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# LAS VEGAS VOICE

NEVADA'S BLACK COMMUNITY  
15 WEEKLY

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## GOVERNOR APPOINTS BLACK TO PAROLE BOARD

Governor Mike O'Callaghan appointed a Las Vegas woman to replace a resigning member of the State Board of Parole Commissioners.

Ida Mae Crockett was named by the Governor to succeed Gloria M. Castleberry of Henderson, who has been associated with the five-member parole board since 1972.

Mrs. Crockett is a



native of Lake Providence, Louisiana, and has been a resident of Las Vegas for the past 16 years.

She is an active member of the American Businesswomen's Association and the Las Vegas Branch of the National Association for the advancement of Colored people.

Mrs. Crockett is currently employed by Reynolds Electric in Las Vegas.

## NEW DIRECTION FOR WEST LAS VEGAS

A new day has arrived in Las Vegas, Nevada's politics. A new organization, with new leadership, for new directions. The new directions were expressed by Chairman Pro-tem James Walker, when he said, "West Las Vegas, has been short changed. We are in a political system that is unresponsive to the needs of our people." The truth is particularly apparent when we understand that this lack of responsiveness has brought about an increasing loss of faith in Nevadas' political system within the Black Community.

We will not be taken for granted by white or Black politicians. In order to do this we must organize. We must organize the Black Community. We must have economic workshops, so that our people will know what to demand from a political system. We will not support politicians, Black or White, who are not relevant to the needs of our community.

We are getting excellent support, our membership is increasing. The Sunday meeting was a good meeting. Remember the election is January 19, 1975, 6:00 p.m. at the NAACP office in the Golden West Shopping Center.

Remember, if you have not paid your membership fee by the 17th of January, you cannot vote in this coming election, for president of this organization.

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 12, 1975 at 6:00 p.m. in the NAACP office. The agenda will be the report of the nominating and membership drive.

## SPOTTSWOOD SUCCESSOR MUST BE WISE CHOICE

NNPA-The death of Bishop Stephen Gill Spottswood has created a significant vacancy on the Board of Directors of the NAACP. It will be difficult for anyone to take his place.

As Chairman of the Board, Bishop Spottswood put his own imprimatur on the post. He was fearless and outspoken in denouncing the sins of omission, as well as commission of the Nixon Administration. He refused to back down in the face of the opposition mounted against his attack. Yet, he served with dignity, honor and restraint. The NAACP board will meet on January 13th to select his successor. We strongly suggest that the person named must be one of sound reputation and dedication to the unfinished business of the organization which remains the bulwark of the continuing struggle for freedom.

This individual must have experience as a civil rights activist, but it is imperative that he or she should be free of any obligations that would hamper the policy-making process of the association. Personal ambition must not be allowed to override the serious business of selection. Now, more than ever, we need wisdom and statesmanship in the conduct of the affairs of the association. Above all, the individual who is chosen must enjoy the total confidence and respect of the black community.

We do not hesitate to repeat our basic dislike of the undemocratic system by which the board is a self-perpetuating body. It does not truly reflect the will of the rank and file members. Nevertheless, we will continue to urge our readers to redouble their support, as well as to recruit new enlistees in the cause.

On January 13, when the board meets, we sincerely hope it will lay aside all partisan, political or personal considerations in getting the right person for the job. It has a responsibility not only to the 400,000 plus NAACP members who will be looking to the new Chairman for leadership in the crucial days ahead, but also to every black American who counts on the NAACP to wipe out the last vestige of racial discrimination.

## EXCLUSIVE SENATOR JOE NEAL INTERVIEW



SENATOR JOE NEAL

What do you consider the main issue affecting Blacks in the State of Nevada?

The main issue affecting Blacks in the State of Nevada, as elsewhere, is survival. The term "survival" is intended to be used here in its broadest sense, because it intertwines the economical, political, and social aspects of our group. I do not mean to imply that our political struggle to survive just began yesterday. It has been, and will be for some time to come, a continuous struggle. The tripartite arrangement of survival is such, that it allows for a minimum movement for those outside of the controlling group. Because the economic aspect of survival is vertical, rising from the abject poverty to a pinnacle of complete success, we find that, when struck by such economic chaos as we are presently facing, with a rise in unemployment and a current collapse of business, the economic pole, which forms one leg of the tripartite survival structure becomes slippery and threatens everything below it as the pressures foreclose against any forward movement to the top. Whenever this happens, our social values are affected and our spirit becomes a "city without walls, subject to attack from all directions." Some fall prey to the schemes of the fast buck artist, some attempt to drown their despair in a bottle, and some will grasp at quick solutions to our dilemma, causing them to slip further into the dark abyss of hopelessness.

We are close to such a state today. People are beginning to look to the political pole, for solutions to the economic pressures which are confronting them. Whenever this begins to happen, there is always the danger, of the politician employing a scheme that pits groups against groups or race against race, to heighten the emotions of the masses, in order to win their admiration and respect.

(continued on page 13)

### 'VOICE' INSIDE

Editor's Notebook  
Page 2

W.L. V. Development  
Page 2

NNPA Workshop  
Page 4

Silver Rights March  
Page 6

Church Directory  
Page 6

Women's Studies  
Page 7

Food Forum  
Page 7

H. U. Booters  
Page 8

Dan's Den  
Page 8

Girls Basketball  
Page 9

USA vs USSR  
Page 9

Broadcast Bill Dies  
Page 14

Ruby Says  
Page 14

Medicare Enrollment  
Page 14

Speed Reading  
Page 15

Black Bus. Dir.  
Page 17