

Where They Stand

By George A. Burns

"Voice" talks candidly with Mahlon Brown

Former policeman, Clark County legal services director, Las Vegas Justice of the Peace, and United States Attorney for Nevada. These impressive credentials belong to Mahlon Brown. He wants added on to his impressive public service career, the job of Nevada's next Democratic Attorney General. When asked why he was seeking this office, Brown candidly replied, "Because I firmly believe that what the public is looking for in the Attorney General's office, like any other elected official, is a person who will be decisive, consistent, and above all, honest. Along with those qualities, he must be accessible and more than that, willing to get involved. He can't sit around and wait for it to come to him, but he must seek out good, and that can't happen in the confines of his office."

Brown feels that law and justice is being violated daily and he wants to work to eliminate that. "To combat crime here in Las Vegas," Brown says, "the Attorney General's office must make it its aim to give assistance to the District Attorney's office, by freeing up their time. While they concentrate on street crime, the Attorney General's office should be eyeing "white collar" crime and political corruption. But all of the law enforcement agency's resources must be coordinated under one major force, which would be under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General's office."

Brown feels that one of the many advantages of his being Attorney General of Nevada is his past affiliations with agencies such as the F.B.I., and Secret Service. "I have their confidence, and as U.S. Attorney, they've, on many occasions, channeled their intelligence through my office. We'll continue on in this well organized partnership."

The Virginia Law School graduate feels that, contrary to what many think, Nevada has some of the toughest penalties in the country. "What we need to do is pump our resources. That is through the creation of more jail and prison facilities, and courts." He cited as an example to prove this fact the city of Sacramento as opposed to Las Vegas. "Here we have two cities. Their metro is probably as big as ours, and perhaps have the same size police force. The difference is, things shut down there at 5 p.m. We, by contrast are a 24-hour town, with the 7th busiest airport in the nation constantly bringing in millions of travelers and tourists daily. What Sacramento has, which contains their crime rate in regards to their law enforcement and judicial court system, we here in Nevada need three times as much, due to the nature of our city."

Brown was quick to cite the fact that he is tough on law enforcement, and not sympathetic on criminals. "I have no sympathy for criminal conduct. If they must be "nailed," then fine by me, as long as it is legal."

When asked what his attitude on capital punishment was, Brown responded, "I'm for it! There are certain people who have given up their rights to existence by their heinous crimes. We can no longer afford to subsidize their existence. The American people, I feel, are split in their thinking in this regards, but I also feel that the majority of us are tired of getting abused, and see this penalty as the solution. "But," Brown goes on to say, "this penalty must be administered fairly and equally, and not by a person's stature in life or their race or sex."

Brown feels strongly that "plea bargaining" is abused in our judicial system. "I've personally witnessed a lot of bad examples of this. It's a tool that must be used sparingly, cautiously, and with assurances that the perpetrators of crime suffer to their just due for the crimes that they've committed. You don't plea bargain because it's easy, but because it's the only thing to do, under the circumstances."

On drug supplier: "I already have been, and I'll continue to be hard on drug suppliers. I've convicted the number one "hashish" dealer in the world. I've convicted one of the top ten cocaine dealers in the world. I've helped to bring to a halt, PCP (Angel Dust) through the convicting of one of its top suppliers. And I'll get tougher with narcotic dealers and suppliers. You know, 75-80% of every crime committed, whether it be burglary, murder, or purse snatching, they all have as its root, some form of drug affiliation. Therein lies the elements. We must get sensible, intelligent, reasonable solutions to the drug abuse problem. We must re-think over our laws in this area. I'd venture to say that 50% of the

THE VEGAS VOICE ENDORSES

By Thomas E. Wilson

Due to time and column space, the VEGAS VOICE has limited its endorsements to those who will directly affect the Black community. These will include the federal, state, and local officers of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas.

For Governor: Richard Bryan seems to show the greatest promise and hope for minorities. He has a proven record as a public defender in the 1960s.

For Lieutenant Governor: Bob Cashell has a proven record of service to Nevadans. He has served well as chairperson of the Nevada Board of Regents.

For United States Senator: Incumbent Senator Howard Cannon has a proven record of service to Nevada. His major challenger seems to have voted for big business, for program reductions where minorities and the poor are concerned, and has been inconsistent in his discussion of the issues.

For United States Representative for the Southern District: We think that Harry Reid is the "Man for Nevada" at this time. He has helped minorities in several ways. It must be remembered that he will be only one person among four-hundred-thirty-five, and will be unable to fulfill all of his promises. We believe that he will work well with his fellow congressmen.

For Clark County Sheriff: This is a toss-up among the incumbent, McCarthy, Moran, and Avants. All seem to be qualified. Which one will do the most to help minorities is anybody's guess.

For North Las Vegas Constable, we propose that Lou Tabat be reelected to the job.

For Justice Court, District 5: We would like to see Judge Earl White returned to the bench. He has been an excellent judge whose decisions seem to have been made on the basis of his knowledge of law.

For Assemblyman, District 6: Although Marion Bennett's attendance record in the Nevada Assembly has not been the very best, he has been there when votes are required. Generally he has voted for West Las Vegas. We recommend that he be returned to the Assembly based on his outstanding contributions to the community, and his behind-the-scenes activities. No one is perfect, but Marion Bennett has proven that when the chips are down, he is there to help.

For Assemblyman, District 7: Assemblyman Lonie Chaney has developed his business to the point where approximately one-hundred persons have been and are still being given jobs. It took hard work and dedication to do this. He is approachable, and seems to have his head on straight. Another term with Chaney should produce results beyond those previously produced by the incumbent. We go with Chaney at this time.

This is a partial list of endorsed political candidates who we feel will serve our community well. There are others, but many of them are from areas other than those heavily populated by Blacks.

perpetrators of these criminal acts would not of done so without their involvement in narcotics."

In the area of sting operations, Brown responded quickly his support of them. Especially those implemented to combat political corruption. "When politicians violate that trust placed in them, they get no sympathy from me. And sting operations are the only way to combat this problem until a better way is found."

In his campaign for the Attorney General's office, Mahlon Brown feels that he will have the backing of the Black community. "I've been a participant in the Black community for many years. I've worked closely with the residents of West Las Vegas through Legal Services. I'm also an ardent supporter of the school lunch program. I'm also the present attorney for the Welfare Rights Organization, and was Director of EOB for many years. We've all worked together, and I hope to receive their support. Not only from the Black residents throughout our city, but from all oppressed groups. I won't be presumptuous in the belief that their support is a foregone conclusion, but I feel strongly convinced that by my actions in the past, in regards to genuine racial equality, justice and fairness along with care, and proving it to those to whom it meant the most, I can feel optimistic about receiving both their support and confidence. And more importantly, giving genuine support and confidence to them, when they need it most."

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This week our guest on Where They Stand is James Lyman. Lyman is seeking the newly created Congressional seat here in Southern Nevada. Join us if you will in our in-depth conversation with the Republican nominee for Congress and find out just where he stands on the issues.

JAMES LYMAN Candidate, U.S. Congress

Q What benefits would you see for Nevadans as a result of President Reagan's recent tax increase?

A Well, the benefits are indirect. Supposedly they are geared towards efforts to lower federal deficits. They should also hopefully help interest rates to continue to go down. Also, financial planning is enhanced and investments should increase. Nevada should be no different than the rest of the country as far as the benefits go. We, too, shall feel the impact of lower interest rates and more economic activity with the increasing of our tourism industry.

Q What would be some of your priorities, dependent upon your committee appointments, as Nevada's newly elected Congressman?

A The economy. It is quite necessary to conserve the conservative coalition in Congress. This we have to do. We're all basically in agreement of this fact. We cannot continue spending more than we make. We must balance the budget, in fact, I'm highly in favor of a balanced budget amendment. As far as committee assignments go, I would like to be appointed to them all, but realistically speaking, tourism, travel, ways and means, armed forces, commerce and a sub-committee on education.

Q In what direction would you move in attracting new industry to our state?

A I've already started. We have plans in the making for an Economic Development Tour. Our plans in these efforts will be to make growing industries aware of Nevada. Specific areas being 1) our tax structure; 2) our climate; and 3) our school system. We are also working towards the establishment of a Degree of Engineering and Computer Services at UNLV. Industry looks at the availability of trained personnel. That's highly important. With the addition of this new program at the university, this one specific downfall of our lacking skilled personnel can be alleviated in a short period of time.

Q How do we combat both unemployment and inflation?

A A Balanced Budget! We have to stimulate the economy. Interest rates must fall. An example: Look at the recent gains of the stock market. We must make it profitable for businessmen to invest!

Q What efforts are you making to familiarize the name James Lyman more so in the Black community here in Las Vegas?

A Our campaign is presently geared towards the electronic media. (Television, radio) I will pursue events in the Black community to make sure my name is known. I'll be making every effort to let everyone know that I am the best candidate on the ticket.

Q What is your stand on Equal Rights for Women and Minorities, especially in regards to your past performances? (Appointments, endorsements, etc.)

A Well, my past political career has been confined to the school board. We have made sure that all ethnic groups have been well represented. This effort of mine shall be pursued as a member of Congress. I am definitely in favor of equal rights for all. This is what the Constitution guarantees. Equal Rights under the Law!

Q Is the President insensitive to the less affluent, poor and minorities, in your estimation?

A Absolutely Not! That's a total misconception and misinterpretation of the facts. His programs do not show that to be the case. His attack on inflation proves that fact. It's total political demagoguery!

Q What outlook does the less affluent and minority communities have to look forward to, especially here in Southern Nevada with James Lyman as their next U.S. Congressman?

A I will offer a positive outlook for the people of Clark County. This will be accomplished by making sure the Federal government is fiscally responsible.