

****V*A FACTS**

Q -- I would like information on the Small Business Loan Program run by the VA. How do I obtain one of these loans?

A -- The Veterans Administration no longer has a Small Business Loan Program. You may wish to seek information from the Small Business Administration.

Q -- I have a U.S. government "K" term Life insurance policy. I have been advised to an "Endowment at age 96" policy because it is less costly. I have been told this type of policy would not have the regular permanent and total disability benefit. Is this true?

A -- To keep the cost of the "Endowment at age 96" policy at a low level, the regular permanent and total disability benefit was eliminated. Instead, the "Endowment at age 96" policy will be issued with no disability and by payment of an extra premium waiver only may be obtained.

Q -- I am a veteran drawing VA pension. I have no dependents. I will be entering a VA hospital soon for a 90-day period. Will I continue to receive my full pension during my period of hospitalization?

A -- The pension of a hospitalized veteran without a spouse or child is reduced to an amount not in excess of \$59 a month after two full calendar months of hospital care.

VA Awards Initial Construction Contracts

The Veterans Administration has awarded the initial construction contracts for its new multi-million dollar medical care complex at Bay Pines, Florida.

Contracts totaling nearly \$10.9 million for a 120-bed nursing home and a 200-bed domiciliary have been awarded to Sainer Constructors, Inc., of Bradenton, Fla., VA announced.

The new \$4,033,400 nursing home, which will be adjacent to the existing VA nursing home at Bay Pines, is expected to be completed by May of 1980.

In addition to the contracts awarded to Sainer, the VA has asked for bids on the first phase of construction on the 520-bed replacement hospital at Bay Pines. The existing hospital is now in its 46th year of operation.

Total construction cost of the new hospital is estimated to be \$67 million and the first phase involves the foundation and shell of the project. The hospital is scheduled for completion in 1982.

VA said work on the domiciliary and nursing home is expected to begin next month.

VOICE EDITORIALS

The Hughes Report

By *Thomas F. Hughes*



Education Is Power

By *Thomas E. Wilson*



"Voters Must Now Act"

The votes have been counted - the decisions are in both Black Assemblymen have been nominated to be their Democratic Party's Candidate. So Rev. Marion Bennett and Lonie Chaney will be running in the November election against Republican Luie Davie and Republican Edward Smith. For state Assembly, it is a foregone conclusion that both Bennett and Chaney will win since their districts are overwhelmingly "Democrat."

Now it is the duty of the voters and non-voters alike to support their choices - it is easy to condemn your elected officials for non-action or for action taken but is the duty of the people to voice their likes and dislikes. It is the people who start action to get things done. It is the duty of ministers to call for needed community action but once again it is the duty of the members to inform the ministers. Ministers have more clout in the community and they can as a body call for and get action. It must be remembered that the greatest Civil Rights leader of modern times, The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a minister. The present head of the National NAACP is a minister. The Assemblyman of our 6th District is a minister. Little by little the ministers are getting more involved. They are the only community people paid by the community and not subservient to the political pressures. They only have to answer to their congregation. Their congregation is under their leadership and they should lead spiritually, politically and economically. They are or should be our counselors. We should call on them to work in and for our benefit. Government is ordained by the bible. Your well being is called for by the bible in which we are cautioned to provide for the poor, the sick, the lame, the widow, etc. providing nice sanctuaries for our Sunday meetings are fine. But modern day living calls for these institutions to give us leadership for everything concerning our lives. We must take our problems to our leaders and they should fight for our causes whether these leaders are elected officials or ministers, and those elected officials should call on the ministers and the ministers should call on the elected officials but first the people must call on them.

Economically speaking Flip Wilson said it: There are two classes of people - those who work by the sweat of their brow and those who sell them handkerchiefs, electric fans, air conditioners, soft drinks, beer, refrigerators, tropical worsteds and other light fabrics. He is so right. For the biggest part we sweat they sell. It is all legitimate but we need to sweat and sell. Basically that is economic life. We need to share a better portion of it. One way to do this is to study your shopping - read the ads - compare the prices, check the quality and quantity. Look for true discounts. Several airlines are now offering discounts to senior citizens guaranteeing a one third reduction in regular coach reserved seating. Some of these airlines are Allegheny, Braniff, Delta, Eastern, National, Northwest, Ozark, TWA, United, Western and American airlines. So don't be ashamed of your age if you are over 65 but use it to save money. Contact your senior citizen organizations before you buy or spend no matter what you are spending it for. It can make your life a little brighter.

What Has Happened

In 1967 the American Book Company published a booklet entitled, "What's Happening to our Language Today?" We feel that the material in the booklet is just as important today as it was in 1967. We would like to paraphrase some of the statements in the booklet, and are doing so with permission of American Book Company.

There was a time when most of us would have agreed that the English curriculum in our schools would never be changed. Our native language was a sacred part of the school program. We all knew what a noun, a pronoun, an adjective, an adverb, and all the other so-called "parts of speech" were. At least, we thought we knew. Many of us knew how to diagram a sentence - and, well, after all, what else could be done in teaching English to the young people currently in our schools? And why should there be any change? What was good enough for us in the past should certainly be good enough for present day youngsters and for those of the future. But was it?

There are countless complaints that the high school graduate does not have a mastery of his own language. He does not seem to know how to spell correctly, least of all how to write a coherent and effective message - whether that message be a simple business letter or a full-length report. There are also complaints about his/her ability to express himself/herself orally. In short, it has become increasingly obvious that what was good enough in the past is simply not working for the youngster of today - whether he completed his schooling at the end of high school or went on to higher education.

Why the failure? Why is the curriculum falling short of its goals? Throughout the country, answers to these questions are being sought by alert educators and concerned parents. Fortunately, scholarly study on the part of those who are interested in our language from a scientific viewpoint is emerging at an appropriate time. As a result of the work of the linguist, educators are able to gain insight into our language and how it functions.

Why is there this increased importance being attached to English in our schools? More than four hundred million people speak English their native tongue. This is an astonishing fact, but, even more astonishing is the fact that over a billion people speak English as a second language. English is fast becoming the international language of commerce, aviation, diplomacy, science, sports, and scholarship. The spread of English throughout the world has been called "the linguistic accomplishment of the twentieth century."

What does all this mean to the Black student? It simply means that the time has come when the Black student must begin practicing the use of English as it is used in the dominant society. This is not to say that he must forget the use of the vernacular commonly called "Black Dialect", but it does mean that he/she must realize that the dominant society demands English as it speaks it, and that we as Blacks must learn it their way even if we have to learn it as a second language.

Parents, it would be wise if we could speak the language of the dominant society in the presence of our children in order that they will have a model by which to learn. It would be wise to do all within our power to help our children master the language of the dominant society. Our goal must be equip ourselves with as much power as possible if we plan to survive in a society such as ours.

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Note!