

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Backs role of John Lucas

Editor, News-Press: I was reading an article in The News-Press Thursday evening entitled Mayor Raises Question on Role of Lucas.

It is a sad situation that the mayor does not agree with any project the black attempt in securing grants from the community development funds.

I am a board member of the Citizens for Progress Club and I have contacted the city administrator twice concerning problems the mayor created involving CD funds. I am president of the Midwest Human Development Corporation and it is a true fact that Gary Wilkinson is a nephew of Councilman John Lucas. But Lucas was not involved with the organizing of the Midwest Human Development Corporation and regardless of the fact that Wilkinson is a nephew, in my opinion he has a problem with the mayor. Councilman Lucas has a right to investigate problems.

If the mayor has a personal feud with Councilman Lucas I hope he will refrain from trying to block the Midwest Human Development Corporation from securing the funds which the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended.

The mayor acts as though none of the tax dollars were supplied by blacks.

—Virginia Bell, president
Midwest Human Development Corp.



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Court a by Teas

By RAE F. AMOS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (UPI) — Treasurer James I. Spainhower was acting outside his constitutional authority when he stopped payment on a \$1.34 million check to the St. Louis School Board and should be forced to allow it to clear the bank, Gov. Joseph P. Teasdale told the Missouri Supreme Court Monday.

Spainhower issued a stop order on the controversial check last week. Teasdale asked the Court to lift that order so the school district could obtain its money.

The money represents reimbursement for cost in helping operate Harris-Stowe College. It was used as part of a settlement of the eight-week St. Louis teachers' strike and was to give each of the district's 4,100 teachers a one-time bonus of \$225.

Teasdale gave the check to school officials last week. But, before it cleared Central Trust Bank in Jefferson City Spainhower stopped payment on it.

Spainhower, like Teasdale, a Democrat, acted upon the request of Republican state Auditor James F. Antonio, who questioned legality of releasing the money.

At a meeting of representatives of the executive offices involved and legislators, Gene Boesch, Teasdale's legal aide, said the governor planned to sue in the event the court issued a stop order.

"I am not a lawyer," Boesch said. "I am a politician." He said the governor planned to sue the school district to get the money.