

**Benjamin L. Hooks**

FCC

Commissioner

For nearly four-and-one half years I have been a member of the Federal Communications Commission, I have been carrying with me a nagging sense of a doubt. You know the feeling. It is one that says you ought to believe what a good number of people are saying -- many whom you respect and admire -- but somehow deep in your guts you just can't reconcile what they say with what you perceive to be the truth.

It is uncomfortable; but wishing won't make the sense of guilt brought on by doubt, go away. At some point it must be dealt with.

That is how I have been feeling about charges that "Big Government" is responsible for most of "mess" in Washington. That "Big Government" is growing bigger, fatter, less responsive to the will of the people, thus the rising disillusionment and the public feeling that the only way to straighten things out is to break up "Big Government" and start again from square one.

Once you accept the assumption that "Big Government" is all the bad things that happen in our lives, that it is a Dr. Frankenstein's monster of our creation that is now turning with malevolent fury on its creator, threatening to destroy us, it is very easy to take that additional mental step and say, "let's do it in before it does us in."

But I could never buy the first assumption so I certainly would never arrive at the conclusion. Too many things I see with my own eyes here at the Commission, for example, kept getting in the way of "the truth" of the "Big Government" charges.

For example, the FCC is mandated by Congress to regulate the communications industry of this vast and proper country of ours. But to implement this massive responsibility the FCC has never employed more than 2,100 people, and its annual budget last year--the highest in its history--was a paltry \$51 million.

The men and women who work for the FCC must deal with vast, powerful corporate entities, for instance, AT&T, that hire millions, with billions of dollars in capital outlay, many more multi-millions in operating capital and billions in assets.

The paper work that flows through this small but important agency would boggle the mind of even the most sophisticated bureaucratic paper shuffler. And determined efforts on the part of the Commission to eliminate some of it, invariably ends in frustrated failure.

For much of the paperwork is essential to our regulatory function: there are forms, contracts, petitions, licenses, etc., that simply cannot be eliminated. Attempts to modify them often end in more rather than less influx. But we are still working at it and some day this work will pay off.

But the prodigious amount of work this small work force must put out just to stay abreast of issues, events and problems in the burgeoning industry called communications--which is one of a country's most important--sends the mind reeling.

So when I hear the talk from so many in the public sector about "Big Government, fat, irresponsible" etc., I simply can't reconcile it with my pragmatic everyday hectic existence here at the Commission.

And now comes substantive support in the form of a well researched speech delivered by Gary Hart, US Senator (D., Colo.) made before the Western Electronic Manufacturers' Assn., earlier this year.

Senator Hart presents a reasoned analysis the "Big Government" charges, complete with a huge array of facts and statistics that even the most impassioned believer of the "Big Government" charges will have to take note.

His essential theme is that the public belief that "Big Government" bloated with ever growing numbers of federal bureau workers, expanding, creating a mess in Washington and in the daily lives of our citizens, imposing ruinous taxes, etc., is illusory.

His conclusions that the real villains are state

and local governments which have expanded like mad in the past three decades, that most of the Federal government workers are employed in social welfare (medicaid) and social security (taking care of the elderly) and on the local level most employees are in local schools (more than 11.7 million) and in protection (fire men and police), are bound to create gasps of astonishment.

So is his assessment that the real villain springs from citizens' - all of our - attitudes and expectations.



Education Is Power

By Thomas E. Wilson, Ph.D.

The New Year has come and with it came new hopes, new opportunities, and new faces with which to build new relationships. We cannot relive our lives, but if we could, one cannot help but wonder if we would live it differently from what we are living it today.

How about starting with today and working to make a new and more worthwhile life for our selves and for our loved ones?

One of the greatest starts that we as parents can pass on to our children is the legend of the quest for knowledge. Knowledge used in the right way can be the key to many wonderful events. It can open doors previously closed, not only to Blacks, but to anyone not possessing an adequate amount.

Morality is another virtue that we as parents can pass on to our progeny. A child lives what he learns, and if he learns morality in a positive way from his parents, the chances are much greater that he will be a person of high moral integrity.

Truthfulness can never be replaced as a much needed virtue. The idea of being truthful must be given early in one's life and be held high in the esteem of the parents and community. Governments have been toppled because of the lack of truthfulness within its leaders. Even our faith in our own government has at times been severely shaken because of the inability of our public servants to tell the truth and to insist that others who work for them also tell the truth. "The truth shall make you free." We as parents must be careful to instill this idea into our children and to insist that they be truthful with us.

Faithfulness transcends ethnic boundaries. Can we be depended upon to do what we are supposed to do when we are supposed to do it? Faithfulness is a virtue that must or can be taught. It is far-reaching and demands a lot from the individual.

One of the most difficult attributes to develop within ourselves is that of worthy use of our time. Were we to consider all of the ramifications of this attribute we would think in terms of work, rest and sleep and play or recreation. Each of these items carries with it a certain amount of discipline which in itself cannot be developed fully without careful attention to it. Work should consist of engaging in a satisfying and gainful occupation, vocation or profession that provides the means for a reasonable livelihood. Rest and/or sleep must be relaxing and free from tension-producing activities. Play or recreation should provide us with the proper attitude to face the next work day.

Of primary importance must be the desire to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". The Golden Rule is as alive today as it was when spoken some two-thousand years ago. Its precepts are as binding today as they were then.

If all peoples were to abide by this rule there would be no need for the hostility and violence that exist in our world today.

Within the new year let us resolve to do as much as we can to put an end to ignorance in our world. Starting first from within us, let us expand as far as we can. Maybe, just maybe, we will be able to eradicate some of the evils of this world

if we would make a concerted attack on ignorance. Ignorance dulls people's minds. It causes the more knowledgeable to take unfair advantage of the less knowledgeable unless the more knowledgeable have agreed to live by high moral standards.

One final virtue to be considered at this time is one of love. Just to go around yelling "Love" means nothing unless this love is put into action. Its action must be shown by a miration for the other person. How we handle "love" is a great indicator of the moral and spiritual values we possess. Love is not limited to "sexual attraction". It must run much deeper than that. It must take in caring for and respecting the other person regardless of the sex of the other individual.

The foregoing represent some of the moral and spiritual values held dear by this writer. Time and space will not permit further elaboration, but a full and careful study of these values will reveal some astounding things.

Education indeed is power:

The Hughes

Report

By Thomas F. Hughes



Wanted - A Plan

We are now into a new year - a rebirth of opportunity to progress - a new chance to move ahead but nowhere on the horizon do we sight the most necessary thing - A Plan. At the end of each year most businesses and successful corporations on the standard calendar year have an annual meeting. The achievements and failures of 1976 are evaluated and plans are made to forge ahead. Goals are set - these will include usually an increase in business - improvement in management - new things to accomplish, etc. This is called the plan for 1977. Cities will follow this same procedure. For all practical purposes West Las Vegas is a separate city except we pay the same taxes and assessments that all of Las Vegas pays but we are an orphan as decreed by the city fathers.

Benjamin Hooks, New President-elect of the NAACP stated our position clearly when he said "Blacks must band together and do their own thing." Spending a hundred thousand dollars with some consulting firm is not the answer - what do they know about Las Vegas' Black Area? We have perhaps a dozen blacks who could better analyze, evaluate and most of all make a plan that would improve our status. Consultants would come in and ask the so called leaders some questions - check a few statistics - stay in a posh hotel - have some gourmet meals, see a few good shows, gamble a bit and return to their San Francisco or Los Angeles headquarters, wait a few weeks or months, send in their stereotype report along with their bill for \$100,000.00 and then seek out another like program and another six months or year would go by, while westside Las Vegas got worse off. The consultants couldn't care less. Let the local groups do it. A conference of our local ministers and civic groups could produce down to earth basic procedures to enhance our area as they know the area, its potential, its desires, its shortcomings and its strong points. This group should first get community input so as to define its needs and then add its desires, determine the cost, set up priorities, search out means and methods call in responsible black leaders with expertise and fix goals and time tables and completion dates. My brother, the Reverend Joseph R. Hughes of Los Angeles quoted a saying to me "Make a bold step and great forces will come to your aid." We need someone to make a "Bold Step". Will someone come forth? I HOPE SO. Then we can have A Plan. We sorely need it.