news to have three elected African Americans to a city council seat? Haven't you noticed that there were no

problems for the City of North Las Vegas when there were all white council members? No one ever addressed them as the all white city council vote to bring certain things to our city. No, the headline only read, "The city council of North Las Vegas voted."

Why is it newsworthy when African Americans achieve certain status with white Americans in the United States? This is only an example of what we can and will achieve when opportunities are allowed in this game called life.

Greene continues to describe the areas of poverty or less affluent citizens. Her column displays the type and who voted for which candidates. Observe Greene's statements in the following paragraph in quotation.

"Residents in the working-class Highland Heights region supported Robinson and candidate Joanna Wesley, who came in fourth with 12.5 percent of the vote.

Wesley, 43, lives near the Community College of Southern Nevada and owns a barber shop on "D" Street in Las Vegas, just down the street from the New Bethel Baptist Church, where her father, the Rev. Jesse

Wesley Sr., is a well known pastor.

Voters in the more Suburban, mostly white northwest supported Kincaid and candidate Jodi Maynard, who took 16 percent of the primary vote."

There you have it, the white and affluent voted for white incumbent and candidate, Mary Kincaid and Jodi Maynard. The poor, African American and Hispanic voted mainly for the black incumbent and candidate, William Robinson and JoAnna Wesley.

Before I close on the Susan Greene issue, one last observation. Did you notice where the two white candidates were positioned on page 3B? That's right, above the two African American candidates. I know, you'll counter by saying, we placed them there according to the alphabet in their last name.

BLACK EMPOWERMENT

Continued from Page 2)

the American criminal justice system is known throughout the world. America's Death Row is populated predominately by men of color. In Rome, on Palm Sunday, the Congress participants joined a 10,000-person march on the Vatican to demand the Pope unequivocally oppose the death penalty.

I had heard Emma Bonino before I had the opportunity to meet her and have her as a guest on my weekly television show. I knew that she was a powerful advocate of humanitarian and progressive social causes. I knew she was a "sister in the struggle." But until she and I met, I did not fully appreciate how much Emma Bonino and the Transnational Radical Party believe that there is a profound connection between creating humanistic



It worked very conveniently for you this time, didn't it? But doesn't seniority count for incumbents, even if the people happen to be other than white? Well, maybe I'm being naive to



think that things are equal and fair in "The City On Top Of The Valley."

Well, that's all for now! However, let's keep an eye on how the Las Vegas City Council



elections shape up in Ward 1 and Ward 3. Until next time, continue STEPPING UP — MOVING FORWARD ... "Preparing The Next Generation For The Struggle."

arrangements within the two-party system, the Black community has had the door shut in its face. And the strategy of attempting to force that door open through the Democratic Party has reached a dead end. Together with several of my closest colleagues in America,

including Dr. Fred Newman, a key architect of the independent political movement in the United States, I joined the Transnational Radical Party. As a political activist and a developmental psychologist concerned with creating an international (See *Blk Empowerment*, Pg 21)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dr. Henry Foster Deserves Our Support

I have closely watched Dr. Henry Foster's hearings before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee and have concluded that he is qualified and well-suited for the job.

Dr. Foster's decades of service to the community make him uniquely suited to perform the duties of Surgeon General. I am confident he will promote the overall well-being of the public with compassion, honesty, and determination. Politics will not enter his agenda of good will and good health for the country.

A distinguished obstetrician-gynecologist and respected teacher, Dr. Foster has taught hundreds of medical students to work with the communities they serve. He has developed and implemented successful programs to fight infant mortality and curb teen pregnancy, including his *I Have A Future* program. The *I Have A Future* program stresses work, education, abstinence, and personal responsibility as alternatives to teen pregnancy and was recognized by President Bush as one of America's *Thousand Points of Light*.

Dr. Henry Foster is a renowned physician and caring community leader who would be an inspirational Surgeon General. He has dedicated his life to opening opportunities for others. He has fought for better rural health care, helped tens of thousands of babies become healthy children, and has led hundreds of teens toward productive lives.

The vote on Dr. Foster's nomination should be about the nominee's integrity and ability, not scoring partisan political points. We must not allow the vote to become a test for the Republican presidential primary.

If every senator looks at Dr. Foster's skills, work, and reputation, I am confident that each will conclude he is amply qualified to promote and improve the nation's health.

Senator Harry Reid

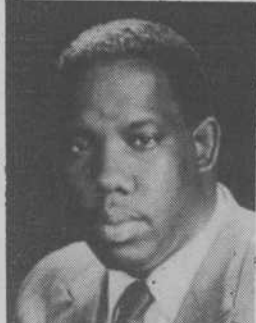
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