



RUBY SAYS

A recent newsarticle referred to the "so called self-help organizations" which seemed to indicate to me that many people don't realize the significance of people really helping themselves.

Operation Life is truly a self-help organization. It was formed by a group of welfare mothers who were tired of not being able to support their families, tired of having to sell their souls to the welfare department just to get a roof over their head, and they were tired of not knowing when that roof would be taken away by the same welfare department most likely by some bureaucratic error. They were also haunted by fear that their children would live the same type of life they had.

It was out of desperation that Operation Life was formed. These women had no choice - they had to do better. Is that so hard for people to understand? It may be because they don't understand how it is to be on welfare and what a horror it is knowing the chances are that your life will never be any better. And you know that many people out there do live better. You see the beautiful homes, and read about people's lives and it really hurts to know that you or your children will never have the chance or opportunity to live the same way - unless just unless you can find a way.

They have been heading in their planned directions. They have provided needed jobs to welfare mothers cutting their dependency on the State for their livelihood - they have helped children to become stronger - our records have shown the good development of these children from the first day they came to later times.

Well, it was the hope of people here in Las Vegas who formed Operation Life that it was the way to a better life. United, they could develop jobs for themselves where no one else would even consider hiring them. They could also bring programs into Nevada that would help them with the basics of their lives that no one else would bring in. These women understand the basics. Healthy children grow up to be strong, alert adults. High protein foods also help develop a healthy body and mind. This was the direction Operation Life took - eventually, they would spread out and maybe even change the whole complexion of their community -- not just looking to help the children of tomorrow, but working to see good change today for all.

Operation Life brought the Early Periodic Screening Program into Nevada. The State had no intention then and they reluctantly and under pressure gave it to a poor group of women who made it the most successful in the nation.

The WIC program, which brings several hundred thousand dollars just of food into Nevada each year for poor women and children was brought into Nevada by these same women. The State of Nevada was one of two states that had no intention of applying and we had to write the state's plan! Would you believe that?

Poor women have had to help themselves in this state and without much cooperation. State officials brag about the millions of dollars surplus in the Nevada Treasury while people need vital services. Nevada is one of the top ten states out of less than half of the states that pay more taxes for the Federal government than they get back from the government in aid. Nevada could be showing everyone in the nation how to eliminate poverty and have a high standard of living for all of their residents. Yet, instead they continue to fight those who do help, like Operation Life.

I just want everyone to know that we are not going to stop trying to help people lead that better life no matter how much pressure is put on us to stop. Operation Life is more than a program - it is a concept that we can live by and will last no matter what the powers that be do to it.

I would like to thank the Delmonica organization who has stood beside us in our struggles to survive. They are truly good people who we love and appreciate.

BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

CONVERSATION ROWE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Dee Cee scene is charged with electrical anticipation as the year winds down and an incoming administration winds up. The pending transfer of Presidential authority to a new party has got specs flying high as to whom will replace who, where, and when. Some hopes have already been dashed as it's now apparent that Cong' man Andy Young would rather remain that then switch to the U.S. Ambassador's office at the U.N. Others are saddened that from insider's reports Rep. Brock Adams is heavily favored to replace Secy of Trans. Williams T. Coleman. With all the big bucks this dept. spends it was hoped that a black would be appointed to keep this Cabinet seat warm. Having already conferred with the Pre-elect, Cong' lady Barbara Jordan will have nay or yea her decision by the time you have eyed this. However, as this is being prepared those who love and respect her style were hoping that she would remain where she is, the Rep. from Texas (Houston) until the opportunity comes along for her to vie for her elected office. Unless, of course, she does become the Attorney General in a holding pattern until there's a Supreme Court opening.

The big hope is that the new administration will forge the basis of common commitment that will shape goals through which this democracy will develop the strength and moral fiber to meet the political, social and economic challenges of today and tomorrow.

Political power begins with economic self-sufficiency. Perhaps this is the premise of the quiet development of a new, non-partisan coalition of more than 45 black organizations, which formed the nucleus of "Operation Big Vote." The claims of politicians notwithstanding, it was the drive of this group with that theme which got more of our folks registered and to the polls last election time, then any other, with the exception of the Southern Voter Fund. The United Auto Workers, AFL-CIO, Zeta Phi, Delta Sigma sororities and AFSCME picked up the tab. The group met in DeeCee last week and chart the lay of the land and let it be known that in view of the tremendous role blacks played in the presidential drama they are hoping for a new political Magna Carter, and that no pun.

WRITE ON FOLKS - The Black Congressional Caucus and pres-elect Carter's black cabinet came together the other meeting time and no problems were solved. The Caucus left the meeting aware that the black southern palace guards would continue to call the shots without any input from most of its members. The Carter inaugural committee is forging two kinds of invitations for the historic change of political climate. At this writing Lena Horne was being sought to add class to the entertainment being planned. Some smart planner suggested that write heavy talented Maya Angelou be sought for a VIP closed party... Eleanor Howard, she's in the right political camp, has abandoned her idea to produce a swinging thing to highlight the official inaugural events... The Cong. Black Caucus is looking for a "praise agent" who would rather live in DeeCee. The way some folks are talking the org may do better to seek a new director.

It isn't make the network's sports cast, but attendance record at the super dome in N. Orleans. The largest crowd ever, more than 72-thou, 99% were black, watched the two black schools rush for the goal line.

Washington Pro-Baseball, Inc. is about the biz of the acquisition of a major league baseball franchise and the operation of a major league team in DeeCee. Class A-Common Stock, at \$25 per could assure a lot of common folks a share of the

pie... Thelma Carpenter was so sensational at Hopper's and got them so much coverage, she is in for a quick return. She's still sorry she blew her chance to star in "Bubbling Brown." They would have been good for each other... Wondah if folks haven't got soon to be prez Jimmy Carter's intent backwards re: Barbara Jordan and former Amb. Patricia Harris. Seems that the former dear of the Howard U. Law School may be the one he's thinking about for Attorney General. Aside from being the first female to head that office she would definitely be the most beautiful.

**V*A FACTS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following are representative questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q -- Are the wives and children of veterans eligible for educational assistance from the VA?
A -- Yes, if the veteran dies of a service-connected condition; or if living, has a service-connected disability considered by the VA to be total and permanent in nature.

Q -- Under what circumstances may the VA assist a veteran toward purchase of an automobile?
A -- Veterans with service after Sept. 15, 1940 who have service-connected loss or loss of use of one or both hands or feet, or permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a prescribed degree may qualify for a one-time grant of not more than \$3,300 toward purchase of an automobile.

Q -- I applied for and received National Service Life Insurance coverage in 1946. At that time I took a five-year level premium term plan. Can this policy be converted to a permanent plan with stabilized premium rates?
A -- Yes. The monthly premium for the permanent plan would probably be higher than your current monthly premiums. However there are many other benefits that go along with a permanent plan, such as paid up insurance and cash value.

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