

Partnership to yield jobs

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

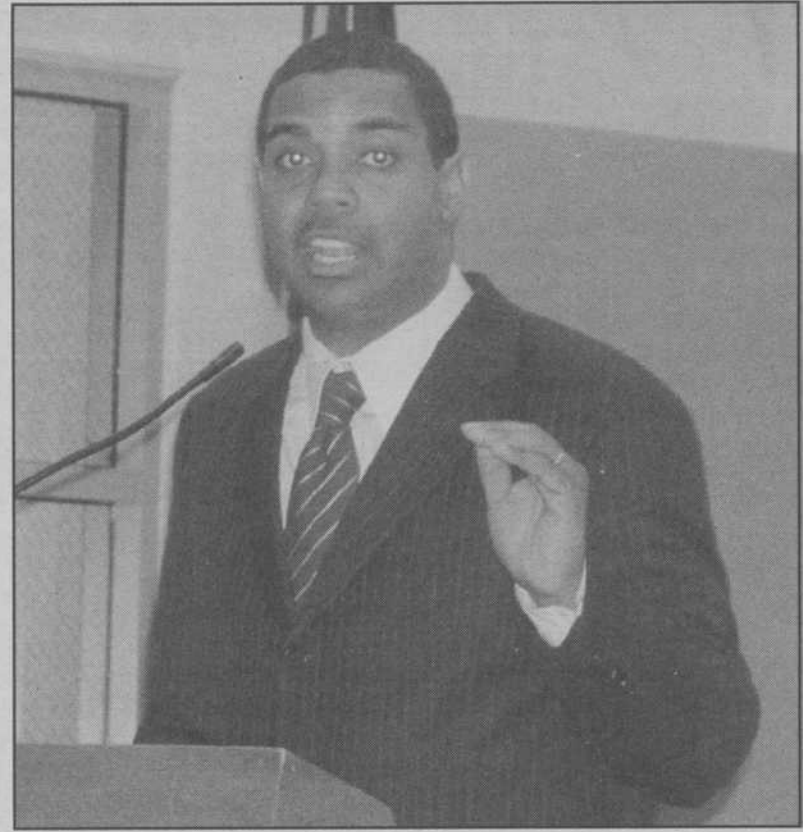
Members of the faith-based community gathered at Nevada Partners Sunday, Oct. 24, to announce a partnership between Nevada Partners, the Culinary Academy, churchesinlasvegas.com, and the Ministerial Alliance to promote jobs in the hospitality industry.

Stephen Horsford, CEO of Nevada Partners said the luncheon was the first of many weekly events designed to share information about the expansion of the Culinary Training Academy and disseminate information on potential jobs and training opportunities for those inter-

ested in working in the hospitality industry.

"There are thousands of jobs that are going unfulfilled right now in the hospitality industry because we do not have enough trained skilled workforce here in Southern Nevada. The single largest position that will be filled within the next 10 years will be a cook. Fifty thousand cook jobs will be available over the next 10 years, and this industry is breaking out and the culinary training academy is assisting to break down those barriers. Those jobs are averaging a salary of \$16 an hour plus full benefits for those individuals and their families," Horsford said.

A spokesperson for the Ministerial Alliance said some 25,000 jobs would be available once some new casinos open in Las Vegas and we want to make sure that our people are available and trained to move into some of those positions that are going to be offered by the various hotels. The alliance has agreed to assist in the process of recruiting individuals to be hired for approximately 1,800 jobs with the Bellagio Hotel & Casino by the end of November. Job fairs will be held every week and people are encouraged to attend and get information about these available positions. The alliance (See Luncheon, Page 4)



Nevada Partners CEO Stephen Horsford speaks at a luncheon announcing a collaboration between Nevada Partners, the Culinary Academy and churchesinlasvegas.com that will train participants to compete for the 25,000 casino jobs expected to come on line in the next few years.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

NAACP

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of each board member and indicate how each voted."

NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume says obtaining tax-exempt status from the IRS does not mean its officers or members must forfeit their First Amendment right to free speech.

"For over 95 years, Americans of all races and all political persuasions have been proud to fight for the ideals and the beliefs that we've held high," Mfume says in an interview. "We are non-partisan, but we have never been non-critical. These beliefs are American beliefs and they will not go away or wither in the face of unfair efforts either by the IRS or anyone else."

President Bush has a strained relationship with most major civil rights leaders and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). Although he spoke before the NAACP's annual convention when he was first campaigning for the White House, he has refused to address the gathering while in office. After rejecting the NAACP's invitation each year, Bush has spoken twice to the National Urban League's annual convention.

Bush met with the CBC when he first entered office, but has declined subsequent invitations to discuss issues important to African-Americans. And he has turned down repeated interview requests from the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service, which serves more than 200 Black newspapers, and Black Entertainment Television.

Kerry, on the other hand, has granted two exclusive interviews to NNPA News

Service Washington Correspondent Hazel Trice Edney, has sat down for an interview with Ed Gordon on BET and met with the Congressional Black Caucus as soon as he became his party's presidential nominee. Kerry spoke this summer at both the NAACP and National Urban League conventions.

NAACP officials question the timing of the IRS letter, which was sent less than a month before Tuesday's presidential election.

"It is regrettable that the IRS would seek to silence the voice of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization for having done nothing wrong," Mfume says. "We take exception to the assault on the NAACP by the IRS and we question the suspicious timing of this action."

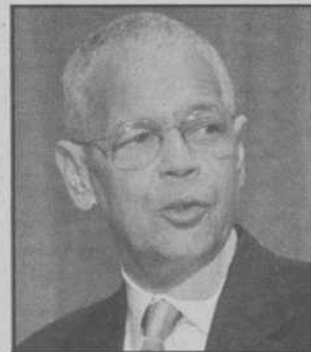
Ron Walters, a political science professor at the University of Maryland, says: "If they are concerned about the comments of Julian Bond, as far as I know, he hasn't given up his freedom of speech. It seems that the president is using the IRS as a political tool and I'm shocked. This is an attempt to intimidate the NAACP at a time when the organization is involved in voter turnout. They (the NAACP) shouldn't be intimidated, they should fight."

The IRS says it is investigating more than 60 groups to see if they have violated the prohibition against becoming involved in partisan politics.

In an election-year advisory sent to charities and tax-exempt organizations on April 28, the IRS reminded them, "Organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Code that are exempt from federal income tax are

prohibited from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. Charities, educational institutions and religious organizations, including churches, are among those that are tax-exempt under this code section."

It continued, "These organizations cannot endorse any candidates, make donations to their campaigns, engage in fund raising, distrib-



"The NAACP has always been non-partisan. That doesn't mean we're non-critical, nor does any law or regulation require that we must be."

— Julian Bond
NAACP Board Chairman

ute statements, or become involved in any other activities that may be beneficial or detrimental to any particular candidate. Even activities that encourage people to vote for or against a particular candidate on the basis of nonpartisan criteria violate the political campaign prohibition of section 501(c)(3)."

IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson says in a statement, "The IRS follows strict procedures involving the selection of tax-exempt organizations for audit and resolution of any complaints about such groups. Career civil servants, not political appointees, make these decisions in a fair, impartial manner. Any suggestion that the IRS has tilted its audit activities for political purposes is repugnant and groundless."

However, prominent

Democrats, including Sen. John Kerry, disagree.

Representatives Charles B. Rangel of New York, John Conyers Jr. of Michigan and Pete Stark of California sent a letter to Commissioner Everson demanding that he "publicly, specifically and immediately repudiate the recent actions of the IRS taken against the NAACP."

The letter charged, "First, it is obvious that the timing of this IRS examination is nothing more than an effort

to intimidate the members of the NAACP, and the communities the organization represents, in their get-out-the-vote effort nationwide."

Meanwhile, Kerry, the Democratic presidential nominee, sent a letter to the Justice Department's civil rights division asking it to investigate whether anyone from the White House, Bush's re-election campaign or the Republican National Committee had anything to do with the IRS investigation.

Kerry wrote, "If the timing of this process leads some to believe politics is at play, it could have a chilling impact on African-Americans' participation in the American political process."

Bond says the NAACP, which was founded in 1909, has a history of criticizing

both Republican and Democratic presidents over the years.

"We have been dealing with presidents since Theodore Roosevelt," he points out. "We have met first-hand with all the presidents through Clinton — Republican and Democratic. When they do a good job, we give praise. When they don't, we give criticism."

Bond's July 11 speech cited by the IRS was filled with criticism of Bush.

"The NAACP has always been non-partisan, but that doesn't mean we're non-critical," Bond told convention delegates. "For as long as we've existed, whether Democrats or Republicans have occupied the White House, we've spoken truth to power."

"When his friends asked Harry Truman, 'Mr. President, why do you give the other side so much hell?' Truman said, 'I just tell the truth and they think it's hell!' When any political party we're going to give them non-partisan hell!"

And Bond proceeded to do just that.

"...The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 marked the beginning of the dependence of the Republican Party on the politics of racial division to win elections and gain power," he said. "By playing the race card in election after election, they've appealed to the dark underside of American culture, to the minority of Americans who reject democracy and equality. They preach racial neutrality and practice racial division."

"...They write a new Constitution for Iraq and ignore the Constitution here at home. They say giving health care to all Iraqis is sound policy; they say giving health care to all Americans is socialism. If a president lies about having an affair, they say, 'Impeach him!' If a president lies about going to war, they say, 'Re-elect him!'"

Bond criticized Bush more than a dozen times, highlighting his opposition to affirmative action and appointment of insensitive federal judges.

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