

Letter To The Editor

Faithful Viewer
'Probe'

I have been a faithful viewer of Channel 13's Probe Program since its inception. I have found the topics covered lively and timely. The moderator seems to have a knack for securing key personalities & delving into issues of interest to the community.

On Sunday, September 21, the first day of Fall, the topic had to do with the recent efforts at curbing drug traffic in an area of the city. The guest for the day was Senator Joe Neal. The correspondents were Ms. Lynette Taylor of KVBC-TV and Mr. Bob Palm of the Las Vegas Sun Newspaper.

The questions asked by the panel and the responses given by the Senator were all excellent. I did, however, have a problem with the show. Each of the panel members, with the exception of Ms. Taylor, referred to the Senator as "Joe." I have observed that others, who have been guests of similar stature, are always addressed as Senator, Assemblyman, Commissioner, Mr. or some similar title.

I find it difficult to believe that Senator Neal is not extended similar courtesies.

Roosevelt Fitzgerald

High Election Costs May 'Force' Reapportionment

By Ed Brown

"I hope Senate District 3 is broken up," said Sen. Joe Neal when recently discussing with

other candidates the high cost of the 1980 election campaigns. "A poor man can't afford to run."

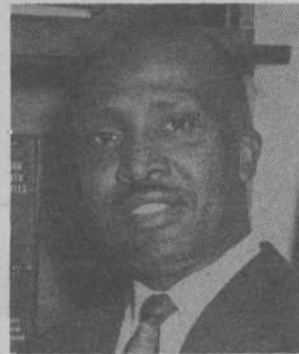
Wilson Calls For Community Action

Woodrow Wilson the first Black ever elected to the Nevada Legislature says "arresting of drug leaders is not enough that community cooperation in the police effort to control the drug war on the Westside is necessary.

Wilson was critical of L.V. Police Patrol Commander William Litton for stating that Westside Police Sub Station would not stop the outbreaks of violence going on at present.

"There are a lot more than just a drug war involved, Wilson states. A lot of people in this neighborhood are trying to survive inflation and unemployment. These people are desperate. They have nothing to lose by joining sides and increasing the violence.

"We need community leadership and we need it fast. The Black Community must join forces and turn against the leaders in the drug way or get sucked into an explosion that would



WOODROW WILSON

threaten the entire city. Las Vegas isn't that big and the Westside isn't that far from any other

(See Wilson, page 18)

As Senator of single member District 4, Neal plans to spend about \$25,000 in his re-election bid. That's a long way from the \$250,000 he feels some Senate District 3 candidates could spend.

Neal's opponent in the November 2 general election, Republican Bill McCurdy, estimates that his expenditures will be approximately \$30,000.

Senate Majority Leader Jim Gibson, D-Henderson, wants to cut Senate District 3 into three, two-member and one, single-member district.

"I have introduced bills several times to cut District 3," Gibson added. "We have broken down over personalities."

Sen. Floyd Lamb, District 3, agrees with Gibson. "It's getting too

expensive to campaign. I want District 3 cut at least in half."

The high cost of the 1980 election campaigns may convince members of the 1981 Legislature to redesign the boundaries of their districts without the fighting which plagued past reapportionment sessions.

The state's lawmakers pour over the latest census figures and hammer out new district boundaries for the state's 20 senators and 40 assemblymen. The famed "one man-one vote" decision by the U.S. Supreme Court forces the legislators in every state to maintain similar populations in each election district.

In the Assembly districts, Election Department Director George Ullom estimates each district needs about 7,500 voters to maintain

its present boundaries during the apportionment hearings which will be conducted by the 1981 Legislature.

Single-member senatorial districts will need 15,000 voters. Only Senate districts 1 and 4 are single-member districts. Senate District 2 has two members and Senate District 3 has seven members.

Reapportionment districts are based on population, not voter registration figure. To arrive at his conclusions, Ullom estimated that 15,000 people are old enough to vote in each 20,000 population Assembly district. Only half of that number bother to register.

In the Westside community, there are 2,651 voters registered in Assembly 6; 2,818 registered in Assembly 7 and in Senate 4, there are 5,016 registered voters.

The Las Vegas Sentinel

Tel: 384-9907
"2450 Industrial Road"



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