



*Congressional
Black Caucus
Reports to the
People*

CLAY

The promise of economic justice for all Americans was a wonderful goal set by the government in the midst of the great depression. The pursuit of that goal however, has been beset by numerous stumbling blocks and an evergrowing insensitivity on the part of the 'haves' to sympathize with the plight of the 'have nots'. The cornerstone of the plan to achieve economic parity was the enactment of the Minimum Wage Law or more properly called, the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Almost 40 years ago when legislation was passed mandating a minimum wage of 25 cents per hour it was hailed as a milestone in the annals of social legislation. It represented a desire on the part of anation to provide decent standards for its citizens and an attempt to fairly distribute the wealth.

However, the rising cost of living in the succeeding years and the stubborn resistance to modest increases in the minimum wage have left the dream unfulfilled. The law has eliminated the horrendous exploitation of child labor and the abuses of the 100 hour work week without overtime pay. But is has failed to provide every worker with a sufficient income to live a well-rounded and healthful life.

Acombination of forces more interested in profits than people have advanced all kinds of incredibly unsubstantiated arguments to hinder a justifiable increase in wages. They state that increased minimum wages put poor people out of work.

Just the opposite is true. They state that high wages force businesses to move to low wage states. Simply untrue. They state that teen-agers will never be hired and propose a lesser rate for them.

The fact is that this country claims a person should be judged on his individual worth. If a teen-ager performs a job essentially the same as that of an adult he or she should be paid the same. What is the slogan of equal pay for equal work all about?

If we ever permitted ourselves to set up special categories of workers based on certain economic factors such as high unemployment in groups, where would it stop. Would we then say that because the rate of unemployment for blacks, the middle-aged and women is so high that out of concern for these groups we should pay them less for the same jobs?

What the public should demand is that the minimum wage be increased to the level where millions of our people can live in decency--not poverty.

*Kaiser
Konsumer's
Korner*

By Inez Kaiser



More of the dollar is spent on food than any other commodity. Buying food is probably the number one regular habit of all consumers. Because the proper food is necessary to ensure a healthy body, we should buy food for its nutritional and economical value. It is a practice everyone should learn.

Shopping with a food plan is a wise way. If you purchase products on a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly basis, write down a meal plan for each day. It is important to keep in mind the four food groups: meat, poultry and dairy products and fruits and vegetables. Then, shop accordingly. Be sure your list includes foods that provide the proper nutritive value. Vary as little as possible from the prepared list.

Take time to compare prices at different supermarkets first. Then shop at the store with the lowest prices for those food needs. Usually, no one store has the lowest prices of everything. You may end up buying meats from one store, dairy products from another, etc. You may spend more time in doing so, but the outcome could save you money. Once again, good planning is essential.

Be sure to keep an eye out for coupons, supermarket flyers, newspaper ads and radio and TV commercials which offer special or reduced prices. Use them when shopping also. They can save you money.

Meat is usually the most expensive item on the food buyer's list. Since meat normally provides the most nutrients in one meal, you should try to buy as high a grade as possible. Grades stamped on the package give you an idea of the quality: prime, choice, good, standard and commercial. Remember, however, that if you can't afford the best grades, proper refrigeration and cooking methods can make the most out of any cut of meat.

Grades are also established for poultry, with "A" birds being the most fleshy and attractive. Butter, cream and like are grouped into homogenized and pasteurized categories. Pasteurized products have been heated to kill bacteria. Homogenized products have all fat dissolved. Watch for eggs, and note that the size does not mean it is a better quality egg.

When buying fresh fruits and vegetables, judge them on appearance and touch. Selecting canned and frozen fruits and vegetables is a topic that we will discuss later. They are just as nutritional as fresh products, although syrup and other additives may be present to help the packaging and freezing processes. You might substitute an in-season fruit or vegetable if you can. You will be saving money.

Afew other things to remember is that you would be getting the same food if you bought a house or supermarket brand. They are often produced by the same manufacturer. Name brands are just advertised more. Try quick-cooking, and other convenience foods, but determine if the cost is worth the time saved. Start reading labels on the packages. You will know the contents of the foodstuff you are purchasing. Purchase the size of foodstuff to fit your needs.

With today's ever increasing prices, buying food is a big part of everyone's budget. The concerned consumer should learn to plan ahead and shop cautiously. It is important to get the best values possible. Just use good sense and you will save cents.

The Community Food Bank needs additional land to use for vegetable garden sites.

If you have unused, fertile land which could be used by the Food Bank to raise fresh vegetables, call Bill Cramer at 648-7618. The Food Bank needs your help. 648-7618

NEW DAY BEGUN

by

Benjamin L. Hooks



The well orchestrated attacks upon affirmative action programs took a new twist in New York recently when a local school board in a predominantly white middle class area rejected federal funds that would have provided part-time and summer jobs for about 50 disadvantaged youngsters bussed in from neighboring communities.

In voting five to four against the funds, Community School Board 26 claimed that the jobs program "bypassed" middle-income children. The board said it wanted "a broader participation of youths" than that which was prescribed for eligibility.

The school board next joined seven other decentralized units in refusing to submit ethnic data required for the city to benefit from the Emergency School Assistance Act program.

Faced with the possible loss of \$200 million in federal funds, School Chandellor Irving Anker suspended the board. He appointed a trustee to collect the data and apply for the jobs funds under the Youth Employment Demonstration Act.

The refusal by the local board to apply for the \$40,000 needed for the program was denounced by the central Board of Education President Stephen R. Aiello as a "totally misguided act of irresponsibility which can be viewed as being racist in nature."

The NAACP, which has for several years been fighting in court to desegregate a number of New York City school districts, also moved immediately into action, filing a petition with the school chancellor asking him to supersede the board.

On the ethnic census, we are also supporting the Board of Education and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in the U.S. District Court, where the order is being challenged. The NAACP joined the Coalition of Concerned Black Educators in initiating the protest that led to the New York School Board--HEW agreement.

The issues involved in the School District 26 case are crucial. They represent another aspect of the stepped up campaign by northern whites to reverse civil rights gains that so many dedicated Americans struggled, and died for.

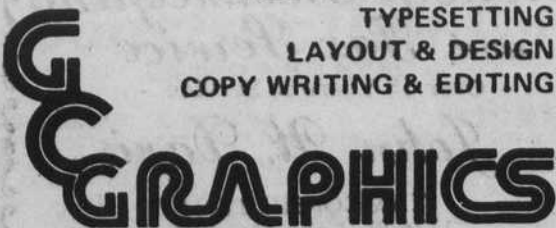
Ostensibly, District 26 opposes the ethnic census because it "devisive and leads to racial quotas." But what is the alternative, if not the continued segregation of black school children and teachers.

Even more troubling is the opposition to the jobs program. Throughout Queens, as well as other metropolitan areas, youth unemployment is at record high levels--as much as 50 percent in some cities.

But, as we so well know, it is not the intent of the jobs program or the ethnic census that matters; it is the skin color of the target population.

**SUPPORT
THE BLACK COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER**

ALL PRINTING NEEDS
TYPESETTING
LAYOUT & DESIGN
COPY WRITING & EDITING



5000 W. Charleston (Graphics West Bldg) 878-9516

*The Las Vegas Voice
has IMPACT!*

WALT'S CHEVRON

**We Stock
Rebuilt Generators,
Alternators, Regulators,
Starters, Brake Shoes**

648-9823 648-8342

1500 W. BONANZA

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE