

An Interview with Senator Joe Neal

Chapter Four:

Hall of Famer

An Oral History Conducted by Claytee D. White

March 24, 2006 Interview

The Boyer Las Vegas Early History Project

Oral History Research Center at UNLV
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The transcript received minimal editing that includes the elimination of fragments, false starts, and repetitions in order to enhance the reader's understanding of the material. All measures have been taken to preserve the style and language of the narrator. In several cases, photographic sources (housed separately) accompany the collection as slides or black and white photographs.

The following interview is part of a series of interviews conducted under the auspices of the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project. Additional transcripts may be found under that series title.

Claytee D. White, Project Director
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Chapter 4 Overview

In Chapter 4, Senator Neal expresses his views on capital punishment and his thoughts on being inducted into the Nevada State Senate Hall of Fame. He also gives a few more details on his children, four daughters and a son. All of them have earned or are in the process of earning college degrees.

Senator Neal details his thoughts on energy and water needs for southern Nevada, and mentions that electric and other utilities ought to be publicly rather than privately owned and operated. He goes into detail about Steve Wynn and his attempt to win tax exemptions for buying and selling works of art, while charging tourists and locals for the opportunity to view them.

Joe testified before the Gaming Impact Commission about gambling addiction and the political influence that the gaming industry has over the election process. In his opinion, the odds always favored the casinos, gamblers with addictive problems were ignored and exploited, and the gaming industry worked to elect legislators who were sympathetic to its needs.

Senator Neal gives details and anecdotes on his election to the position of President Pro Tem of the Nevada Senate, and explains his decision to hold hearings about high hospital costs being charged by Humana Hospital. He also gives his opinions on using the old post office as a museum and the 2006 legislative vote on bailouts for the EOB.

Finally, Joe shares his view of major changes in Las Vegas that occurred during his service to community and state, especially in the education system and local libraries. He gives his thoughts on the future of downtown Las Vegas and the impact of planned renovations and high-rise buildings on the Westside.

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Preface

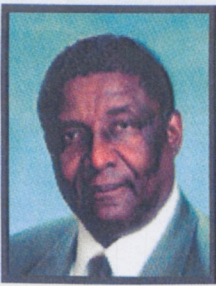
Senator Joe Neal shares many memories of his childhood in Mound, Louisiana. He recalls his mother leaving him and his older brother Willie with a woman named Bea so that she could go to Alexander to get a job. He and Willie were ages 2 and 4, respectively, and were frequently left on their own. Willie would leave periodically for hours at a time and come back with food. He eventually took Joe to meet the couple who were supplying the meals, Mary and Gowens Prayder. This couple took the two boys in and over time, the boys began to call them Momma and Daddy.

School for the black children of the plantation was held in Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Joe attended classes there through fourth grade, and then was bussed to Thomas Town High and Elementary School. He gives many details of the experiences he had and the teachers who taught him. He also recalls signs and symptoms of the racial prejudice blacks encountered down South in the thirties and forties.

Joe's birth mother came out to Las Vegas and was followed by her oldest son in 1951 or '52. He returned to Louisiana in 1954 to bring Joe out West. Senator Neal recalls the stark dustiness of the landscape and the rental home he shared with his mother and other boarders on D Street. He tried his hand at several menial jobs and then took his brother's suggestion to join the Armed Forces in order to get a college education.

Senator Neal relates the many opportunities that he experienced in the military, including working as an AP, undergoing desert survival training, and working at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico. After 4 years in the Air Force, Joe enrolled at Southern University in January of 1959. He had decided that he wanted to work for blacks in government after learning about Rosa Parks, the bus boycott, and the Little Rock situation.

Joe shares his opinions on government principles, views on Hurricane Katrina and the aftermath, details his running for a seat in the Nevada legislature and serving 32 years there as a state senator. He is proud of having authored and sponsored the state fire law, has strong views on whether to increase the grade point average for University students, and expresses his intention to see that government works **for** the people.



JOSEPH (JOE) M. NEAL JR.

Democrat

Clark County Senatorial

District No. 4

Retired

[Email](#)

Born: July 28, 1935; Mounds, Louisiana.

Educated: Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, B.A., Political Science and History; postgraduate work in law; Institute of Applied Science, Chicago, Illinois, civil identification and criminal investigation.

Married: Widower.

Children: Charisse, Tania, Withania, Dina Amelia, Joseph.

Military: United States Air Force, 1954-58.

Legislative Service: Nevada Senate, 1973-99--three special and 14 regular sessions; Member, Interim Finance Committee, 1985-86; Assistant Majority Floor Leader, 1985; Assistant Minority Floor Leader, 1987; Minority Floor Leader, regular session, 1989; President pro Tempore, 1991; Member, Legislative Commission, 1997-98.

Affiliations: Order of Elks Lodge No. 1508; Clark County Democratic Central Committee; Nevada State Democratic Central Committee; Phi Beta Sigma; Member and past Chairman, Clark County Economic Opportunity Board.

Personal and Professional Achievements: Outstanding Community Service, Local Branch, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 1976; A.A.U.F. of the Year, 1977-78; Outstanding Civic Work, First A.M.E. Church, 1978; Nevada Legislature - In Appreciation, CCTA TIP, 1979; Friend of Education Award, NSEA, 1986; Service to Community, Forty-second Western Province Council, Las Vegas Alumni Theta Sigma Chapters, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., 1989; Honorary Member for Continuous Support and Dedication to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, 1989; Century Club Member for Outstanding Support of Nevada State AFL-CIO C.O.P.E., 1989; Appreciation for Outstanding Services, Loyalty and Support to All Mankind, Affirmative Action Committee, Lower Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation, United States Department of the Interior, 1990; Guest Speaker, Lewis F. Cottrell No. 339, 1991; Reverend Jesse Louise Jackson Distinguished Political Award for Service Rendered on Behalf of All the Citizens of Nevada, NAACP, 1991; Elijah Lovejoy Award, Order of Elks Grand Lodge IBPOEW, 1992; Support and Dedication to Working Men and Women, Local Joint Board, Culinary Local No. 226 and Bartenders Local No. 165, 1992; Outstanding Support, Alpha Temple, Paran Lodge 1508, 1992; Liberty Award, National Alliance Against Race and Political Oppression, 1992; Distinguished Service to Libraries, Las Vegas Library District, 1993; Appreciation for Support, Alpha Temple No. 1180, 1994; Outstanding Achievement for the Community in Celebration of African American Month, Clark High School, 1994; Appreciation and Gratitude Award, Friends of Clark County Law Library, 1995; Lifetime Achievement Award for Public Service, Reno-Sparks Branch No. 1112, NAACP; Lifetime Commitment Award, Nevada AFL-CIO; Civil Liberty Award, American Civil Liberties Union-Nevada; past Chairman, Greater Las Vegas Plan.

This is Claytee White and I'm with Senator Joe Neal in his home. Today is March 24th, 2006. How are you doing this morning?

Fine. Fine.

Good.

So we're going to get started today by continuing where we left off and adding a few more things. One of the things that I discovered through some research about you is that -- tell me a little about your position on capital punishment.

I'm opposed to capital punishment. I always have been opposed ever since I've been in the legislature. I've never supported a bill that supported capital punishment. I always fought against it.

I think maybe at one time that I did amend a bill to make it a capital offense to kill a person because of race or sexual preference. And I did do that. I supported that legislation. I don't recall exactly what happened to it. I think it passed, but I'm not too sure.

Do you want to tell me some reasons why you are against capital punishment?

Well, first of all, capital punishment is a permanent sentence. Once it's committed, you're out of here. If subsequently you are found to be not guilty of the offense you were charged with, they cannot bring you back. And, secondly, I don't think that the state should be involved in killing people. It sends the wrong message. It says that killing is okay.

Good. Thank you.

I believe I read it online. You were referred to as the "Lion in summer." Do you remember that title or anybody referring to you in that way?

No, I don't recall that particular phrase being given to me. And I don't know what that would mean, "Lion in summer."

How does it feel to be in the Nevada State Senate Hall of Fame?

Well, I guess it's okay. I did not expect that to come as quickly as it did. And now it's becoming somewhat political. You're not being put there, you know, based on your merit, but because some politician who is in power has the authority to select you and put you there. I think based upon the information that the state archives had research relative to my position and my contribution in the state, I think that was worth mentioning and it pointed out that the contribution

I had made did enhance the state in some way.

When you talk about the fire safety bill or the Retrofit Bill, that was a major piece of legislation that not only had effect in the state of Nevada, but also throughout the country and the world. So in that particular sense, I think that I was worthy of being put in the Senate Hall of Fame or whatever you call it. I even forgot the name of it now because I'm not a person that looks for accolades when I do something. I do things based upon the need. And I tried to address that particular need as I see it.

Tell me what the ceremony was like.

The ceremony was very good. You heard people that you were at odds with over the years get up and make good comments about you and tell you how great you were and all of that. And you sit there and you just listen and begin to ask yourself the question about where in the hell all these people were when you were fighting certain issues and you couldn't get them to participate with you on those issues that you were involved with.

So I sat there and I just listened. I was kind of glad in a way that most of my family was present and, particularly, the grandkids. They were present with the exception of two that were not able to get here. That would be Ania's children, Alfonse and Christian. They were on their way here, but they got stuck in Atlanta. They missed the flight because of a storm that they were having back there at the time.

But to sit there and listen to people that I had served with tell these stories about me, you kind of wonder where they were when I actually needed them on critical issues that I was dealing with when I was in the senate.

You've just mentioned your family. Tell me about your family. Tell me how many children, grandchildren, just a little bit about your family.

I have five children. I have four daughters and one boy.

Where are they?

Well, I have two daughters living with me at the present time, Dina and Wythania. Dina has two children, Tawaski and Alexandria. Wythania has two children, Christian and Alfonse. Wythania is trying to get her a degree in pharmacy at Xavier. She was displaced by [**Hurricane*] Katrina. Dina graduated from Southern University Law School. She has a law degree and is

teaching at Community College at the present time, Introduction to Political Science and a course they call Critical Thinking.

And I have Tania who is married and living in Columbus, Georgia. She's a doctor of medicine, and she's practicing in a little town called Cuthbert, Georgia.

My older daughter, Sharice, is living here. In fact, she lives down Losee Road out near that 215 Freeway. She is a preacher.

Oh, fantastic.

Yeah. And, of course, Joseph, my son, is still at Southern. I am hopeful that he will be able to graduate because we had a difficult time with him. He went down and just had a good time, you know. And I had to pull him out of school. He went in studying physics. He was in the honors dorm in his freshman year. He had 3.9-grade-point average taking all math courses.

There was a gentleman from Vegas who was going to Southern. They put him in the honors dorm with Joseph. I can't think of the fellow's name right now. Well, he was at Southern. He was editor of the Southern newspaper. He used to make Old Joseph get up and go to class, so after he left, I guess Joseph rebelled against him. He went and joined the Alphas. And during his pledge period, he did not make one single grade point.

We sent him back for the summer, and he got all A's. And that following fall, the same thing happened. His friends were back, and he just started partying again. So I pulled him out, and he stayed out for about two years or maybe three years. And then I told him he was going to have to work his way back in. So he's kind of like working his way back into college. Of course, he changed his major from physics to business administration.

So I've been getting notice here that he's supposed to graduate in May. I'm not too sure whether or not he's going to make it. When I see him on the list, then I know that he has made it.

At least he didn't become an Omega. Oh, wow, that's interesting. Thank you for that information.

Now, getting back to some of the other topics that we're going to cover today, I read someplace something about a Nevada Black Caucus. I'm not familiar with a Black Caucus, so could you explain that to me, what it means here in Nevada?

Well, the Black Caucus here in Nevada is a collection of all of the black elected officials

with the exception of judges, black judges. They used to meet quite often when I was in the legislature, and we would have luncheon meetings and share information with one another about what was going on. We tried collectively to deal with the problems in the area here as we were confronted with those problems.

I don't think that the Black Caucus is functional now. The last big meeting that they had is when I retired from the legislature. All of them came together and put on an affair for me here in the black community over at Nevada's Partners, which is located on Lake Mead and Revere.

I attended that affair.

Yeah. And that's the last big function that they had that I know about. And that's about it.

Now, as a retired legislator, could you be a part of that?

I wouldn't mind being a part of it. But, you know, you've got people who have other interests. I was kind of like the person who wanted gaming to pay its fair share. Well, I don't think you can find a member of the Black Caucus, either a commissioner or a city council person or a city commission person or in the state legislature, that are fostering that type of an idea. So I don't know whether or not I would be welcome as a retired person.

I see. I also wanted to --

It looks like you were disappointed at that answer.

Well, because I didn't know that if everybody was an elected official or not currently serving -- yeah, it kind of surprised me. I'm surprised that not everybody can see that we need those revenues to run this state the way that it should be run.

Tell me about our energy problems, especially in Clark County and this part of the state. What do you think is the future with our energy and the electricity and water? What are we up against?

As I see the problem as it relates to our energy need, I think that in the future we're going to suffer tremendously, particularly in the electric energy area.

Water, we're going to have a problem there, but we can get water. It depends on how much we want to pay for it. The aquifer within this area is being depleted. And I'm not too sure whether or not the allotment that we have from Lake Mead is going to be sufficient in the future to take care of the growth in this area.

As far as the electric power is concerned, unless we move towards some other sources of energy and particularly begin to tackle the problems that we seem to have in this state in terms of utilizing nuclear power for cleaner energy and utilizing that to meet our needs, I think we're going to have a big problem. In order to process electric energy, you need gas, which comes from oil, and those types of resources are not that plentiful within this particular area.

Unless we are able to overcome that in some way and create some other sources such as nuclear energy, I think we're going to have a problem. Those problems are down the road: you're looking about something like 15 or 20 years before we see the real impact of all that.

I must give Pat Mullroy credit in her big fight to keep the water coming into the area. She has done a tremendous job in doing that. In fact, I was very supportive of one of her moves to also combine the water and electricity together under a public power entity. She brought in one of the major firms Back East to take a look at that and see what would be the difference if they went to public power in terms of electric energy, how much savings that would be.

The study that she came back with -- and I happened to be in the audience -- indicated that the people in this area could pay on a conservative basis about 22 percent less than what they actually pay now because with public power, you don't have to pay taxes and things of that sort.

I always favored public power. In fact, I've introduced a couple bills in the legislature to try to get that on. But you run up against those individuals who feel that private industry can do everything. I was of the opinion that electric energy was a necessity and the best way to deliver that would be through a public entity. Of course, that argument did not prevail. and as a result, we continue to see our energy charges go up.

Each time that we have a disturbance in the Middle East or a storm in the Gulf, you see the effect of that, the rising costs, be it gasoline, oil, or electric energy. That's one of the issues, I think, that we're going to have to take a stronger look at. Of course, that means changing our public policy in this state by disallowing private industry to get into certain areas that affect the public as a whole, in particular those areas that are necessary for the viability of the population.

We don't have private industry to control our roads, our streets and things like that. I don't have a problem with private industry with telephone, taking care of that. If you don't have a phone, you can write a letter. But when it comes to those things where you don't have any other

means of offsetting that private concern, then you have to look at it from the standpoint of having that controlled by the public.

What about pumping water from some of the counties north of us? Is that fair?

It's not fair because you have to ask yourself: What is the motivation behind that? And the motivation behind that is to meet the needs of the gaming industry. And that in itself is bad.

I'm opposed to pumping water from the small counties and feeding the growth and greed in this particular area. I think we should try to develop those areas, such as White Pine and Lincoln County, to move some of the individuals out from the populated areas such as Clark County. If we did that, I think it would be better. Rather than bringing that resource of water to increase the growth here, you bring the people out to the resource and you start developing a whole -- so if we did that, I think it would enhance the growth and creativity of the state and kind of remove us from this captive industry that we have here locally called gaming.

One last thing on power sources: What about solar energy? Why haven't we developed that? We have sun 360 days of the year.

Mainly, because we got tied into one company down south and one up north -- Sierra Pacific up north; Nevada Power down south -- which have merged now. So we're dealing with essentially one power company throughout the state. They have got their lobbyists and other people to try to control what they do in terms of power.

The only way that one can get away from that or beyond that is you have to go to the public directly and make your case. I don't think you'd be able to get anything done through the legislature. If you put out a petition to increase solar power in this state, then the chances are the public would vote for it. But the power company would never, ever, ever support it unless they controlled it.

We just talked about the gaming industry throughout all of these answers. You have had some dealings with Steve Wynn over the years. Once Steve Wynn began to collect some major artworks, there was a discussion about this in the legislature. Could you tell me more about it?

Yeah. He came to the legislature in the early 90s after he began to collect his art pieces. He wanted to get an exemption from the sales and use taxes on those purchases and also when

they are actually sold. He made the claim to the legislature that he wanted to increase the cultural atmosphere in the area here by setting up a room where students could come in and look at these art pieces.

I objected to this on two bases, one that he wanted to charge the public to see the art pieces and secondly that he wanted, as it was presented to us, the kids to come through the casino to see the art. I saw that as creating new gamblers in a sense, and I objected to that. Of course, he countered and said, "Okay, we'll make a separate entrance for the students so they would not have to come through the casinos." But he still wanted to charge the people of the state of Nevada to come see the art even though it was the people who were granting the exemption. I did not like that.

And, of course, he had not made this an aspect of his bill. So he just got the exemption. But in the tax commission hearing, he wanted to expand the law to include the residents being charged for seeing the art. And I objected to that.

We had a big meeting about that. In fact, we had about four meetings before the tax commission. In the first two meetings with the staff of the tax commission, he had, I think, about three of his lawyers there. And I'm across the table, you know, from them and we're arguing these issues. And the next two meetings they had before the tax commission, he decided to show up himself. We discussed. He got up and talked about why he wanted the art and why he thought it was necessary to make these charges because it would be devaluing the art if you didn't have people to pay to come see it. And, of course, I thought that was a ridiculous argument to make. The next meeting we had was up in Carson City --

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The next meeting we had was up in Carson City. Steve Wynn appeared and tried to convince the tax commission that it would be devaluing the art if you did not charge someone to come see it, particularly the people of the state of Nevada. My argument, which was brought to my attention, I think, by some of the people up north -- and I had also looked at it myself -- was that Steve Wynn had a vanity problem. He always dressed nice. Every hair was in place. He spoke very well in talking about these art pieces.

So we decided to look at some of the major magazines which he probably would have had

access to in terms of making some type of statements. We didn't know. Just on a hunch we searched it out, and we happened to come upon a magazine called the New Yorker. And the New Yorker had an article in there about him and the art and what he wanted to do with it. As I recall, I believe it said that he wanted to sell the art to some of the high rollers who would visit his hotels. Of course, I made mention of that to the tax commission and also that it would not be proper to allow him to charge the people of the state of Nevada to see art when they were granting him something on the order of -- at that time it was about \$18 million in terms of taxes in exemption, about \$15 million in sales, and about \$2 million in property taxes -- well, \$3 million in property taxes, I'd say.

When the vote came down, it was against him and of course, that didn't sit too well with him. As I was walking out of the meeting, I heard Ed Vogel, who was interviewing him, asking him if he was going to come back in the next session to try to get this on. He said, "No, I won't come back in the next session because this is the place where Joe Neal functions." And, of course, I didn't say anything. I just left.

However, he did come back in the next session and try to get the charge on record. He had hired one of the top lobbyists, a guy by the name of Harvey Whitmore, to do that for him. But what they didn't know and what I knew at the time -- and I said this to some of my friends at this tax commission meeting when we had gone to lunch, "You know what? Steve Wynn believes that he is king and that he's going to charge the people of the state of Nevada anyway. He can't find himself being beat on this issue, especially since I was involved with it. But if he charges the people of the state of Nevada, he's going to get a big surprise when they file for the exemption."

And they all asked me, "What do you think is going to happen?" I said, "Well, one of the things is that the tax commission has voted that he should not charge. And if he charges, he loses the exemption." They said, "Oh, yeah?" I said, "Yes."

So at the end of the year, he filed for the exemption. Of course, I must share this with you. After this meeting, the press carried the story that the tax commission had voted down this charge to come and see the art. I came home. Two days later, I got a call from Joseph Foley, a member of the Foley brothers' law firm. He said, "Joe, who worked with you on this art issue with Steve Wynn?" I said, "No one." He said, "No one?" I said, "No." He said, "Do you realize what you

have done to him?" I said, "Yes. If he charges for that exhibit, he's going to wind up paying \$15 million." Well, I guess what I said is that, "If he charges the people of the state of Nevada to come in and see that art, he's going to wind up losing that exemption." And he said, "You're right."

And sure enough, he did charge and he wound up losing it. Then he came back to the state legislature the following session to try to get the charge on. He got it on. And I sat there and didn't say anything. And they were wondering, you know, well, what had happened? They thought maybe we had reached some type of an agreement.

Well, it wasn't a matter of reaching any agreement. See, you couldn't make the law retroactive constitutionally, okay? So whatever he passed, he could not make it retroactive. He had charged the people to come to see the art, so therefore he lost the exemption. He gets the charge reinstated down the road, but it does not affect what he had to pay.

Well, what about in future years?

In future years, he could have done that. But, see, he already stocked up about \$300 million worth of art at this particular point. There was not too much that was going to be bought, but, you see, he didn't want to pay the 15 million.

During this particular period of time, what he didn't realize was that all of my information and everything that I was dealing with was going onto my Web site. And the people on Wall Street were picking up on what was actually happening in gaming as far as he was concerned. His stock started to go down when everybody else's stock was on the rise, and he could not understand that. It was because, I guess, he had gotten in this particular fight.

Then what happened was Kirk Kerkorian had a little beef with him for something. I don't know what it was. I think they felt that he was gaining too much power and influence over the industry. Kirk Kerkorian caught his stock down, I think, about \$9.52. Then he bought \$20 million of it. It went up to \$14.00, and then he cashed it back out. Then he just kept it there and tendered Wynn an offer to buy the place.

In the meantime, they called me and wanted to talk to me about what was going on between Steve Wynn and me. Of course, I told them, "Well, look, my biggest problem is not against gaming, per se. My problem is that when you're going to have a base here in the state of

Nevada and you're going to go other places, then you've got to take care of your base." I said, "You don't want to charge your people to come in and see something when you've got an exemption." And I said, "You want to pay fair wages and all of that while you're working here. And you want to pay fair taxes to the people here as you would when you go somewhere else."

Of course, I didn't get any response. They were just listening. I was just watching the papers. I saw finally that they came to an agreement to buy all of Wynn's properties. Now, Kirk Kerkorian owns that. Of course, he's coming back with Wynn Las Vegas. I don't have a problem with that, but I do have a problem when you're trying to use the public in a way that contributes to your greed.

Do you remember a commission called the National Gaming Impact Commission?

Yes.

Tell me about that, what that is.

Well, that was a commission that was set up to look at the impact of gaming throughout the country. One of the arguments against gaming is that gaming creates addicts. I had made that a part of my argument here in the state of Nevada that this was one of the social costs of gaming. I think I had used as an example seeing senior citizens sitting and playing the slot machines or the poker machines, just sitting there and playing it, and utilizing all of their Social Security money and then becoming a ward of the state and having somebody else to try to meet their needs. I thought that was a bad thing.

I think when I first got involved, the only thing that was out there in terms of any justification of this particular argument was a meta-study that had been done at Harvard University. They had indicated on a population basis that we must have had something like -- throughout the country about three million people at that particular time addicted to gaming. I remember taking that formula they used and extrapolating as to how many addicts we would have here in the state of Nevada based on our population. And we came up with something like oh, a hundred thousand people -- 100, 150,000, between those figures, if I recall.

Of course, nobody had done anything about that. One of my arguments was that the hotels do not have anything to do with addicts. They avoided that. They almost acted like gambling addiction didn't exist. They were of the frame of mind that if you gamble that was your

responsibility. If you lost your money, still your responsibility. They went on to that freedom thing. You have a right to do this, and we have a right to take your money. I said, "Yes. But, you see, if the odds were even, then we could probably make that argument. But the odds are not even."

So that's what brought the Gaming Impact Commission in here. I testified before the committee. Of course, they almost went wild on this. At first, they wanted to have Steve Wynn, and he didn't want to go before -- and somebody selected me to come out. And, by God, that's when feathers began to fly. A lot of people did not want me out there to give testimony. I went out and gave my testimony to the Gaming Impact Commission, talked about gaming addiction and then talked about the political influence that they had at that time within the state. I told them how that came about and that the gaming industry actually controlled the public policy of the state and followed that up later by labeling gaming as another political party in the state, not a pressure group or special interest group.

They were and are a political party. They actually get involved in the election of candidates. So that makes them different from, say, interest groups which come up and testify for a particular interest but do not get involved in electing the candidates.

Do you gamble?

Do I gamble? Oh, I might put a quarter or two in a slot machine. I have a friend who likes to play the lottery, and I might just drive down to Arizona with him. While I'm there, I might play the lottery. It's not that I'm addicted to it. I might put a ticket in and let it sit up there. And he'll call me and say, "Have you hit anything?" And I say, "I don't know. I haven't looked at it."

Tell me about the person who took the seat that you held for so long. Do you know Mr. Horsford?

I don't know him. I know of him. I met him in the legislature when he was working for a friend of mine, a guy by the name of Smith who was lobbying for the mining industry. I guess he was bringing him along. But this kid, I understand, graduated from UNR. That's the only thing that I actually knew about him. I know that he had worked for the R & R Advertisement after that and that's about it. Other than that, I don't know anything about him.

From what you've seen so far, do you think he will be carrying on any of your

policies?

No. I can't say that.

What was it like to be elected by the full assembly body as the Senate President Pro Tem?

Well, that was okay. It was okay. There was a little history behind that that I must share with you. You see, that was in '91 when I was elected president pro tem of the Senate. In '89, I was the minority leader. Now, we had an election coming up in which the chances were that we were going to win it.

One of your professors, John Virgiles -- do you know him? You don't know John Virgiles? He used to work in the education department at UNLV. I don't think he's there anymore. He was in the legislature, and he came up from the Assembly. He had been the speaker over in the Assembly, but then got elected to the Senate. He had his friends, like Governor Miller and Scott Kreggy. Miller was the governor at that time.

So the word came out and it looked like Neal might now become the majority leader of the Senate. Well, the word came back to me and to some of my friends that -- and this is what the word was -- they didn't want no nigger to be heading up the Senate and becoming the majority leader of the Senate.

So I had been elected the majority leader because we only had about nine people, Democrats. Titus was new coming in at that time, Dina Titus. She had voted for me. Now, you have to understand that we had a rule in the Senate at that time called Rule 15. It was a joint rule that said you cannot change your officers until after the general election. Everybody that was an officer should remain in place until after the general election.

Well, they called a meeting down at Mr. T's, which was Herb Towbin's place. It's on Industrial Road. (This is Herb Towbin, who just passed away.) They called it Mr. T's. They went in there and had a meeting. All nine of us showed up, but this time the others convinced Titus to hold an election. She voted to make Virgiles the minority leader, changing kind of like in the middle of the stream.

If you go back and look at the articles, there are some mean articles and some pictures that they took. That damn R-J, they tried to make you look bad. They get right under your nose when

you're talking and take a picture from this angle up so your nostrils are flaring.

So they did that. And they had Coffin, Titus, Virgiles and Nick Horn and -- I forget -- one other person that went along with them. But the three people that didn't go along with them were Hickey, Don Miller and me. Oh, my God, I can't think of the other people. There were nine of us at this meeting when that occurred. I can't think of who the other people were. But anyway, they changed.

So in order to kind of salve the wounds for me, they wanted to make me president pro tem. But Virgiles says, "Well, I won't appoint you." I said, "Well, you can't appoint me to anything. The full Senate is going to have to elect me."

Well, I knew that, since the papers had carried everything, with the three people that I had -- okay, once we got elected, we had one member. With the three people that I had on my side, I could win the president pro tem by utilizing Republicans to vote. President pro tem means that everybody in the Senate, Republicans and Democrats, votes for you because it's a constitutional office and third in command of the governor's chair. So I got elected president pro tem.

It was funny because I go through the session and I'm fighting a lot of issues. They had this Rushdie book. Salman Rushdie had written a book about Khomeini and how they had the contract out on him.

Right.

Okay. Now, we have a flag burning resolution that comes up. That's being put up by Raggio. Raggio knows that constitutionally I'm going to get up and fight against making it a crime to burn a flag because it's expressive speech and it's covered by the First Amendment. So he puts that on in order to hold his majority together and, in one way, to kind of get at me. So I got up and I talked against that. And I compared that to the Rushdie incident. But still, they voted this amendment in, and everybody just went wild over the flag. I'm saying, "Well, when you're burning a flag, you're burning something that was made in Taiwan."

There was a case that had come out of Texas, William v. Johnson, which had substantiated my particular argument. But they were being political at the time.

Well, following that, I chaired the Human Resources Committee as the president pro tem.

I had an issue with the hospitals, hospital charges, medical charges period. We had one particular hospital here – Humana -- that was getting discounts and charging people outrageous charges. You know, they would take a crutch and they'd break it down. You know, the shoulder rest, charge you part of that. And then the long stem that you rest on and then the tip, they charge you a part of that. And the bed, they charge your pillowcase, the sheets, the mattress. That's what the hospital charged for. That's where they make their money.

So I decided I wanted to have a hearing on that, and I created quite a stir. Of course, in the meantime, a lot of press happened. I subpoenaed some documents from the human resources division that was supposed to be able to take care of these needs. I didn't see what they were doing. They weren't doing anything. So when I subpoenaed the documents, they brought everything over, even the telephone books, trying to make it difficult for me.

We had gotten a letter from the attorney general. I didn't understand this because, see, the attorney general cannot engage in anything legislatively. But she was saying you cannot do this, and they were accepting this, the fact that we could not release any documents to the press that we got out of our investigation.

So I told people who were working with me, "Find me one document, just one. We want to challenge her on this." And so they did. They found one document, and we went to the Supreme Court. And the Court said, "Release it." It was a list of people to whom they were giving these discounts. That created a lot of animosity because all these people are connected with Humana. Of course, I was not connected.

At the end of that particular session, I had to leave early. I left maybe a day before the session ended. And usually, in the interim, the Senate -- you know, how it goes around that the Senate and the Assembly handles this committee that goes into the interim to look at issues that the legislature didn't cover during the session.

So in the interim, they made Aubury the chairman and he took over. It was kind of funny. He came to me being apologetic and saying, "Well, is there anything you want, Senator? I don't know how you do it." I said, "Well, Aubury, why are you here?" He said, "Well, the Assembly..." And I said, "I know, but why did you take it?" But they took him. That was kind of like the end of my crusade against high medical costs.

But following this now -- I'm still president pro tem -- the lieutenant governor and the governor leave the state. Now, according to the constitution, the president pro tem is in charge. So I didn't know. Nobody notified me.

That they were leaving?

That they were leaving. That's what they're supposed to do. They're supposed to notify you. So Ed Vogel called me and said, "Joe, don't you know that you're governor?" I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "Both the governor and the lieutenant governor have left the state and you're in charge." I said, "Well, look, no one has told me about this."

(End side 2, tape 1.)

So each white person who is elected president pro tem of the senate always fulfills that constitutional responsibility as being the acting governor when the governor and the lieutenant governor are out of state. That's what it says. Once they leave the state, you become acting governor. But Miller and others tried to justify that he still had control to keep me from coming. And that's caused me to dislike that son-of-a-gun today. You know, he and I don't get along because I thought that he was one prejudiced son-of-a-gun, and I didn't like that. Anyway, that's about it with that.

Okay, good. And that also explains the role of the president pro tem. So that was good.

I already know your stance on the gaming industry in a way. Explain your idea about a moratorium on casinos in Clark County.

Well, my stance on the moratorium of new casinos came about mainly because historically we had created what we call a gaming corridor. Originally, it began on Fremont Street and then, subsequently, going down the Strip. Now, that's when the Mob operated here. See, the Mob understood one thing about gaming. You never want to put it in a community as such.

So the moratorium on gaming was to keep it out of the residential areas. That we failed on. And these gaming houses start cropping up all over the place. Then you permitted gaming to feed upon the community.

See, gaming does not put anything back. It has a tendency to sweep the wealth in a community into a pyramid owned by a few folks. And that's what it does. So if you have a

gaming house in your community, then that gaming house is going to draw money from that community that should go for Medicare or groceries or paying the rent and things of that sort. It has a tremendous social impact upon the residential areas. So that was one of the reasons that I supported a moratorium on gaming.

You were able to act as governor a couple of times.

Right.

Tell me about that experience.

I just told you about one of them. I never did act as governor as such. They would never let me act as governor. They just told me that constitutionally I was. But --

So you never actually went up and sat in the governor's chair?

No. Nope. Never did. Never did. Not while Mr. Miller was there, huh-uh.

Okay, wow.

One of my last questions has to do with an activity that's going to happen pretty soon probably here in Las Vegas. Something is going to happen with the old courthouse post office. It probably will become a museum. Do you have any ideas about what would be a profitable type of museum for that area of downtown or how we could use that building?

No. You know, when you talk about old buildings and museums and things like that, that building that's downtown, the old federal building -- I think that's the one you're talking about.

It used to be the post office.

Yeah. It has some meaning to early residents who came here. I know when I came here, that was the place that you went to mail a letter. That's where you had to go. Or if you wanted to pick up a package or anything, that's where you had to go to. If you wanted to go down and see a federal trial, that's where you had to go.

I think that a building of that sort should recapture, in a way, the history that was occurring in that particular period of time. That's what it should be about. Of course, I think as the population grows here and other historic buildings are imploded, you have to have something to link us to the past that brought people here in the first place. That building, I think, would be a good place to have that.

Within the last week since we've talked to each other, the legislature has voted on two

separate bailouts for the EOB. What do you think of that, and do you think that's a good idea? Do you think it will become solvent again because of that?

No. No, it would not become solvent because of that. But what I think about the bailouts, any bailouts, coming to good -- and I would not call it a bailout. First of all, let's speak to what the EOB is, the Economic Opportunity Board. The Economic Opportunity Board is a general welfare agency. It was born out of the poverty program, which came out of Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which says that you can appropriate money and taxes for the general welfare. So EOB is a general welfare agency. EOB takes care of one of those functions that government is supposed to deal with; that is, the general welfare.

I think I might have mentioned to you before that government has about five functions: The establishment of justice, to ensure domestic tranquility, to provide for the common defense, to promote the general welfare, and to secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. But once you go into Article 1 Section 8, the general welfare is equal to the defense because it says you must provide money for the defense and the general welfare. So it puts it right there equal.

So as I said, EOB is a general welfare agency. The governments of Clark County and the city commission or any other city within this county has the right, the duty, and the responsibility to help provide for that agency because that agency provides for the general welfare needs of citizens who are in this county.

Now, as to the money that was appropriated -- 250,000 from Clark County and 200,000 from Las Vegas -- Las Vegas's 200,000 was without any strings attached to it. You use it to help meet the needs. Clark County put some strings on it. They wanted to sell the radio station. That's bad because you have no arm then to reach the poor. And that radio station has served this community well in terms of getting the information out to the poor.

Now, if you ask me if it was a bad thing for them to appropriate the money to go to EOB, the answer is no because EOB -- no one, I must say, within EOB has absconded with any money. They only used the money to try to meet the needs of a growing community.

And because EOB was an agency that groomed its management from inward -- you know, it first started with a lady by the name of Elaine Walbok, a white lady, Swedish. And that name is

spelled W-a-l-b-o-k. She had with her a lady by the name of Sylvia Staples. Staples stayed with that agency until she retired. When Elaine Walbok (sic) left, she had the guy under her named Catrell. He ran the Housing Authority here for quite sometime for the county. Catrell brought in Hoggard under him. So when Catrell left, Hoggard moved up. Hoggard brought in James Tyre. When Hoggard left, James Tyre moved up. Then James Tyre brought in Sylvia Staples. They always had somebody there at the top that understood the agency from the bottom up.

The problems that caused EOB to be in the shape that it's in now is because we had some board members who decided that they wanted to bring someone from out of state. And the person who came in from out of state wanted to create a whole new staff of folks at the top. And she did. So you lost the continuity because one of the things that you had with EOB in order to meet the needs of the people that were being served by some 40 grants, you had to juggle those grants in order to keep the people in place to deliver those services to the people that you were trying to serve.

So when you brought people in at a time when the state had been advanced money to meet those service needs and the money was there in the general fund, they saw that as money without any attachments. So they began to spread the money around the agency.

It wasn't supposed to be that way. Of course, people who were there knew that the money was supposed to go to a specific project or a specific grant. And it didn't do that.

Of course, when you come in and change your financial officer and all of those folks, the people at the top, the director and the assistant director and your financial officer, then you lose that continuity. And when people come in cold, then they have to operate based on what their past experiences were. And if their past experiences did not meet the needs of the agency they were now working in, they were going to mess up. And that's what happened. That's what happened.

So the money that they got would not cure the problem that they got into because as they spent money by moving and creating -- increasing the image, as they said it, or improving the image by moving out of an old building and getting into a new building and things of that sort and then having an increase in salaries, the money had to come from somewhere. And all of a sudden, you found yourself now, as today, that they did not have money to pay certain salary increases. They got behind because the structure that Tyre, Hoggard, and the others had set up was one that

provided for a letter of credit from a bank in case they got into trouble, to go borrow money to meet those needs. Once the grant comes back in, they were to put that money back.

But once you exceeded that particular point in terms of your grant by spending other monies that now the state says you have to pay back -- of course, they didn't have to pay all the money back because the state had advanced them some money for childcare needs. They did not have to pay all that money back because a lot of that money did go for childcare needs. But the state took advantage of them and said, "Okay, we advance you \$2 million. So you owe us \$2 million."

But, you see, nobody had sense enough to go back and say, "No, we're not going to pay you \$2 million. We're going to go back and look at how much of that two million went for that particular need. Then we're going to pay you the difference." But, see, nobody did that.

As a result, the state's sitting back there with folded arms saying, "You pay us the money." So they've got the agency struggling trying to do that.

But nobody absconded with any money from that agency. What actually happened was that we tried to use what we called the MICA group from Iowa to come in as a stopgap to ward off some of these things until we could take a look at the agency. And I was there at the time. We tried to then bring in some people and reduce the board to an operating board so we could get people there who were interested in the agency.

In the meantime, they moved out MICA and brought in Jean Childs. Jean Childs grew up with the agency. She had 25 years with EOB in Head Start. When I heard that they were getting rid of her and bringing in Dr. Murray, I said, "Oh, Lord, they have lost the agency." They had broken that strand again.

Of course, Jean just got up and left. But Jean could have told them, "Okay, Head Start, this is the problem you've got to correct." She had the authority and the confidence of people in San Francisco at national to actually buy time to do certain things.

But with Dr. Murray coming in, they said, "Well, look, you have changed the MICA people. You've gone through, say, four managers in two years." That's what they looked at and said, "Okay, that's the problem," and confronted that.

The people on the board didn't have sense enough to understand that. You've got new

people on the board. Like the manager that came in when I was there said, "We need our own folks," not understanding, of course, how the board operated and how the agency operated.

Now, if it comes to the point that they have to sell the radio station, why couldn't members of the community step in and buy the radio station, a group of people from right here?

I don't know. I don't know. They probably could. They probably could do that. The group of people that we've got up there on the board now is being influenced by somebody else, people from the outside.

Outside of the county? Outside of Nevada?

Well, let me tell you this. This goes back to gaming again. Gaming doesn't like that radio station.

Why?

Well, one of the things is that, when I was there, they thought I was going to utilize it against them; that I could use it to reach the public. They saw it as a means of getting out there and reaching the public against them. So they wanted to get rid of that station. That is one of the reasons why you saw the county coming out with the idea to sell the station in order to get their \$200,000.

Now, the station, they tell me, is worth anywhere between 5 and 13 million. And I'm saying to myself, "Why in the hell is the county going to take \$200,000 and force people to sell the station?" I could not understand that. Now, I did not go before the county. If I had gone before the county -- of course, they don't utilize me like they should.

I happened to be reading in the paper about the city. So I went down and talked to the city about it and told them what I just told you on tape here, how the EOB functions and what the problems were and how they got into the situation and that they were taking care of this need of government and that they were just not some group that was just hanging out there trying to get money from somebody.

Of course, Mayor Goodman asked me, "Have you talked to the board about this? Have you told the board the same?" I said, "No, I didn't tell the board, but I'm telling you." He said, "The point that you make is a good one." The point that I was making was a good one. That was

kind of like the story.

Now, if I had been able to go to the county, I probably would have said the same thing. We've got people on the county who did not utilize their position to do the right things and learn about the board. Now, Yvonne let us down on that particular score by including KCEP in a sale of this particular station and by allowing the press to virtually take over. And nobody countered them. A woman who was sitting in from the R-J, when I got up and spoke, was writing about this and she had written an article that was critical of EOB. When she called Murray, she said, "Well, I've heard Senator Neal talk about the EOB, and I did not understand the history behind EOB and the way that he explained it to the city council. Some of the things that we've been saying are wrong."

But you couldn't convince the paper of that because you've got those libertarians over there. When they wrote the article, they left my name and statement completely out of it. According to the article, I didn't appear before the city. But fortunately for the community and the city, there's Channel 2. And people said, "Well, I saw you on Channel 2 explaining about this."

Of course, Weekly didn't even know that I was coming down because he didn't call me. The people should know. I told the guy, "Look, I can say things that you guys can't say. And I can argue your case better than you can on these types of issues."

Well, that's all I have to say about that particular question on the EOB.

And I just have one follow-up question. Are the people who are involved so afraid of giving away power that they don't invite people in to help them argue their cases?

I think that would be the case, as far as I'm concerned. I'm very straightforward. I don't try to beat around the bush. I just tell you what I think about things and put it out there for you. If I'm knowledgeable about things, I'm going to tell you, "This is what I see. This is what I understand about this particular issue." Now, you can refute me if you want to. Fine. I don't get angry because of that.

But, you see, you've got Hartford on that board. You've got Robinson on that board. You've got Weekly on that board. You've got a representative from the county commission, Yvonne, on that board. Now, they set up and let the R-J and Pratt and all of them write these big articles about the agency. Nobody said anything. But when I was there, see, I took their butt on.

Who is Robinson?

Bill Robinson, William Robinson. He's on the city council for North Las Vegas.

Oh, okay. Good.

So over the years that you've been here, what are some of the major changes that you see when you look at government and -- just looking at this city, what are some of the major changes?

Some of the major changes since I've come here have been public accommodations. That's one of the major changes I see in the city that they did not have when I first came here.

And one other change would be -- well, we used to have the police investigate themselves whenever they had a shooting. That was one of the changes that I participated in, to be able to have a coroner's inquest. Even though the coroner might not find in favor of the victim or the victim's family, they did get an opportunity to see some of the evidence of what happened and hear some of the evidence on which they could file a lawsuit. That helped.

Other changes along that would be the police review board. The police review board is a major change. In fact, we just had a Supreme Court decision on that the other day in which they ruled that the police review board could subpoena officers. Officers were saying that they couldn't be subpoenaed by the police review board. But the Supreme Court said, "Yes, you can be subpoenaed." Of course, I did not have any doubts about that because we did say they could be subpoenaed. We made that very clear in our law that that should be the case. So the Supreme Court upheld that.

If those cops had been able to get away with that, the police review board would have been toothless. You know, you could not get anybody before, an officer, to testify about what happened. It wasn't a police review anymore, you see, after that.

Other changes, I guess, would be in terms of the education system, the institution that you're involved with. The growth of UNLV and Nevada State College system and the Community College system has developed in and around here.

Other changes would be the local libraries that they have in the areas here, which made it feasible for citizens who wanted to go somewhere and research and read things about it. That has been something that I participated in and made available to the public. We also required that all of

the laws that are passed would automatically go to these libraries. They don't have to pay for those services. It's just a public service. I did that for them. Copies of the laws even go to the law library and libraries throughout the state so people can keep up with what's actually going on here.

The other change would be in fire safety that we talked about. The retrofit law was a major change here. But, you know, O'Callaghan, when he was governor from '70 through '79, those eight years there, had done a lot in terms of mental health and industrial injury. That was going along fine. And then all of a sudden, that got taken over by private industry. We virtually gave that away. That was one of the bad things that happened here.

Under our constitution we are supposed to create a fund for injured workers. Together with that, it says that we also have to provide that particular service. O'Callaghan had gone further and created a rehabilitation system for that. Of course, now that is being taken over by UNLV, which is out there on Charleston, giving up that facility. They're making it difficult for people who get injured to have that service without paying an arm and a leg for it. It used to be a service that was provided by the state, and the State Industrial Insurance Commission has since taken that over. That came under Kenny Guinn.

Of course, I fought against that. That was one of those famous meetings that they couldn't get on in the daytime because I was arguing against it and they decided to punish us and have a meeting at 12 midnight. So we came in at 12 midnight --

(End side 1, tape 2.)

So we came in at 12 midnight. The Republicans in the Senate got up and voted. They passed the bill. I got the floor right after that, and I would not relinquish the floor, not to anybody. If I had relinquished the floor, they would have moved to adjourn. But I would not relinquish the floor. All the Republicans walked out, including the president of the Senate, Ms. Hunt, who was also the lieutenant governor.

So we waited about 20 minutes. Then I invoked the constitutional rule of the call of the House, which meant that the sergeant-in-arms had to go find these guys and bring them back. Of course, they tried to talk to me, "Why don't you wait until morning comes?" I said, "No, they're going to come back now. So find them."

One senator said that I said, "Go find them, even if you have to bring those sons-a-bitches

back in handcuffs." So I probably did say that. I don't recall. You know, they had to listen to the tape to find that. That's something I probably would have said.

Of course, they did find a couple of the Senators hiding out because there were nine Democrats and we only had two. That meant we had a quorum so that we could conduct business. So I can recall that -- and this fellow is a friend of mine. His name is Magenty, and he represents the small counties. See, we had these television terminals in our offices so that you could see what's happening on the floor. And he told me later, "Once I saw you invoke that rule, I said, 'Damn, he got us.'"

So they found him. Then they found Ray Rawson and brought him down. Then we started conducting business. When they found out that we were conducting business, they went and got Hunt. And Hunt had to hurry back. So we were up there. Finally the word got out that if you don't come back, they're passing legislation down there now.

I would not let our side go ahead and just start repealing everything. If we voted to repeal it, they would get up and move to be reconsidered, which meant that we had to come back the next day. It was funny that when we did that, we brought attention to the fact that they were trying to sell to the private industry.

I'll never forget Ann O'Connell. I guess we left around about 3 o'clock or 3:30 in the morning. Ann O'Connell had gone home and rolled up her hair. She came back in her pajamas and her house shoes. She said, "You rascal, I know you done this to us."

Oh, that's great. Thank you.

But see, one of the things about the call of the House -- and a lot of people don't know that -- one of the Senators, Mark James, found out that (indiscernible). He said, "You know, when I looked at that and went back and looked at the statutes, we had the call of the house. You guys could have denied us our salary for the rest of the session." I said, "Yes, it would have been constitutional."

Is that that book again? On that basis?

Yes.

Okay, great.

But this was the constitution. This was the constitution of Nevada statutes this time. See,

the call of the House is a constitutional rule. It only takes three senators. If it's invoked, they have to enforce it. And so I invoked to call the House. They said, "Well, no. See if you can get him to put it off." I said, "No, I'm not going to put it off."

Of course, if you wanted to be mean with it, once you invoke it and they don't show up, "Okay, call the roll. Call the roll. Okay. I move that his salary be suspended for the rest of the session." So they don't want to do that.

Really. What do you see as the future of downtown Las Vegas?

Well, with this mayor that you have, you expect to have a number of high-rise buildings to be coming in downtown. And that's going to change the face of downtown. You can see that developing right now. I saw the rendering of a building that they had before the council the other week when I was down there, a beautiful structure that they're planning on building.

I think in about another five or ten years that whole downtown is going to undergo a transformation. It's going to be different. It's going to be new because, see, in the first place, they're going to bring a lot of people downtown. By building high-rises, they're going to have folks being in downtown. They're going to have to clean out a lot of those small buildings that have been around for a while. I foresee them developing this particular area.

They're going to have a difficult time in doing that because of the other needs that we spoke about earlier such as water. Water becomes a very limited factor in any type of building. I think it would be a limiting factor here in the Las Vegas area. If they can overcome that, get the right snow pack in the upper Colorado River, they might be able to do well, or if they can get some desalination plant on the California side and be able to take that acreage of water that goes to California right now. Those are the possibilities that they have to deal with in terms of their building.

See, right now California has about 12 desalination plants that run up and down that coastline. But they're not efficient enough to produce a large volume of water for a population. But that technology is being worked on. Eventually, it's going to be where they can actually utilize it for a large population.

It's the same thing with the nuclear reactors. You know, they used to build the nuclear reactors. Well, hell, those things used to be about the size of this house. But now they've got

them now where a nuclear reactor can be about this size. I saw one about several years ago that they were perfecting in Zion. They have it right now in South Africa. South Africa is the leading country now in nuclear energy because of the type of reactors that they're funding. It's not a danger to their population and they're developing it. If they get that, then it will help a lot of arid places like this where you don't have water to run your power plants and things of that sort.

What kind of effect do you see through the downtown renovation? Do you see it affecting the old Westside community that's so close to that downtown area?

Yeah. Well, eventually, it's going to spill into the old Westside area because what we have here is high ground. We're not subject to flooding. Of course, down the hill here, we're kind of subject to flooding. But all this area along in here is not subject to flooding. It's only when you get out here to the Gowan area that you get the run-off. There's the Buffalo Ditch that covers a lot of land. Once they block that off and try to build channels and streets in those particular areas up there, then that water kind of runs right down the streets, particularly when you have a heavy rain. But you don't have that problem here in the Westside and also over there on that land by the government buildings, the county government building.

So when you see the World Trade Center that's being built over there, that close to the Westside, the only thing that's separating it is the freeway. Eventually, they're going to have to come out of there and jump across Bonanza and get into this particular area. A lot of the area traffic already uses Washington to get on and off the freeway so that you come around to that property. You've got to have that in order to get away from the congestion.

See, it's difficult to access the freeway from the Charleston area right now. That's kind of a dangerous area there. You have a lot of accidents occurring. But when you come up on Washington and the freeway, getting off and on, you don't have that problem because you can pull off on the side and traffic still can come by.

With that, it's an indication that you're going to have the old Westside impacted in the future by the business development in the area.

So now, is there anything that you would like to add? Any bills of importance to you that we have not touched on? Anything in the personal realm? Anything locally?

I can't think of anything right now. Probably I'll have something come to mind once you

leave. No, no. I can't think of anything right now.

Well, I thank you so much.

Is this the last interview?

I think so.

Oh, okay.

(End side 2, tape 2.)