

## \*\*V\*A FACTS

- Q -- I received an honorable discharge after completing a two-year enlistment. Am I eligible to receive a headstone or grave marker even though I had no war-time service?
- A - A headstone or grave marker is available for any deceased veteran of wartime or peacetime service (other than active duty for training) who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Q - Are all patients eligible for reimbursement of transportation costs for visits to VA hospitals?
- A -- No. Only veterans with service-connected disabilities or those on an assigned and scheduled income level can receive reimbursement for transportation expenses.
- Q -- Does a veteran have to pay NSLI premiums if he/she becomes disabled?
- A -- A waiver of premiums is authorized when a veteran becomes continuously totally disabled before his/her 65th birthday and remains totally disabled for six consecutive months. Application for waiver should be submitted to the office where the veteran's insurance records are located.

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# VOICE EDITORIALS

## Education is Power



By Thomas E. Wilson

This week's column is aimed primarily at high school juniors and seniors and others who are contemplating whether or not to go on to a college or university after high school graduation.

As we face the question of "Should I go on to college when I finish high school?", we suddenly realize that the decision becomes larger with each passing day of thought. With the possible exception of choosing our future vocation or a husband or wife, this decision will probably have as far-reaching effect upon our lives as any other decision we will ever make. Whether we realize it or not, the pattern of our lives for the next fifty years may be determined by our answer to this question.

It is the purpose of this column to help us make our decisions by acquainting us with many facts about a college education that we may never have considered before. We want to emphasize that the decision is an individual one, and must be made with guidance from whatever help we can receive in pamphlets, catalogues magazines, etc. But it is important that we take every aspect into consideration and map a careful campaign. Here are some common mistakes to avoid: (1) Don't plan your future education without consulting all available sources of information. (2) Don't decide hurriedly. (3) Don't be swayed by such unimportant factors as whether our friends are going. (4) Don't delay making a decision. (5) Don't allow the decision to be made for you because you didn't take the trouble to make it yourself.

As valuable as college may be for many students, it isn't necessarily the right prescription for everyone. It is true that a college education is now considered as important as a high school education fifty years ago. However, many of the best thinkers on the subject today believe that while it is essential for nearly everyone to complete high school, it is not essential for most young people to complete college. Perhaps a two-year or community college plan will prove desirable for many high school graduates. But four or more years of college is a specialized experience which is not suited to everyone.

Although there are many advantages to a college education, there are also certain disadvantages, and both should be carefully considered before any final decision is made. The various advantages and disadvantages will carry different weight for different people, of course. Let us first consider the advantages, then examine the other side of the picture. First of all, a college education is essential for many types of vocational successes. Secondly, it is possible to pursue a broad scope of cultural interests at college. Thirdly, varied activities are offered, and lastly, it is possible to get to know many people from all types of backgrounds. It is, altogether, a broadening and enriching experience, and the wide range of influences and ideas you are exposed to will help you in forming your own ideas and attitudes.

On the other hand college isn't for everyone. There are distinct disadvantages for some people in going to college, and these should be thought out if we are going to be realistic about planning our futures.

First of all, college may not further your vocational aims. Secondly, what will the possible change in your social level mean to your future? Can we keep up with our friends in the social and economic realm? Just getting a degree in law or education does not guarantee you a large income. Are you will-

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## The Hughes Report



By Thomas F. Hughes

The U. S. Government reported last week that a big increase in new manufacturing jobs helped reduce the nation's unemployment rate down to 6.1 percent and that was the lowest since October 1974. The best gain was by blacks whose jobless rate dropped down to 11.8 percent, the lowest in three years. The Las Vegas area has little manufacturing except that classed as light (non pollution) but better times by the rest of the economy will also bring better job opportunities for light manufacturing, warehousing, construction, etc. where blacks have a chance.

H. P. Fitzgerald of Westside Development Commission reports that our efforts in Black Grant Funding has produced \$220,000 for sidewalks in our area, \$45,000 for street lights on Lake Mead (H St. to Highland) \$40,500 for street lights on "D" St. Owens to Bonanza, \$59,500 for street lights on "H" St. Owens to Bonanza, \$87,075 for minipark restrooms, \$100,000 for rehabilitation for Senior Citizens homes (weatherization) and paint up at no charge to owners and \$15,000 for cleaning up lots (clearance and demolition of old buildings and the possible rehab of the building across from Bethel Baptist's new church (now being used temporarily by Bethel) into a community center.

People who need painting, etc. could apply to H. P. Fitzgerald in the Old Westside School Complex although the program will not start until July 1st. These items will provide some jobs and blacks should be a major part of the work force, all of which will help our job situation.

On February 28th, my wife and I held the precinct meeting (Democratic) in our home and had 9 people (almost double what we had before but only 2 of us were black. A check with our acquaintances and others on the Westside indicated few blacks even knew about the precinct meetings, much less attended them. This is regrettable as we will never realize our potential until we realize the great importance of political participation.

Once again I implore all blacks to register and participate in their local communities political affairs. If you do not vote you do NOT count. The politico has no concern for you because if you do not register you cannot hurt him because you cannot vote and cannot vote against him. So you are nothing. Your vote does count and can become decisive. President Carter could not have won without the black vote and has regognized that and started minority job promotion which has resulted in black job improvement. Senator Brooke, the only black senator, a republican has joined in the effort to woo blacks into the republican party. The republicans are pouring out money in hopes of attracting blacks because they know that 7,000,000 blacks eligible to vote are not registered and they know that if they had that seven million blacks they could have elected Jerry Ford. So whether you like that or not the opportunity is there. The sad part of it is that the democratic party in Nevada is doing little or nothing to pick up those blacks not now registered. Most of the jobs on the Westside, aside from the hotels are Government jobs (test site, CETA, etc.), and those jobs could all be lost if Nixon type republicans get control again. So far the republicans have shown or done nothing to help blacks and until they produce some tangible proof blacks will continue or should continue democratic.

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