

Civil Service Reform Actions Critical For Minority Groups

The Carter Administration is preparing for a difficult battle in Congress to achieve civil service reform—a struggle in which blacks and other minority groups have a major stake. President Carter, who announced his civil service reorganization and reform proposals last March, has said the package now being considered in Congress is the "centerpiece of government reorganization during my term of office."

Crucial votes on the President's proposals are expected in early August, with much of the attention focused on the House of Representatives.

Blacks and other minorities have a stake in the outcome of the proposals. The Carter Administration has said that civil service reform, if adopted as proposed by President Carter, would help blacks and minorities, and women, with more job opportunities, more protection in present government jobs, and with opportunities for job promotions and protections.

For example, the Carter Administration will attempt to convince the Senate to approve the President's plan for a modification in the veterans preference system within civil service.

Under the President's plan, veterans preference in civil service hiring would be limited to disabled veterans and would provide such preference on a one-time only basis within 15 years of discharge. This would focus preference benefits on Vietnam era veterans. Minorities comprise a higher percentage—14%—of Vietnam era veterans than earlier veterans, estimated at 8%.

In addition, the Carter Administration hopes to convince the Congress to change the so-called "rule of three" procedure in the civil service system, whereby hiring selections must be from a list of three persons who scored highest on merit tests. The Carter Administration favors expanding the list to seven names, thus opening up more opportunities for others.

Stargazing & Spelunking

August activities at nearby state parks will take you from the depths of the earth to the very heavens above, with a spelunking expedition scheduled for Red Rock Recreation Lands and an evening of star gazing at Floyd Lamb Park.

Saturday, August 12, should be not only a typical star-studded summer evening, but the annual Perseid meteor shower will be a special added attraction. This spectacular display, sometimes called St. Laurence's Tears in honor of the saint martyred on August 10, 258, should provide a fine opportunity for viewing and photographs. There will be fireballs as well as white or yellow, green, and orange or red meteors. Many will leave trains which may last up to 100 seconds and the brighter meteors often end in flares or bursts. The Las Vegas Astronomy Club will set up telescopes for public viewing. Dr. Ed Grayzeck, UNLV astronomer, will provide instruction prior to the viewing session. The program begins at 9 p.m. Participants are urged to arrive on time to be able to take advantage of the pre-viewing lecture. A flashlight with red cellophane or tissue covering over the light will be useful. For more information, call the park at 645-1998.

Spelunkers, novice and experienced, will be guided by state park rangers while exploring the cave at the Red Rocks. Beginning at 9 a.m., Saturday, August 26, the two hour program will focus on the geology of cave formations, resource management and recreation. Bring lunch, water, flashlight with spare batteries, camera with flash if desired. Wear old clothes and sturdy walking shoes. No pets please. Children under age 8 not advised. The Cave Road in Red Rock Canyon is located one mile west of the junction of the Scenic Loop Road and West Charleston. Meet at the brown State Park truck parked at the site. For more information, call the Spring Mountain Ranch at 875-4141.

Senators To Decide Fate Of Nev.

Las Vegas attorney Harry Claiborne will appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee Aug. 8 in the first step toward confirmation as a Nevada district federal court judge.

Claiborne was nominated last week by President Carter, but the Senate must approve. The Judiciary Committee screens all federal judge

nominees before passing them on to the full Senate for final consideration.

"I anticipate no delays in the confirmation process, particularly in light of his outstanding qualifications," said Sen. Howard Cannon, D-Nev.

Claiborne will succeed Burce Tompson of Reno, who is retiring Aug. 31.

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