

February Is Black History Month

The month of February is BLACK HISTORY MONTH. It is an observance that will be developed throughout the school district, in churches, civic organizations and with individuals during the entire month. THE LAS VEGAS SENTINEL will, in each of its editions during the month, run special features depicting this memorable period in American history. From time to time, there will also be articles written by various members of the community highlighting interesting experiences realized in the community since its inception.

Moves To No. 4 In Seniority

SEN. NEAL IN POWER POSITION

Review-Journal Report

CARSON CITY—After six regular and two special sessions of the Nevada Legislature state Sen. Neal, D-North Las Vegas, can sit back and look upon the fruits of his labor—a committee chairmanship, his choice of committee assignments and a spot on the Senate's top committee.

When Neal first was elected senator in 1973 he didn't expect it to wind up that way.

Seniority, the Legislature's reward for long service, "didn't cross my mind" during the first session, Neal said in an interview Tuesday. "I guess I didn't even consider it. I looked at it one session and one election at a time."

But by the 1983 session Neal said he noticed that some of his senior colleagues wouldn't be coming back. That session gave him a committee chairmanship and his first seat on the Senate Finance Committee.

"I began to entertain the thought that I wanted to keep it," Neal said of his seniority.

Today Neal is tied with Sen. William Raggio, R-Reno, as the Senate's third most senior member. Tuesday he

changed his license plate to reflect his new status, up from No. 5 to No. 4. Raggio has No. 3 on his license plate.

Beyond just a knowledge of the Legislature, seniority gives senators benefits not awarded to more junior members.



Joe Neal

Neal has a second-floor office with a window and his own secretary. He chairs the Human Resources and Facilities Committee. He is one of three members of Senate Finance who also chairs a committee. He is assistant majority leader.

And, in this session, he made "the big leap to the first row" of the Senate chambers. Freshman sit in the third row, junior members in the middle, and the six most senior members in the front.

Beyond that, there is an intangible called "influence."

"You have more in-

fluence in dealing with state agencies to help your district," Neal said, adding that the governor must also deal with senior legislators to get programs passed.

Neal gives no indication that his seniority will in any way change his approach to issues. That approach probably would be characterized as "liberal" in Nevada.

He says he again will push for state approval of a holiday recognizing the slain civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr. Neal says he sees better prospects for a Nevada measure because of official recognition by President Reagan making King's birthday a national holiday beginning in 1986. A

LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE AWARDED MEMBERSHIP IN PRESTIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

The National Newspaper Publishers Association held its 1985 Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Palm Springs, Jan. 23-26. Black newspaper publishers, officers and representatives from across the country were in attendance for the series of workshops and meetings with some major business corporations in attendance.

Representatives from the West Coast Black Publishers Association served as hosts during the three-day conclave.

Ed and Betty Brown, co-publishers of the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, were in attendance. The SENTINEL-VOICE is one of the weekly newspapers published by the Brown Publishing Co.

Ed Brown, president of the Brown Publishing Co., was on hand to receive information that the organization had been awarded membership into the prestigious National Newspaper Publishers Association and the West Coast Black Newspaper Association.

NAACP NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of The Las Vegas Branch NAACP will be held Tuesday night, Feb. 5, at 7:00 p.m., in the new branch office inside of the O.I.C. Office Building, located at 1000 North "D" Street.

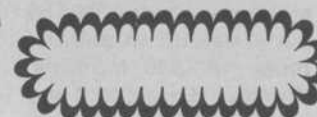
However, the mailing address remains the same:

Nevada measure was introduced in 1983 but failed.

He would also like to see a new look at Nevada's death penalty, which he opposes. Neal is not overly optimistic the death penalty will be repealed, but his added seniority this session could mean that a bill re-

pealing it won't be "cut off at the pass at the point of introduction, like it was in 1983."

Neal, the Senate's only black member, said he wants the Legislature to take a position opposing American investments in South Africa, a nation which practices racial segregation.



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