

# Ruby Says

by **Ruby Duncan**

Even in the midst of the legislature and several community projects, new problems and issues arise in the Food Stamp program. This time, the problem is not with the food stamp office here, but with USDA. Beginning March 1, the price of food stamps is scheduled to go up for almost every household. While inflation causes the most severe suffering for poor people, President Ford and USDA decide to RAISE THE PRICE of poor people's food stamps to help fight inflation! No fancy economic theories will convince hungry families that less food is really helping them.

The new policy of USDA is to have every household pay 30% of its net income for food stamps. Now the price averages about 23%, so it amounts to about 1/3 more that participants will have to pay. Many households will only get a bonus value (free stamps) of \$1 for a family of four. So many people will probably drop out of the program.

News out of Washington is that many senators and congressmen will fight the increase. In fact, we would like to commend, Senator Cannon for his public stand against the new policy. He understands the poor people already are hurting more than most families, and that the increase will hurt most

the poorest and the elderly members of our society. It will probably be a week or two before Congressional action occurs, so there is time to write to the President and USDA, if you want to oppose this plan.

Right now, the Nevada food stamp program is certifying households for March, so the notices sent to households for March will show the new, higher price that people will have to pay. However, if Congress stops the increase, and Nevada receives word before February 25, the cards will come out of the computer with the regular, lower price, and people will pay that. If the change is stopped after the cards are printed, but before March 1, the food stamp office will make other plans to help people pay only the lower amount. Clark County Welfare Rights will be working to keep all participants informed of whatever happens, so that everyone gets what they should and pays only what they are supposed to.

If you are interested in learning more about food stamps, CCWRO is conducting a food stamp workshop on Thursday, evening, February 27, 1975. It will be held at EOB beginning at 7:00 p.m. We would be happy to have everyone come and learn about their food stamp rights, and ask any questions about the program.

## V A FACTS

Q -- I bought a house in 1954 with a maximum loan guaranty of \$7,500 from the Veterans Administration. Since the Veterans Housing Act of 1974 increased the loan guaranty from \$12,500 to \$17,500, Am I eligible for more entitlement?

A -- Yes. You would be eligible for the \$17,500 guaranty if you sold your home and paid the GI loan in full.

Q -- I'm a veteran drawing compensation from the Veterans Administration for a 30 per cent service-connected disability. I'll be 65 and retired soon, and wonder if I can waive compensation and switch to pension?

A -- Yes, if you apply to VA and it is to your advantage. The agency will determine this based on information you provide, and pay you the higher benefit.

Q - My husband has just retired after 20 years in military service. Am I eligible for CHAMPVA, the Veterans Administration health care program?

A -- No, but military retirees and their dependents are eligible for a similar program of health care, CHAMPUS. Suggest you have your husband check with military sources for details.

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The Veterans Administration, a recognized world leader in research and development of prosthetics and sensory aids, shares its findings and expertise with public and private medical organizations and practitioners.

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The Veterans Administration approved 106,000 GI home loans during the first four months of fiscal year 1975, a 5.4 per cent increase over the same period in fiscal year 1974.

A recent report revealed 1,241 Spanish-American War veterans ranging in ages from 87 to 104, were on Veterans Administration compensation and pension rolls. The average age was 95, with 36 veterans 100 years or older.

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A team of 1,327 Veterans Administration representatives worked last fall on campuses of nearly 2,000 colleges and universities, resolving pay and other problems of veterans training under the GI Bill.

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The Veterans Administration reminds that direct loans up to \$600 per academic year are available under some circumstances to eligible veterans, wives, widows and children training on a half-time or more basis at undergraduate colleges and certain other schools.

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California received \$1.5 billion of a total \$14.2 billion the Veterans Administration spent in fiscal year 1974 on facilities, operations and benefits for veteran and dependents, according to a recent agency report.

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Although only 299 of the 29 million living American veterans have been awarded the Medal of Honor, 33 of them work for the Veterans Administration in 27 installations in 22 states, the agency reported recently.

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A counseling psychologist in Des Moines, Iowa, and a veterans service officer in Portland, Oregon, recently became winners of the Veterans Administration's first Sam Rose Awards for exemplary accomplishments in assisting veterans and their families.

# THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

- THURS. **13** Absalom Jones, first Black rector in U.S., dies. 1818
- FRI. **14** Frederick Douglass, abolitionist, editor, orator, statesman, born a slave in Maryland. 1817
- SAT. **15** Shadrach, a fugitive slave, is rescued from federal marshals by Boston abolitionists. 1851
- SUN. **16** In Civil War, one fourth of sailors in Union Navy were Black.
- MON. **17** In 1800: 1,002,037 Blacks in U.S., 18.9 percent of population.
- TUES. **18** Quakers of Germantown, Pa. make first formal protest against slavery in colonial America. 1688
- WED. **19** First Pan-African Congress organized by W.E.B. DuBois, meets in Paris. 1919

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