

Ruby Says

by **Ruby Duncan**

It's the second week in March, and I'm still in Carson City, lobbying at the State Capitol Building. I am constantly learning that the legislators still don't understand that there are people in Nevada who have real problems, and I'm also learning that our lawmakers are still strongly influenced by self-interest, big corporations, and other powerful groups. There is nothing necessarily wrong with that, however, I believe that human needs should and must have the highest priority. There has so far been very little interest shown in the Legislature, so I'm looking forward to seeing what will happen in the next few weeks.

Unemployment insurance has become the nation's fastest-growing industry--a clear indication of the severity of our worst business slump since the Great Depression. With one million new jobless persons registering in a single week for unemployment benefits, and with two brand new supplemental programs beginning payments, the federal-state insurance system is expected to pump millions of dollars into the spending stream this year, tripling the pre-recession flow of

money. As the Depression deepens and inflation continues to rise, there may develop a more militant welfare rights organization -- revived by a new group of people who have found themselves jobless, due to no fault of their own. Thousands of people who never imagined they would ever be in such a situation.

I receive phone calls from all over this country and state, asking me where to turn for help. The only thing I can say is: talk to your Congressman, Jim Santini; your U. S. Senators; Howard Cannon and Paul Laxalt; and your State Senators and Assemblymen.

I want you to know, my brothers and sisters, that I have a vision that someday, somehow, our powers-that-be will hear the cry of the people of Nevada, and that they will be ready to listen.

You may be black, white, yellow, red, or brown; but I have a vision that ALL of us will be brought together by the best organizers there are. Those organizers are our state, county and city fathers--so you had better start making them listen to you. Let them hear the cry of the people.

V * A FACTS

A record 71,446 physicians, nurses and allied health workers receiving clinical training in Veterans Administration hospitals and clinics.

The Veterans Administration, one of the largest employers of handicapped persons hired nearly 1,200 in fiscal 1974, thus helping them prove they can overcome their handicaps.

Four million veterans whose GI home loans have been paid in full and their homes disposed of are potentially eligible for new loans under the Veterans Housing Act of 1974 (December 31).

Extra GI Bill entitlement is available to veterans and active duty military personnel to complete high school or take certain courses required for higher education and this "free entitlement" is not chargeable to the individual's normal entitlement.

New, low-cost Veterans Group Insurance is available to 2.7 million veterans separated from April 2, 1970, through July 31, 1975. Applications are available from the Veterans Administration and veterans service organizations, but premiums and applications must be sent before Aug. 1, 1975 to: Office of Serviceman's Group Life Insurance, 212 Washington St., Newark, N.J. 07102.

The Veterans Administration employs five per cent of all the physicians in the United States and is the world's largest employer of such professionals as nurses, clinical and counseling psychologists, dieticians, medical and psychiatric social workers and physical and occupational therapists.

The Veterans Administration today reminded married veterans that it is easier than ever to qualify for housing assistance.

Richard L. Roudebush Administrator of Veterans Affairs noted the agency now accords full recognition to incomes and expenses of both veteran and spouse in determining ability to repay loan obligations.

Roudebush said VA is required by law to determine if contemplated terms of repayment bear a proper relation to the veteran's anticipated income and expenses before approving the loan.

"But while the spouse's income has always been considered," Roudebush explained, "local rules sometimes had the effect of discounting the spouse's income. Now, however, no such local rules are imposed, and the spouse's income is given full consideration."

VA guarantees 60 per cent of GI loans (maximum \$17,500) private lenders make to military service personnel veterans and eligible spouses, of World War II, Korean and post-Korean Conflicts and the Vietnam-era.

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

March 1975

THURS. **13** Missouri Compromise enacted by Congress, barring slavery north of Missouri. 1820

FRI. **14** William C. Nell, appointed a clerk in Boston post office, was first Black to hold a federal position. 1861

SAT. **15** A.M.E.Z. Church founded in New York. 1821

SUN. **16** First Black newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*, published in New York. 1827

MON. **17** Black servants, slaves and explorers came to America on all major explorations, beginning with Columbus in 1492.

TUES. **18** The Phoenix Society, a literary and educational group, was founded by New York Blacks in 1833.

WED. **19** The first Black child born in an Anglo-American colony, William Tucker, was baptized at Jamestown, Virginia. 1619

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