CLARK COUNTY WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

COMMUNITY PRESS

ISSUE 1 VOL. 1 JUNE 1974

- Food Stamps - Operation Life - Child Care Center Drive
Making the System Work for You: Vote, Support Your Candidates

What can one vote do? Not much, or at least that is what too many people believe. That attitude has been the cause of Watergate, rising food prices, an energy crisis that did not exist, inflation, and corruption in every echelon of government. This year especially, it is vital that each and every eligible voter cast a ballot for the candidates of her or his choice. Never before in the history of our nation has it been so important that the voice of the people be heard at the polls. The media will try to sell you candidates; it will try to paint pictures of Cinderellas and Prince Charmings, but you, the average citizen, must be informed; investigate and listen to each candidate for yourself. Find out what they stand for; what they will do for you and your community, and most important, VOTE for the candidates of your choice.

Voting is where the power is! If you don’t vote, you can demand nothing and expect less of your elected representatives. On the other hand, if you vote for and actively work for a candidate, you exercise your power in getting him/her elected, and you can then demand of him or her the representation you want on issues that concern you: health, housing, public transportation, taxation, education, in short, the whole decision-making process from local to state and national politics.

The first step in taking the government back into the hands of the people is to make sure that you are eligible to vote in the upcoming election. If you voted in the last general election in 1972 your name should be on the registered voter’s list. If you did not vote then, it is necessary for you to re-register now. If you are not sure, call the Clark County Registrar of Voters, 382-4982. Give them your name and address and ask them if you are still on the registered voter list.

If you are not listed as a voter, the next step is for you to register. This must be done before the September 3 primary election, since many good candidates could be knocked off the ballot then, and you might find yourself unable to vote in the November general election with no real choice. REGISTER NOW AND SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATES IN THE SEPTEMBER PRIMARY.

There are several places you may register to vote. Some that might be most convenient include—

Clark County Welfare Rights Organization
300 Gold Ave.
648-0012

West Las Vegas Library
1402 D St.
648-9421

Registrar of Voters
400 Las Vegas Blvd. South
382-4982

NAACP
1040 Owens Ave.
648-2880

There are deputy registrars at NAACP who will come to your house and register you. Also, tables will be set up at neighborhood shopping centers where you may register.

If you would like to volunteer as a deputy registrar in order to help in the registration drive, call CCWRO, 648-0012 or NAACP, 648-2880 for information on how to become a registrar.

It is absolutely necessary that you register to vote in the next two months so that you will be eligible to vote in the vital September primary. Your vote does count and you owe it to yourself, your children and your community to participate in the election and demand responsible and representative government.

When you come to Operation Life to get your W.I.C. card and checks, bring your medicaid slip, your children’s birth certificate and proof of your pregnancy (a note from your doctor). If you want to know more about the program, call Operation Life, 648-0012.

New Pool

Grand opening of the Operation Life swimming pool is slated for June. Look for the announcement in the news.

Neal Attacks RJ Charge
Of “Muddying Waters”

Don Digilio
Review-Journal
1111 West Bonanza Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Dear Mr. Digilio:

It has not been my practice to respond to editorials published by newspapers; nevertheless, that practice has to be altered when a newspaper such as your own uses its immeasurable freedom of the press to subvert and taint a judicial process which is designed to bring about accountability on the part of officials using the “power” and influence which were given to them by the people of this state for the benefit of the citizens. We have, indeed, employed the Democratic Party Rules, Robert’s Rules of Order, and the avenue of appeal to attempt to arrive at a resolution of this matter of the legislative fund.

The historical foundations for the judicial process were not laid for those who agree, but for those who disagree. It is with this in mind that we have exercised our right of appeal and laid this matter before the bar of justice for a judicial determination of the issue, a process which, I think, would be considered by those who are without bias in this matter as constitutionally sound and proper. I am at a loss as to why this process should bother you.

In case you did not know, I am a believer in freedom of the press; however, I can also recognize the insidious danger of distorting that freedom when it is used to discredit those whom you happen to dislike or those who appear to threaten political figures you are attempting to keep in power. It is this abuse that I must rise to challenge.

You see, Mr. Digilio, I do not believe it is advisable to accept a statement by you, or any of the newspapers who have printed your statement that the "last session of the legislature . . . did little but try to muddy water," as you contended that I "spent more time fighting useless causes than trying to represent the people (me) in office." You then knowledge that this is not the case. While the invalidity of your remarks may be attested to by my constituents, the fight I fought may be best judged by them, may I, nevertheless, make the following inquiries?

Is it muddying the waters or supporting a useless cause to speak out against capital punishment when you know that a disproportionate 57.6 percent of all those executed in this country in the last thirty years were minorities?

Is it muddying the waters or supporting a useless cause to insist that medical care be a right of all citizens of the state?

Is it muddying the waters or supporting a useless cause to advocate child care facilities for working parents?

Is it muddying the waters or supporting a useless cause to stand on the floor of the Senate and support the Equal Rights Amendment for women?

Is it muddying the waters or supporting a useless cause to want a law making it a crime for doctors and hospitals to refuse to treat someone who apparently does not have the ability to pay?

Is it muddying the waters or supporting a useless cause to argue in favor of National Health Care Insurance for everyone?

I think not. Anyone who thinks that it has not appraised himself of the needs of the people of this state and nation.

Finally, may I adduce to another subject which has appeared in your paper? You have implied that to be seen with a potential candidate for an elected office is evidence of support. Well, I have seen you at the Sands having lunch with Ralph Lamb. Are you supporting him? And if so, need the public be advised of such a matter in order to properly assess any statements made by your paper regarding the Metropolitan Police Department?

Surely, it is spurious to equate such association with automatic support and approval. I shall be pleased to accept a dinner invitation from Mike O’Callaghan anytime, as long as he picks up the tab. Then you could write a column on “Guess who’s coming to dinner?” Your turn, Mr. Digilio.

STATE SENATOR JOE NEAL

EDITOR’S NOTE: In our opinion, the issue of the secret Legislative Fund snacks of a home-state Watergate. As we observe the unfolding of that national scandal, we must realize that a government in secrecy too easily may harbor deceit and corruption. We recognize Senator Neal’s and other’s demand for disclosure of the legislative fund as a most serious and sincere effort to preserve clean government and a respectable Democratic Party in this state. The issues in which Senator Neal speaks in his letters are of great importance to this community and we reprint his letter here in its entirety with pride and with hope that more people will thereby have the opportunity to know and to understand this issue. We applaud the Senator’s courageous stand on the legislative fund, and extend this applause to his strong and responsible efforts throughout the 1973 Nevada Legislative Session.

Operation Life Serving 725 Mothers and Children

When Operation Life, Inc. opened the doors of the W.I.C. supplemental food program on February 22, 1974, some 180 mothers and children received their W. I. cards and checks have been issued daily to eligible families.

Currently more than 725 people are coming in every month for the free food program, and the number of participants continues to grow. During May, W.I.C. cards worth a total of 21,000 quarts of milk alone were issued.

The program is geared to insure good nutrition during the important growth time for children: pregnancy to four years of age, when the brain cells are growing fastest and the body needs plenty of good protein to develop normally and healthy.

W.I.C. foods are available for Medicaid recipients who are: pregnant women nursing mothers infants children under 4

When you come to Operation Life to get your W.I.C. card and checks, bring your medicaid slip, your children’s birth certificate and proof of your pregnancy (a note from your doctor). If you want to know more about the program, call Operation Life, 648-0012.

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Wealthy Nevada Short With Needy

"Progress" in Nevada welfare reform must be seen as going backwards a little less rapidly. A recent report of Nevada Welfare Programs by Clark County Legal Services shows plainly that Nevada Government has little or no concern for the poor.

The study shows that while Nevada is the third richest state per capita in the nation, it ranks at the bottom of the scale on services offered to ADC recipients, along with Mississippi and Alabama. For example, New York, ranked number two in wealth, spends 4.5% of its total state money on Aid to Dependent Children. Nevada, ranked number three in wealth, spends only .85% (less than 1%) of their total state expenditures on the ADC program. It is interesting to note that Alabama, ranked number forty-nine in wealth, spends .45% on ADC, only .40% less than Nevada.

A comparison of Nevada with other Western States shows California, ranked number seven in wealth, spends $30.21 per person for ADC where Nevada spends only $5.60 per person for ADC payments.

While Nevada legislators and the governor's office claim to be making progress in the area of welfare reform, the reality is that the present administration has done little to nothing to improve the lives of the poor in the state of Nevada. That Nevada, one of the richest states in the nation can rate with the poorest states in aid for hungry children is a blatant example of the lack of concern our public officials have for poor families in Nevada.

The state has laid down its arms in the war against poverty and is sacrificing the lives of our children.

Overpayment Recovery Argued During Welfare Meeting In L.V.

By DIANA AXLEY

On Friday, May 3, 1974, the Nevada State Welfare Board, which sets policy for Nevada State Welfare Department, met in Las Vegas. This was their first meeting here in the last three years, though, in fact, the largest percentage of Nevada's welfare recipients live in Clark County. The meeting was attended by several members of CCWRO, as well as Legal Services staff, who work in the welfare/food stamp areas.

One of the issues discussed, and strongly opposed by the CCWRO, was the collection of overpayments when there is worker error. This method of collecting overpayments is being changed so that when there is an O/P, the ADC grant may be reduced by the mother's share rounded off to the nearest $10. President of CCWRO, Ruby Duncan, suggested that when a caseworker makes a mistake in which a family loses benefits, those dollars should be collected from the worker's paycheck, not the family's meager grant. CCWRO and CCLSP asked the board to delay action on overpayments until the next meeting, to allow time for a response from recipients.

Maya Miller is U.S. Senate Candidate with Real Integrity

Maya Miller, a name well-known to the poor people of Nevada will be the next U.S. Senator from Nevada if honesty, integrity and an outstretched hand to all are the ingredients for a successful candidate. She is an educator, environmentalist, public affairs expert, wife and mother, rancher and businesswoman. She has led a variety of people-oriented and environmental groups. She has worked closely with Ruby Duncan, Senator Neal, Bernice Moten and other community leaders for legislative change in Nevada.

Maya has appeared before the U.S. Congress and the Nevada Legislature on behalf of adequate housing, education, a full employment program, welfare reform, better medical and health services, children's and senior's food programs and children's day care facilities. Maya is one mother of two children and shares our concerns for family budgeting. She knows the problems of the poor and she is going to fight the battles of the people in Washington, D.C. next January if we get out the vote and give her our support.

Recently Maya was named to the White House list that is more commonly called the "Nixon's Enemy List". In a year when political corruption has never been so great as under the Nixon administration, to be called an enemy of bad government is indeed an honor! No other candidate running for U.S. Senate has ever offered to the people all that Maya does. Register! Vote!

Summer Lunches

Watch for the start up of the Operation Life summer feeding program: Free lunches for anyone under 21. Call 648-0012 for more information.

Regulation Allows "Prompt Action" For "Probable" Welfare Fraud

Have you heard? The Federal Government is taking steps to make life more difficult for welfare recipients. James S. Dwight, Jr., Administrator of HEW's Social and Rehabilitation Service (SRS), recently announced that states will be able to "take prompt action" to stop or reduce payments in case of "probable" welfare fraud.

The regulation, now in effect, provides for a five-day notice when payments are to be stopped or reduced because of probable fraud when the following conditions are met:
- A state has obtained facts indicating that assistance should be suspended, reduced or terminated because of probable fraud by a recipient;

NATIONAL WELFARE RIGHTS ORGANIZATION: CONFERENCE

July 10-14 • St. Louis, Missouri

Won't you join us? Round-trip bus fare is $74, plus food and accommodations during the conference

This annual conference is a great opportunity to get together with individuals and welfare rights groups from all across the country, to find out what's happening and to learn about new programs and organizing possibilities. Don't miss this great time! Call CCWRO for more details at 648-0012.
80 Per Cent Ignore Food Stamps

The Nevada Food Stamp Program, administered by the State Welfare Department, has its good points and its bad ones. One of the problems of the program is that many welfare applicants are not even informed of their right to food stamps, nor are students, unemployed people, or other low-income non-public assistance families who could be getting food stamps.

Another problem with the food stamp program is that the office for obtaining the stamps is not in a convenient location. It is on South Highland where there is no bus route. A better situation would be to have it located in the State Welfare building.

Monthly Recertification Of Jobless Lacks Point

Michael Davis is a UNLV student working at Clark County Legal Services. Following is an interview with Mr. Davis.

MIKE: What are some of the problems of recipients in the food stamp program?

MICHAEL: Having to report every month for recertification is ridiculous, from the viewpoint of keeping up with check receipts and having to maintain transportation. People on welfare should not have to report to the food stamp office every month. People on welfare are automatically eligible for food stamps, and the monthly recertification is only required for recipients who have a change in income, such as an increase.

Another serious problem is that the 30 day waiting period after applying for food stamps can cause a family to starve. During the waiting period, benefits are not received. This is something that the Food Stamp office does not take into consideration. Since these benefits are not considered, the family is left to fend for itself.

The Welfare Department has budgeted a certain amount of money for outreach, and whatever they are not doing for outreach, it is invisible to the low-income community. We feel that they get some action for their money if they contracted with CWWRO to do outreach, because we are committed to getting people the vital services that are so desperately needed throughout Clark County.

Parents Can Get Tips On How To Deal With Their Problem Children

Ruby Duncan, left, seen with mothers applying for W.I.C. cards which aim to help insure good nutrition from pregnancy to age four of child.

Having difficulty with your child? Need help?

Children's Behavioral Services, an agency of the Nevada Division of Mental Hygiene, has a parent training program you may be interested in.

Parents of children meet for about an hour and a half each week, for eight weeks. During these meetings, parents learn specific ways to help their children change their problematic behavior. They develop, apply, and evaluate programs to bring about the changes that the family desires.

For more information on the meetings, individual assistance, home visits, school visits, etc. are provided when that's needed.

Children in the 6th grade and under are eligible for the program. All that is necessary to enroll is to call Children's Behavioral Services and schedule an intake interview.

Meetings are scheduled in the afternoons and evenings, Monday through Thursday, at 216 South Maryland Park, or by telephone arrangements. Send letters to: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Your County Commissioners:

Myron Leavitt Robert Broadbent Tom Wisner, Chairperson James Ryan Richard Ronzone Jack Pettit Aaron Williams

YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

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CITY COMMISSION
400 E. Stewart Ave., Las Vegas, 89101

Send Letters to: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County Courthouse
200 E. Carson, Las Vegas, 89101

Drive Underway for Child Care Center

Operation Life, Inc., has made the initial contacts in asking our local government agencies for funding for a community child care center in West Las Vegas. The center, to be open 16 hours a day, will provide more than just babysitting. Health and dental care for low and no income children will be available. Parents may be trained in the operation of the child care center, nutrition, education and health. Most important the center will allow working mothers to tend to their jobs without the undue burden of worrying about where their children are, who is looking after them and whether or not they have decent food to eat.

The children will have a creative learning environment at the center as well as a learning environment at the center as well as use of the public library across the street and the swimming pool at Operation Life. The community has been strong in its support for this type of program and every parent knows how important it is. West Las Vegas currently has only one child care center.

Operation Life, Inc., has spoken before the City and County Commission and with the Mayor concerning the possibility of starting such a center. The general response has been "We just can't have the money". Not so, they do have the money. When social programs were cut at the national level, funds came into local areas to be used to make up for these cuts. Revenue Sharing was meant to be used for community services and this is what the monies for the Child Care Center should come from. We believe that if the County can spend $300,000 on...
CCWRO
Clark County
Welfare Right Organization
400 West Jackson
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

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