

**V*A FACTS

Q -- Will advance payment of educational assistance be made to students who have enrolled in college?

A -- Yes. Payments for the initial month or fraction thereof and the succeeding month payable to the eligible person will be sent to the school prior to the start of the session, provided the school certifies enrollment in a course on at least one-half time training basis.

Q -- May I change the beneficiary on my National Service Life Insurance to name a bank as trustee for my children?

A -- Yes, you may. Name the trust in full. However, once the proceeds of the policy have been paid to the trustee, the VA has no responsibility to see that the purpose of the trust is fulfilled.

Q -- Father died while on active military duty. The widow remarried, and her present husband wished to adopt the child of the deceased veteran. Does the adoption terminate VA benefits for the child?

A -- No. A child never loses VA benefits accruing from a natural father.

Benjamin L. Hooks
FCC
COMMISSIONER



When I first came to the Federal Communications Commission, the agency's equal employment opportunity program was sporadic at best, staffed by part time Equal Employment Opportunity officers and directed by a division chief who, though well intentioned, could give only a part of his attention and energy to this most important project. Today, the Commission has established a full time in-agency EEO program, staffed by a young Black woman with a Latino assistant.

The Commission has also established an external (industry) EEO unit, staffed by two Blacks, one of whom is also an attorney. This unit will deal with the powerful industries we regulate. I have been designated the "EEO Commissioner" as well as the "Backlogs Commissioner," the latter having to do with trying to unclog the FCC pipelines of the thousands of petitions and undealt with business matters we must urgently handle.

It is instructive that the Commission first established and staffed the in-agency EEO unit. We felt we would be remiss in our duties if we asked the industries we regulate to deal with minority hiring and upgrading in a positive way, if we ourselves were not doing so.

The external EEO unit has a mammoth task ahead, since of the 690 commercial TV stations in the U. S., only two are managed by Blacks. Few Blacks are managers of the nation's 7000 commercial radio stations, and the record of employment of Blacks and other minorities, including women if women can be said to be a minority, in positions of responsibility is a sorry one.

Nor is the employment record of public broadcasting any better. No Black manages a single one of PBS' some 200 television stations, and few of its some 700 radio stations. It is a matter of sorry record that while some 36 Blacks own radio stations in the U.S., there are only five Black owned TV stations, but only one in the Virgin Islands is on the air.

The road is long and perhaps rocky. But I believe we are beginning to make definite progress. If the presence of one Black -- it could have been any Black, not just me -- can cause these kinds of positive ripples in terms of Black hiring, upgrading, training, etc., what would the presence of a dozen Blacks in influential positions in the communications area do? The thought is titillating.

RUBY SAYS

by Ruby Duncan

The National Welfare Rights Organization held its bi-annual Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, July 17-20. The Convention was attended by members of welfare groups around the country, as well as by a number of persons who are not members but who support the goals and direction of the Welfare Rights Organization.

Representatives of the Clark County Welfare Rights Organization participating in the Convention included Essie Henderson, Dorothy Gean Poole, Alversa Beals, Joan Byron, and myself. I was coordinator of a workshop on the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment Program--one of many workshops--and was thus able to share the experiences and successes of the Operation Life Community Health Center.

Plenary sessions held were on the topics of: Aid to Families with Dependent Children, the Working Poor, Aging and Politics. An abundant amount of information was offered concerning regulations of the welfare, food stamp, and SSI (Supplemental Security Income) programs. There was also knowledge shared about subjects such as legal issues, unemployment, social security, utility campaigns, medical needs, housing, programs for the aged, and economic development.

Convention participants discussed our efforts, and how to organize our people power to ensure that the needs of the poor and of the elderly are met. My feeling was that all of those in attendance at the Convention left at the conclusion of the meeting with a better understanding of many subjects, as well as a greater understanding of how to use their knowledge for the most beneficial results.

It is up to the citizens of the U. S. to see to it that those in positions of responsibility do provide for the people's needs. The general population holds the real power in this country, but only if we learn how to utilize it by cooperating and working together for the good and benefit of all people.

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

THURS. **31** Free Black mechanics of New Orleans organize themselves into "Les Artisans" 1834

August 1975

FRI. **1** Slavery abolished in British Empire. 1834

SAT. **2** William Still begins record of fugitive slaves passing through Philadelphia's underground railroad station. 1850

SUN. **3** Archibald Carey appointed first Black chairman of President's Committee on Government Employment Policy. 1957

MON. **4** Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, surgeon, dies. 1931

TUES. **5** James A. Healy, Black Roman Catholic bishop, dies in Portland, Me. 1900

WED. **6** John W. Work, musicologist, born. 1873

DISPLAY ADVERTISING RATES



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