

### Neal Defends Position On West Las Vegas Charter

CARSON CITY —Sen Joe Neal last Wednesday defended his decision to include West Las Vegas in a new Las Vegas city charter, which paves the way for redevelopment efforts in blighted and crime-ridden areas.

Neal's decision has been criticized by Las Vegas Assembly Democrat Gene Collins and by Las Vegas representatives of the NAACP.

"We have been asking for redevelopment and revitalization of our area, and AB531 is a means by which this can be done", said Neal, D-North Las Vegas, during a morning press conference.

Neal also denounced the NAACP's call for a national boycott of Las Vegas because of the bill creating the new charter.

"It is ridiculous to call for such a boycott on a

measure which would benefit the community," said Neal, the only black member of the Senate. "The boycott which has been called would not serve any particular purpose when we have high unemployment in our area."

AB531, a 50-page document that makes mostly technical changes, includes a provision allowing the city to target "blighted or deteriorated areas" for redevelopment by setting aside special tax districts to pay for the reconstruction.

West Las Vegas, a predominately black community, was amended out of the city charter by Collins, one of two black assemblymen, but was put back in the bill by Neal when the measure reached the Senate. West Las Vegas is included in both Neal's and Collin's districts.

### Hooks reinstated to NAACP

Benjamin L. Hooks was reinstated last Thursday as executive director of the NAACP by Margaret Bush Wilson, the NAACP chairman who suspended him eight days earlier without giving a reason.

In a statement Reagan Hails Confab

### NEDCO hosted Seventh Procurement Conference

The seventh procurement conference for minorities, hosted by Nevada Economic Development Co., and held last week at the Desert Inn Hotel and Country Club, got "economically fueled" with the talks of luncheon speaker Richard Baribault, vice president of Alcoa Aluminum Corp. of America, and Travers Bell, chairman of the board of Daniels and Bell, the only minority firm on the New York Stock Exchange.

The conference held

released by the NAACP office in New York, Wilson said she reinstated Hooks because "essentially, the purposes for which the action was taken have been served, and no useful purpose will be gained by its continuance." She did not elaborate.

May 25-27, was created "for minority entrepreneurs to learn more about marketing. The conference ended with a special videotaped message from President Reagan, who said his administration will spend \$15 billion in the next three years for goods and services from minority businesses.

Reagan thanked Sen. Paul Laxalt, R-Nev., for suggesting the message, and NEDCO's Bob Bailey "for putting on the conference."

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