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NAACP BACKING BROWN

What started as a membership meeting of the local branch of the NAACP last Sunday turned out to be a vocal support of Leadership School Director Mr. Harold Brown in his actions protesting Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin's involvement in the Adam Clayton Powell controversy.

The meeting took place at Southcrest Recreation Center and was attended by over fifty members.

President Tom Johnson began the meeting by discussing the past, present and future role of the local and national organization. He cited the need for increased membership. He said that the membership goal of the chapter was 1,500 and that there were only "about 300" active members in San Diego.

When Johnson opened the meeting to the membership, Mr. Molino Smith stood and said that he deplored Van Deerlin's actions criticizing of Harold Brown and the Southeast Leadership Training Project. Mr. Smith said that he had written to Van Deerlin asking for help to sustain the anti-poverty Junior Government program, of which he is a board member, and that Van Deerlin had told him that he "should write to President Johnson." Smith asked, "If Van Deerlin was too busy to help us with Junior Government, then why is he so concerned with stopping the Leadership Program?"

SMITH THEN moved that the NAACP go on record as opposing Van Deerlin's actions as regards Harold Brown and Adam C. Powell, and that Johnson send a letter to Van Deerlin and Sargeant Shriver. The motion carried unanimously.

At this point, Mrs. Ruth Green, NAACP first vice-president said that there was other NAACP business to be transacted. She said that the meeting should move on.

Other persons at the meeting, however, wanted to know more about the incidents which led to Van Deerlin's criticism of Brown and the Leadership program.

Several persons who attended the meeting (March 6) at Van Deerlin which was criticized and heckled, narrated the incidents. Mrs. Ester Walker said that Brown was not involved in anything other than telling Van Deerlin that he did not represent Southeast San Diego in his actions against Powell.

OTHERS WHO spoke of the March 6 incident linked Voice editor Clarence Irving, Mr. Joseph Vinson, Mr. George Stevens, and Mr. Ambrose Brodus with the heckling of Van Deerlin, and not Brown.

Again an attempt was made to move to new business at the meeting, but the concensus that further discussion and action on the issue was necessary.

Mr. Brown expressed concern that trainees of the "TAC Starter" program were being intimidated by Mr. Jesse Albritten, who started March 11, that any person working for the TAC Starter program who criticized Van Deerlin would be fired.

During the meeting the United Democratic Club circulated a petition intended for Sargeant Shriver and condemning Van Deerlin's intimidation of recipients of anti-poverty funds.

At the end of the meeting Johnson urged those at the meeting and others interested in NAACP membership to contact Mrs. Peggy Finch, newly elected NAACP membership drive chairman.

The next NAACP meeting was set for March 26. At that time Attorney Thad Williams will discuss the Hatch Act and new legislation dealing with participation in political activities.

A SCENE FROM LAST WEEK'S HEATED NAACP MEETING