

**V*A FACTS

Q -- As a veteran of World War II with a recently established service-connected disability, am I eligible for service disabled insurance?

A -- No. Eligibility for service disabled insurance requires separation from service after April 24, 1951.

Q -- When a veteran dies, what is the effective date of the discontinuance of Veterans Administration benefits?

A -- The monetary benefits end retroactive to the last day of the month preceding the date of death. If there is a widow and she is determined eligible for DIC or pension benefits, her first payment will be the full amount the veteran would have received had he lived the entire month in which he died.

Q -- Can my wife use my educational assistance?

A -- A spouse cannot use the veteran's GI Bill educational benefits. He or she would only be entitled to educational assistance through the VA if the veteran became permanently and totally disabled due to service-connected disability or died as a result of a service-connected disability.

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VOICE EDITORIALS

Education is Power



By Thomas E. Wilson

What shall we do with our time? Shall we just sit around and watch the television, play in some sports activities, roam the streets, or shall we begin to look forward to the long-no-vacation period in school after the Christmas holidays?

Many of our young people seem at a loss for something to do during the holiday season. There seems to be such a waste of talent and time during seasons like the one we have just entered.

I would like to propose some activities for our young people that will help them and those around them become better citizens. These activities will be listed in the form of questions. Have we asked our parents if there are things around the house that we can do? What about painting the bathrooms, the halls, etc. within our home? How about the outside of our homes? Have they been painted lately? How about the yard? Have we done our part in keeping the yard looking good so that people will know that we are proud of our communities?

So much for that. What about our school work? Have we, as students, opened a book since we have been home? How about using this time to get help in catching up on materials that we did not understand when we were going over it in class? Wouldn't it be great if we could catch up with our classmates during this time? How about reports that were due before the holidays that just slipped your mind, or reports that will be due soon after your return to school after the first of the year?

What have we done to make someone happy during these holidays? Have we spoken a kind word to someone who needed it desperately? If so, did it help, if not why didn't we?

Let us as Blacks remember that we must make the best use of our time in order to become successful in this country. All of the odds are stacked against us, so let us do everything we can to unstack the deck.

Of course many of us will be visiting the library and trying to catch up on our studies during these holidays. However, too many of our Black youngsters will be roaming the streets. Let us pray that none of them will get into any trouble, and that all of them will be able to return to school in January with renewed vigor and vitality.

Let us also not lose sight of the real purpose of Christmas. It is the day we celebrate the birth of the greatest teacher of all times, Jesus Christ. It is the time of year when peace and good will should pervade our very being. It is the time of year when selfishness must be laid aside and the consideration for others become paramount within our lives. Wouldn't it be great if this kind of atmosphere could prevail throughout the year?

May God richly bless you and yours during these holidays, and may you always remember that there is power in education.

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The Hughes Report

By Thomas F. Hughes

The closing of the year signals the time for 1977 fiscal analysis. Each year progressive companies analyze their years activity - did it make money - did it move forward in its field - what can be done to move it further forward in the New Year, etc. so must our community take stock of its position.

Last year I wrote that we needed a plan. It is evident that we have come up with a plan or plans. H. P. Fitzgerald's Westside Development Commission in the Old Westside School (newly renovated into offices) is working on redevelopment through the Block Grant Fund, etc. Currently it is working to bring unity into a number of projects such as the "Carpentry Joint Apprentice Program" and "Operation Life to Renovate the Old Cove Hotel," "The E.O.B. Weatherization Program," "Las Vegas City's Senior Citizens Weatherization Program," says Fitzgerald. In addition to this, this commission was responsible for the naming of three parks after some of our prominent citizens, Ethel Pearson, Lubertha Johnson and Jimmy Gay.

Operation Life under Ruby Duncan's leadership has received \$180,000 to work on redevelopment of small businesses, employment, etc. with the prospect of additional millions. The "D" St. Library Building, owned by Operation Life, has for some time needed rehabbing and part of the Block Grant Funds are being requested for that purpose. These funds are expected to be approved in January by the City Commissioners. Rehabbing of the Cove Hotel can be considered another plus as it will provide some needed office space for the growing Westside. Thirty two new homes are being built on "N" St. in addition to some new homes in Bonanza Village.

Otis Harris' Westside Comprehensive Community Development Plan (which becomes "Southern Nevada Economic Development, Inc." Jan 1st) has been a landmark. It was without a doubt the most aggressive "plan" of all the plans. Otis Harris had this plan starting with a \$115,000 gotten through four corners Administration Harris and his associates developed the new OEDP (Overall Economic Development Plan) which, when presented to Washington Economic Heads, produced the "Special Impact Designation" which means the Federal Government will underwrite 80% of the cost of general improvements to streets, sewers and other utilities needed to bring in factories, warehouses, etc. which in turn will provide jobs for Blacks that are not hotel-based.

Millions of dollars should pour into the community in 1978 for construction, planning, etc. from that source alone not to mention other employment that will follow.

Two multi-million dollar projects are now being processed that will soon be announced. Quiet plans are now being completed for job training that will greatly benefit our area. The new FM Station KCEP is another example of Westside Progress (88.1 on your FM Dial). It is providing training for Black announcers. Bethel Baptist is building a new Church on "D" St. All in all we did get some plans this year. So Merry Christmas, Westside and may the New Year be the most prosperous yet.

**What are YOU doing to
help YOUR community?**