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Chaney: "No Wrongdoing Ever Occurred"

LONIE CHANEY EXPLAINS INVOLVEMENT WITH OIC CHECKS

By George A. Burns

Assemblyman Lonie Chaney, in an exclusive interview with the "Vegas Voice", said that there was nothing illegal about the alleged misuse of funds involving his company, Westside Charter Services, and the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC).

Controversy has surrounded both Chaney and his brother Jim Chaney, the director of OIC.

It stemmed from accusations that the Assemblyman borrowed \$15,000 on two different occasions from OIC. While Chaney did not deny this, he said "true, that was the case, but it was an interest free loan, and the money was paid back before the time specified for it to be returned."

Chaney displayed the three checks that were

paid to OIC. The dates on them were Oct. 14; Oct. 28; and November of 1980. They were all in the amount of \$5,000 each, with proper endorsements on the back of the checks bearing those of Valley Bank.

"What should also be noted," said Chaney, "is that when funds for OIC's grant ended in early 1981, a complete and thorough audit had to have taken place at its dismantlement. Now, with the loans occurring in 1980, and the records of them being paid back in OIC's record books, auditors would have quickly picked up on any wrongdoing or misuse of funds. But that was not the case.

There were no questions by any government auditors concerning the loans at that time. This alone should be proof that illegalities in this matter are really non-existent."

Chaney said that his brother, Jim, stressed to him the importance of paying the funds back during the period that they agreed upon. When



asked if he investigated the legalities of borrowing funds from a government funded organization such as OIC, he responded that, "yes we did, and there was nothing written in OIC's grant proposal agreement that said they couldn't make loans to

any one individual or individuals. Of course, it would come up under the "moral" factor.

Chaney revealed that the checks were stolen when OIC moved from their offices earlier this year. When asked, by whom and for what reason, Chaney replied that he didn't know who, "but no doubt by an individual or individuals intent on destroying either my credibility or Westside Charter Services. I believe it to be more political than illegal."

He then responded to the question, why not bring this up before the recent election, by saying, "because there was no evidence of any wrongdoing then as there is none now. It just evolved due to a recent article on OIC last week." Was all the income information of Westside Charter Services made to the Public Service Commission? "it has

to be," Chaney responded. "Not only income, but everything that Westside Charter Services does, even so far as mileage by a bus, is monitored by the PSC."

When asked if there was a pending investigation, Chaney responded, "Not to my knowledge. The Feds have knowledge of what's going on here, of course, but it's uncertain whether an investigation will be pursued. My Attorneys haven't notified me or haven't been notified of any."

Chaney did confirm, as previously mentioned, the suspicion of conspiracy. "I feel that to be the case. There may be an individual or individuals who were formerly associated with Westside Charter Services, who locked up with others who had the access to make this sound or look more damaging than it actually is."

Bonnie Juniel Appointed To Zoning Board



The City Commission has appointed Bonnie B. Juniel to the Las Vegas Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Juniel, who is married and has one child, has been a resident of Las Vegas for 19 years. She is on the board of directors of the Black Chamber of Commerce, a past board member of the NAACP and an active member of the Gamma Phi Delta Sorority.

Gaines Removal Demanded

NAACP local chapter president Lovell Gaines was demanded to either resign or be removed by "some" at the specially held meeting of that organization last Sunday.

Gaines, along with Regional Director Virna Canson, left the meeting before any major decision to alleviate the existing problem was legally solved.

Gaines along with other unnamed board officers, was reported allegedly, to have during his two year term as the local chapter's president, illegally misused funds from the non-profit organization.



Lovell Gaines

Those members calling for Gaines' and the other's removal called themselves "Concerned NAACP Members." They refused to allow Gaines to openly defend the charges along with refusing to let Canson attempt to explain the legal procedures for removing any officer.

Led by "newcomers" to the local chapter, James Veal and Benjamin Bell, the Concerned NAACP Members called for Gaines' dismissal because of his alleged "lack of concern for the organization," and literally refused to allow him to speak on his behalf.

Those in attendance at the meeting felt both dismay and shock at the proceedings. Commissioner Woodrow Wilson was overheard to say,

See NAACP, Page 2.



Shown above are dignitaries who were present for the signing of the Tri-Partite Agreement, which took place in the Mayor's Office last Friday morning. Seated (left to right), City Commissioner Dr. William Pearson; Mayor Bill Briare; and Bob Bailey, Executive Director of the Nevada Economic Development Company. Standing

(left to right), Shelby Givens, Project Director of the Jackson Avenue Merchants Association; Rev. Sam Roberson, President of JAMA; and Richard B. Blue, Director of the Department of Funds Coordination for the City of Las Vegas.