

WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

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CITY'S UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS SOAR

Neal Vows To Be Responsive To Voters

Congressman-elect Stephen L. Neal (5th-District) vowed recently to put the concerns of his constituents above all else. Neal's business office here is already receiving correspondence from people presenting problems.

"Although I have not yet assumed office," Neal said, "I am happy to receive these inquiries from citizens of the district." In addition, "It is my intention to provide a constituent service second to none in the Congress. Although I do not yet have staff to handle casework, I'll help with any problem I'm able to handle."

Although Neal's post-election schedule is more demanding than that of his

victorious campaign, he declares that he likes it that way.

Neal is in Washington this week for an orientation session for freshmen congressmen. Thursday night, he will fly to Kansas City, where he is a delegate to the National Democratic "mini-convention" Friday through Sunday.

At his business office here, Neal has been flooded with several hundred applications for staff jobs and a steady stream of telephone calls and visits from well-wishers. Add to that the time-consuming task of learning to be a congressman, plus overseeing the business affairs of the four small corporations he heads, and it's easy to understand that Steve Neal is a busy man.



Stephen L. Neal

"Obviously, there are many things I need to learn before taking my seat in the 94th Congress," Neal said. "A knowledge of protocol and procedure is essential to efficiency. More important, I must keep abreast of issues and seek solutions to pressing national problems. All these things require long hours of study."

Unemployment claims in the Winston-Salem area in Nov. soared to six times that of last May and were three times greater than those of a year ago, according to Grover C. Teeter, Jr., manager of the Employment Security Commission (ESC) here.

Teeter said the amount of claims paid out in November of this year totalled \$325,000. The amount paid out a year ago was \$85,000. The increase, however, is due partially because of a bill passed in October that raised the maximum amount of benefits to \$90 per week as opposed to \$68.

The Winston-Salem branch of the ESC placed 100 fewer workers in jobs last month than in October. They placed 270 in jobs in Nov. "That's good considering the state of the economy," Teeter said in a recent interview. "It should remain there unless things really get tough."

Teeter said there have been no "big" lay-offs in the area (Davie, Forsyth, Yadkin and Stokes counties) and he doesn't look for it to happen. "But the major companies that are not laying off," he said, "are not hiring either." What that does is to cause a gradual swelling of the unemployment ranks. Right now there are twice as many job seekers as there normally are for this time of year.

Teeter expects, too, that

with the arrival of the seasonal tobacco worker things will get a little tighter:

"There are 2,500 to 3,000 seasonal tobacco workers. When that time is over, one-half will stay and look for work. That usually swells the unemployment ranks by 1 1/2 to 2 per cent. When they come out it makes the problem worse."

There is a bit of good news to be found amidst all the bad, however. Winston-Salem received approximately \$114,000 a week ago through the manpower council to provide jobs in the public sector. Teeter expects this type of assistance to increase. Another possibility that may ease things some is the city's attempt to attract new industry to the area.

The ESC, however, is taking direct action to thwart the unemployment problem:

"We're intensifying contacts with employers to show openings. We are also capable of providing assistance to employers with on-the-job training; expanding facilities into rural areas we're serving; and we've hired extra people ourselves to handle the extra workload."

No one knows, not even economists, what will happen in the near future. But it is generally agreed that even if things were corrected today, it would be some time before anyone could feel the effects.

Meat Cutters Return To Work

Meat cutters who were picketing stores in the Winston-Salem area and throughout the state last week will probably be back on the job for Saturday's shoppers. The meat cutters have accepted a plan that will significantly increase their salaries over the next two years.

It was reported that members of the local 525, Meat, Food, & Allied Workers' Union, AMC & BW of NA, AFL-CIO considered the move a positive accomplishment.

Local meat cutters had picketed Big Star Food Store in Northside Shopping Center here last week and vowed to "break this company from ripping off North Carolinians."

Shoppers Are Warned Of Flim-Flam Artists

You've read about "flim-flam" artists.

They're smooth-talking individuals who try to convince you that you can make a lot of money quickly, just by putting up some of your own money in advance.

But when you take your money out of the bank and turn it over to the stranger, it's gone. And so is the stranger.

Occasionally a flim-flam artist even claims to be a bank officer who is trying to catch a "dishonest employee". The approach is a little different, but the result is the same: Once the money is turned over to the stranger, that's the last that is seen of either. Don't be a flim-flam victim. If anyone

you don't know asks you to use your money in any unusual way, call a bank officer immediately.

Just ask for any bank officer you know personally. Give him the full details.

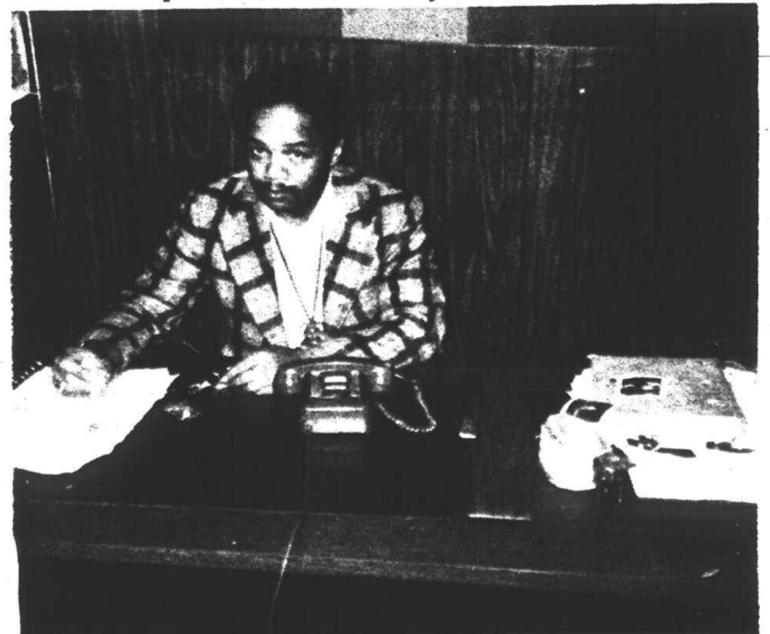
Your quick action might catch a crook...and protect your money at the same time.

Chronicle Regrets

Mistake

The Chronicle made an error last week in referring to Northside Shopping Center as Northgate. The Chronicle regrets the mistake and hope our readers will accept our apology.

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Rodney Sumler: "Black people in Winston-Salem are socially immature." See Story on Page 7.

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