

Lyons

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million.

He also was convicted of stealing almost \$250,000 the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith had donated to rebuild burned black churches in the South.

Lyons' troubles began in July 1997 when his wife set fire to a \$700,000 waterfront home he owned with another woman, Bernice Edwards, the convention's public relations director.

She was a co-defendant at Lyons' trial but was acquitted. She still faces federal trial.

Prosecutors began investigating the minister's finances, eventually accusing him and Ms. Edwards, his alleged mistress, of stealing money to buy jewelry, the waterfront home, a time-share condominium and luxury cars.

After being named interim president, Cureton thanked

Lyons for his leadership and said he accepted the post "with great humility."

Money

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search a car of the same make and model that the informant pointed them to. But all the related documentary evidence is gone. Why? Jurors might have had a good guess.

The Ford Heights Four wanted to settle the case now and get on with what's left of their lives, an attorney has said. So it wasn't a bad deal for them, either.

But it won't be a done deal until an independent prosecutor comes in to figure out exactly what went wrong, and until the rest of us figure out how to make sure it doesn't happen again.

"We know our convention needs much healing," Cureton said.

Fences

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met his wife. Bono's down home way of cautioning Troy is wonderfully real very much like the way a loyal friend would gently, but insistently try to save a friend from imminent ruin.

Watson is convincing as the long-suffering, selfless

wife Rose who eventually must assert herself. Rose is a testament to the fact that any woman who chooses to wholly sacrifice her identity, wants and needs for a man, is destined for great disappointment because her man cannot be her everything.

Lest the work's ending be

given away, suffice it to say that McKenzy gives nothing less than a brilliant performance in the play's final moments. As an added incentive to see this drama, director Zakes Mokae and nearly all of the cast are Las Vegas residents.

Don't miss this incredibly

well done production. Another performance of this must see production is scheduled for 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Black Box Theater of the Community College of Southern Nevada's East Cheyenne Campus.

Leaders

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not excessive and were within the line of duty.

In Washington, D.C., local leaders, police abuse victims and their families are holding weekly prayer vigils on the West side of the U.S. Capitol. Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, local high school and college students and a revolving door of national

leaders are joining in the noontime vigils leading to the national march.

"We are asking that college and high school young people take the lead in holding prayer vigils around the country and in coming to Washington D.C.," urged the Rev. Walter Fauntroy. Marchers will convene on the mall in front of the Martin Luther King Memorial Library and march to the Justice Department

and on to the U.S. Capitol.

"They, with the parents of victims, are the people we want to project. Parents, because of the suffering they have experienced and young people who are most often the victims."

Efforts by Ron Daniels, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, who first suggested the national march, received the support of Fauntroy, who also established

a national 900-number (900-226-5715, ext. 184) for victims "to report any incidents of police misconduct that you have experienced or witnessed."

A national public service announcement, supported by other Black leaders, also urges victims to attend the march which precedes the anniversary date of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Census

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better than the Washington-based Bureau and they deserve a chance to correct mistakes before the census numbers are set in stone for 10 years.

Focus resources on those areas where the Census Bureau anticipates high undercounts in 2000. Most of the census undercount tends to be clustered in relatively few geographic areas. Almost half of the hardest-to-count neighborhoods in the country are located in just 11 cities — a mere two percent of all neighborhoods in the country. Sensible efforts to find undercounted populations will target these hard-to-count areas.

Expand the uses of local administrative records to find people in hard-to-count populations. In 1990, nearly half the undercount was children. Currently, local Medicaid files have the names and addresses of more than 18 million children, many of them in the hardest-to-count neighborhoods.

Common-sense approaches like these will actually find people where they live and give local governments a say in the process that determines their political representation and public funding. Compared to a statistical adjustment that produces unreliable data and two conflicting numbers, that's a pretty good deal.

J. Kenneth Blackwell is co-chairman of the U.S. Census Monitoring Board and Ohio Secretary of State.

Deductions

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higher-income earners.

Don't deduct reimbursed expenses. Medical, casualty loss, and business expense deductions are not allowed when the cost are reimbursed to you by your insurance company or employer.

Don't overpay the tax due on your mutual fund profits. If you participated in a dividend reinvestment plan, be sure to increase your cost basis by the amount of dividends that were reinvested. Increasing your basis reduces your taxable gain.

Don't forget to take a deduction for used clothing and other property you donate to charity. The fair market value of old clothes, furniture, household items, and books that you give to charity is deductible. Just be sure to have a receipt from the charity to substantiate your donation.

Don't assume that your miscellaneous expenses are not deductible. Although tax law allows you to deduct only those miscellaneous expenses that exceed two percent of your Adjusted Gross Income if you itemize your deductions, it is often easier to reach this threshold than you may originally think. Take the time to total unreimbursed employee business expenses like dues to unions and professional associations, tax preparation advice, and investment-related costs, such as investment advice, IRA or Keogh custodial fees, and safe deposit rentals for boxes used to store investment-related documents. You may surprise yourself with a deduction.

Money Management is a weekly column on personal finance prepared and distributed by The Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Retirement

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benefits and proposes a 15 percent up-front tax to generate billions in revenue for Washington politicians.

If this proposal is implemented, it will be the biggest theft of private wealth by any government in world history. Moreover, one in five pension plans are seriously underfunded and American workers don't know it.

"How many ways can the government lighten your wallet? The list is long, but a new threat just arrived, your pension is now at risk," said Congressman Jim Saxton of New Jersey.

Here's what you can do:

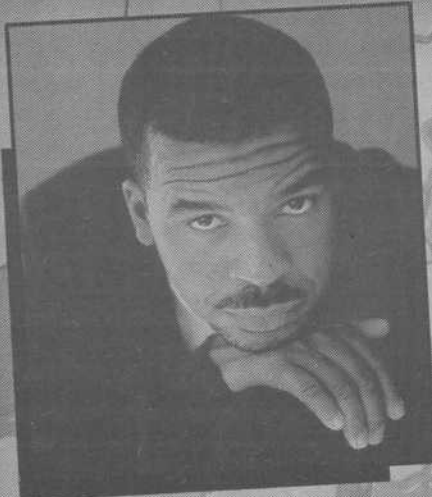
Set-up your own family limited partnership, corporation, limited liability company, domestic or foreign trust for

maximum privacy, profit and asset protection against government plunder.

Hire a competent financial advisor/mentor, then setup a self-directed profit-sharing plan to generate new wealth and "interest" income for you and your family. In the future, expect more sophistry and pathetic con jobs from federal and state politicians who are scheming to steal your retirement money.

Remember: "plunder" is what most politicians do. You can never satisfy their insatiable hunger for your money. Ultimately, the responsibility to take control of and manage your financial affairs is yours.

James Hart is chief economist at Credit Suisse Acceptance Trust, and author of "Master Your Money Step-by-Step: The secret to cash, credit, and clout."



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