

## \*\*V\*A FACTS

Q -- If a widow dies with a previous month's uncashed VA pension check in her possession, what should be done with the check?

A -- It should be returned to the issuing office. It may subsequently be paid upon submission of a valid claim by a survivor or other eligible person.

Q -- I've already bought a burial plot in a private cemetery. Will VA pay my widow the "plot allowance" when I die?

A -- Yes, your survivors are still eligible to receive the \$150 plot allowance in addition to up to \$250 in basic burial allowance. Payment up to \$800 may be made when death is service-connected.

Q -- I was disabled in World War II and the Veterans Administration gave me \$1,600 toward the purchase of an automobile in 1949. Now that his allowance has been increased to \$3,300, am I entitled to the difference on another car?

A -- No, but VA may assist in providing or maintaining adaptive equipment on your present or future cars. See your nearest VA office.

Q -- What is the interest rate for a VA home loan?

A -- The maximum interest rate on GI home loans may vary due to changes in the law and VA regulations. For the current rate, contact the VA or a lender participating in the VA loan program.

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## Reunion

Elder & Mrs. E.M. Barron request your presence at their family reunion and anniversary. All acquaintances, former members, and friends are requested to attend these services. Although Elder Barron has been seriously ill, and at the point of death, God has granted his request to let him live a little longer. In turn we would appreciate your response to his request of a family reunion. Please try to attend these services if possible. We are expecting to have a great time in the Lord. We will be expecting guest from California, Arizona, Idaho, Memphis, Tennessee, New Mexico, New York, and other areas. Thank you for your response. Date: October 31 through November 6, 1977. Address: 3130 Idalia St., El Paso, Texas. Services will begin at 7:30 P.m. each night. RSVP: E.M. Barron (915) 566-7278. E. Atwood (915) 592-7570.

P.S. The services will be held at Emmanuel Church of God In Christ, 3130 Idalia St., El Paso, Texas.

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## VOICE EDITORIALS

### Education is Power



By Thomas E. Wilson

This writer has just finished reading an article in "Today's Education", a magazine for teachers, entitled "What Can Be Done About Child Abuse". The article explains child abuse, its causes, effects, and how it is recognized. It also includes what to do about it once it is recognized.

According to the article child abuse takes in the variety of suffering - physical, sexual, or emotional - that parents and other caretakers can sometimes do inflict on children. The most obvious form of child abuse is physical abuse. However there are other types of abuse that are equally or more damaging.

Most people have thought of child abuse as occurring only in the poor families, or members of racial minorities. It is now evident that child abuse has no racial or economic backgrounds.

The article states that basically there are four main reasons why parents lash out brutally against children. These four reasons are mental illness, economic deprivation which includes substandard housing and unemployment, acute marital conflict and the parent's childhood experiences.

Dr. Brandt F. Steele, chief psychiatrist for the National Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect in Denver states that some abusive parents suffer from severe psychiatric disorders. Others, he says, yield to the stress and frustration of economic deprivation, etc., and needs an outlet. Still others will direct his rage against his spouse toward a helpless child. He also stated that the vast majority of parents who abuse their children were abused as children.

Most abusive parents seem to have several characteristics in common. They are immature, they have a very low self-concept, they feel incompetent as parents, they seem to have trouble finding pleasure and satisfaction in the outside world, they have a strong fear of spoiling their children, and are usually unable to empathize with, and respond to their children's needs.

What can teachers do when they find out that a child in their room has been abused? We as teachers must not question children too closely about their injuries. We must also avoid making disparaging remarks about the child's parents, no matter how bad the situation seems to be. We must also not contact the parents on our own initiative.

In our school district, teachers should report any assumed evidence to their principal and then, if necessary, to the Child Abuse Unit of Nevada Child Welfare. If help is immediately forthcoming, they should then report to the Juvenile Division of Metro-Police. It is not the teacher's duty to report that the child has been abused, but only to report that the child has certain symptoms. Outside agencies can determine if the child has, in fact, been abused.

What are some signs of child abuse? Bruises, abrasions, and burns on the back and buttocks are the most obvious signs. The children are usually frequently absent, lethargic, depressed, hostile, or destructive. Others are shorter or thinner than the norm for their age. They often stay at school as long as possible, and show up when the doors open in the morning.

Efforts are being made in our community to detect signs of abuse early and to start therapy with the parents. It is a known fact that a child cannot learn if he or she has been abused either physically, emotionally

or sexually. It is also a known fact that a parent who abuses his or her child also has a major problem and needs help.

If we are to educate all of our children to their capacity, let us do all we can to wipe out child abuse. Children need limits, and may sometimes drive us to distraction. However, other ways can be found to help children than to resort to child abuse techniques.

Black parents must become more supportive of their children in order for the children to progress at a more rapid rate in school.



### The Hughes Report

By Thomas F. Hughes

The Jackpot Casino on the strip was closed some 10 days ago as a bankrupt situation had developed. This follows the closing of 3 or more other small casinos downtown and on the strip. As reports come in showing business is down in the hotels and casinos it is reasonable to expect to get their business from the \$50 and \$60 a day tourists in the plush MGM & Caesar's Hotels. The hotels are their style so they play, eat, and drink where they are. Why go to a smaller place? Some of the local operators like Silver Nugget, Jerry's Nugget, Lady Luck and the Hacienda Hotel are learning what John C. Miller said in Black Enterprise Magazine. (They are advertising in the Las Vegas VOICE).

It used to be a long, dry summer for the Fairmont Roosevelt until 1967 when the hotel began booking black conventions. For the past two summers the New Orleans hotel has been running 90 percent full and nearly 90 percent of the occupancy was due to black groups and individual guests on vacation.

Sheraton has also been getting a piece of the action ranging from the 50,000 delegate Black Elks convention to a series of meetings of around 200 persons.

Where did the Black Market come from? It's been with us for a while, but has only recently been recognized as a special market by two hotel chains.

Recent developments in evaluating the Black Market include:

A major segment of the Hotel Sales Management Association's annual convention was devoted to black dollars.

A discussion of the Black Market, among others, at the annual convention of the American Hotel & Motel Association.

A seminar devoted to the subject sponsored by the American Travel Agents Association was held recently.

Holiday Inns and Marriott are two chains which feel the Black Market needs no special approach. "We haven't made any differentiation between blacks and whites," says Jim Hines, a Marriott regional director of sales.

This lack of enthusiasm is explained by Dr. Dale Shaw, vice president of the Behavior Science Corporation, who says that most lodging executives don't realize blacks have different spending and behavior patterns than whites.

"We've done a number of studies which show consistent differences between blacks and whites in terms of travel habits, travel intentions and destination preference."

Here's what specialists in the Black Market say about the characteristics of the black guest:

Blacks like to go first class, probably because of a history of deferment of gratification.

Black conventionaires bring their families with them, increasing revenue from group business.

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