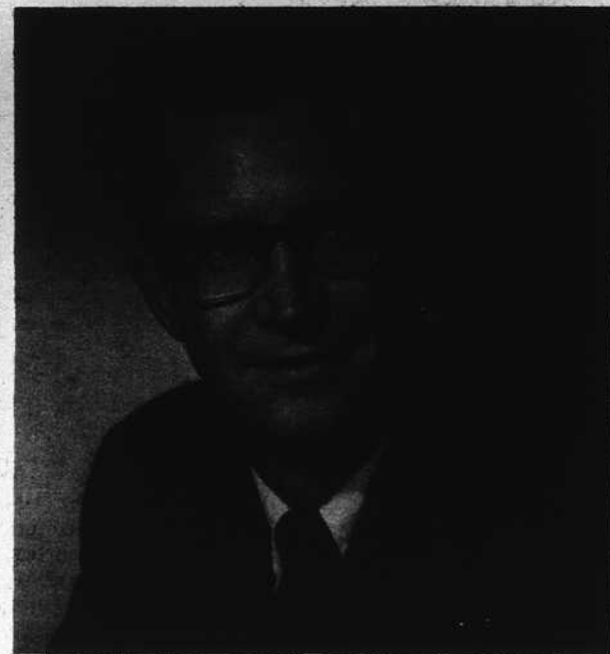




NASSAU, Bahamas, -- Negro Airmen International, an organization formed to promote aviation careers among black people, held its annual meeting at the Flagler Inn recently. Some 180 members, family and friends attended. Guest speaker at the banquet was Dr. the Hon. Doris L. Johnson, Minister of Transport for the Bahamas, shown with organization founder and president, Edward A. Gibbs (left) of Westbury, Long Island, N. Y., and Brigadier General Daniel James, Assistant Secretary of Defense and the highest ranking Negro officer in the United States Air Force.



A former Assembly speaker, Mel Close, Las Vegas attorney, said today he will seek a Clark County seat in the State Senate on the Democratic ticket.

Close, who is completing his third term in the Lower House, was speaker for the 1967 regular and 1968 special sessions of the Nevada Legislature. He was minority floor leader during the 1969 session.

In his first term in the Assembly, Close was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to which approximately one-fourth of all bills introduced were referred for study. He also was a member of the Committee of Banks, Insurance and Corporations, and the Committee on State Publicity and Economic Development.

Close served as Nevada's commissioner to the National Conference on Uniform States Laws and as Chairman of the interim committee to revise Nevada's criminal code.

The committee's work was written into law by the 1967 session of the legislature.

Close brought to the code revision task his experience as an assistant United States attorney for Nevada and Clark County deputy district attorney.

He has practiced law privately for eight years and currently is a member of the law firm of Jones, Jones, Close, Bilbray and Kaufman, Ltd. He is a graduate of Las Vegas High School, Brigham Young University and the University of California Law School.

He and his wife, Sandra, are the parents of three children.

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