

**V*A FACTS

Q -- I receive Veterans Administration disability compensation at the 40% rate. I recently married. Can I get any additional money for my wife?

A -- Effective October 1, 1978, veterans rated 30% or more for service-connected causes can receive additional amounts for dependents. Contact your nearest VA regional office.

Q -- I want to buy a home that costs \$30,000. How much would my monthly payments be?

A -- Generally, depending upon the amount of real estate taxes, the monthly payments equal about 1% of the amount financed. If you finance \$30,000 your monthly payments should be approximately \$300.

Q -- My 10 year eligibility period for education assistance will end before I complete my training. Is there any way I can get an extension?

A -- Extension can be granted only when a veteran can show that a physical or mental disability, not wilfully incurred, prevented starting or completing a training program.

VA

For the first time in history, the nation's veteran population has climbed above the 30 million mark.

And Veterans Administration chief Max Cleland said today that the number is likely to keep climbing during at least the next few months before leveling off.

At the end of November, VA estimated the number of living veterans at 30,023,000. A year ago, the number was 29,879,000.

Cleland said the continuing increase is due to the fact that discharges from military service have been exceeding the number of deaths among veterans. The lower death rate, in turn, is a reflection of the increased life expectancy in the past few years.

VA said the largest group of living veterans are those who served in World War II. These numbered 12,866,000 in November and their average age was just over 58 years.

In contrast, only 278 veterans of the Spanish-American War remained alive in November, the survivors of the 392,000 participants in that conflict.

Vietnam Era Veterans totaled 8,779,000, Cleland said, and next in numerical order are the 5,893,000 men and women who served during the Korean conflict.

Only 653,000 veterans of World War I are still alive out of the 4,744,000 soldiers sailors and airmen who took part in that "war to end all wars." Their average age now is 83.

Cleland said California is home to more veterans than any other state. More than 3.3 million of them live there. New York has 2.5 million veterans, and Pennsylvania, Texas, Illinois and Ohio -- in that order -- have between 1.5 and 1.7 million veterans each.

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

both British Petroleum and Gulf as well as the other oil sisters will be seeking even more of Nigeria's black gold in 1979. Minority contracts, management assistances and money for community programs could pop up a lot easier from these oil sisters at the mere sound of petroleum barrel movement to companies on the affirmative action road.

Dr. Carlton Goodlett, past president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association -- Black Press of America -- has already called on the Honorable Brigadier J. Garba, Commissioner of External Affairs, Federal Republic of Nigeria to establish a Nigerian-American bank. Both Dr. Goodlett and Mr. Goines ideas need stroking for a stronger Black American business community.

VOICE EDITORIALS

The Hughes

Report

By Thomas F. Hughes



New Foundation— IRS Under Fire

The "New Foundation" the theme and policy bases for the government of the United States, was given definition by President Carter in his Tuesday night "State of the Nation" message.

It is really too early to tell, but it appears that he is trying to avoid the appearance of talking out of both sides of his mouth at the same time.

He speaks of being a friend of minorities, announcing a program to reduce the unemployment rate, but in his next breath he details his intentions of cutting millions of dollars from social services and other job producing programs.

The President make it crystal clear that his top priority will be to fight inflation and maintain a strong military, regardless of how much minorities and other disadvantaged people are hurt in the process.

It appears that again Black folk are going to be the primary victims of his "New Foundation" pronouncement. Yet, there are those who will contend that the response should be, "So what's new about that? They're used to it. Hardships have been a way of national priorities are being considered and established."

In his "State of Black America" report, National Urban League director Vernon E. Jordan, Jr. said, "1979 promises to be a year of crisis for America's Black people" Citing the strong possibility that a recession will occur in 1979 and the fact that the Administration's austerity budget in the next fiscal year will impact heavily on domestic programs, Mr. Jordan said, "Black America today verges on the brink of disaster."

He made this observation on January 17, 1979. The President, in his speech on Tuesday night dispelled any doubt and illusions about the dismal prospects that lie ahead for the poor and disadvantaged people of this country.

Pres. Carter spoke, in glowing terms, about his support of human rights and Affirmative Action programs. But does he not also support the job "seniority rule"? Again, Blacks are the victims. . . "The last hired, the first fired." We are also aware that the Bakke decision surley hasn't helped matters any.

The initiative taken by federal agencies through guidelines and directives attached to federal funding did a lot of good in breaking down discriminatory hiring practices by local government as well as private enterprise. But, the "New Foundation" programming may destroy all progress made and contrary to his announced goals, may even encourage the spread and resurgence of racism.

President Carter's new austerity program to reduce the federal deficit is certain to reduce job training and job creation programs. This will result in placing more and more people in lines drawing unemployment benefits and welfare checks. It seems Black folk just can't win for losing. Her society would rather pay Black people to sit on their backsides and not work than to provide job opportunities for those who would prefer to work.

The master-slave mentality of those in position of power is difficult to deal with. They still look upon the ghettos and communities populated by minorities as their private plantation. The trouble-makers who rock the boat by exposing the efforts to keep the minds of poor people enslaved are severely punished.

But, the facts of the matter is, too many have had a taste of the good life. They are not about to submit to conditions of submission and misery ever again.

The specter of self reliance is in evidence at every turn. Individual initiative has progressed to the point that if required to acquiesce, even the meek would rebel and explode with resentment.

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Education Is Power

By
Thomas E. Wilson



Job Opportunities & Career

At some point in our lives we must make some important decisions that will affect us for the rest of our lives. One of these decisions is that of choosing a lifetime career for ourselves. As Blacks, we must decide as soon as possible in order that we may begin preparation toward our career goals.

As we think of possible job opportunities and career goals, there are certain things that we must keep in mind. In the words of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, president of Operation PUSH, we as Blacks "must be superior just to be equal". In our opinion, no truer words were ever spoken. We have witnessed, time and time again, that Blacks have been the last ones hired and the first ones fired. Therefore in order to sustain oneself in an economy such as ours, we must be willing and able to prove that we are working toward superiority and not toward mediocrity. We must also be able to take the bitter with sweets in order to be able to reach our career goals.

If our goal is to become a professional person (teacher, doctor, lawyer, engineer, etc.) we must realize that the preparation time will be longer than for a non-professional or a semi-professional goal. Before choosing a professional career goal, one must take into account the personality, physical, emotional and intellectual requirements of the job. Each of the professions mentioned above require certain personality traits. For instance, if one wishes to become a teacher, he/she must like people in general and children in particular. He/she must be able to see humor in many things where there is no real humor, must be able to laugh at his/her own mistakes as well as the mistakes of others, and be willing to talk with friendly as well as sometimes hostile persons as a matter of course. A stalbe mind is an absolute necessity.

A large amount of physical stamina is required of a teacher. One must stand or walk around the room most of the day. Very little teaching time is spent sitting if one is to be an effective teacher.

Intellectually, the teaching profession requires that a person has the ability to successfully complete at least four years of an acceptable college course geared primarily to teaching. One must be widely read and must be willing to continue to study throughout his/her teaching lifetime. New knowledge is discovered and recorded each day. Therefore a great deal of a teacher's time must be spent in preparation for teaching.

The other professions mentioned above require essentially the same type of personality, physical, emotional and intellectual make-up as a teacher. However, one must remember that to become a doctor requires much more time and money than does preparation to become a teacher. However when one considers the financial rewards of a doctor as compared to those of a teacher, one can see reasons to pursue a career in one of the many branches of medicine.

Examples of other professional and/or semi-professional and vocational job possibilities that are open or seem to be opening to Blacks are those in the following fields: electronics, computer science, aviation (Black pilots are now being hired by the major airlines), the communication fields which include newspapers, etc., industrial management, social services (including welfare work, juvenile work, etc.), building trades, health fields (nurses, x-ray technicians, etc.), law enforcement, transportation, photography, entertainment (from performance through production), sports, and sales. Because of the struggles of the generation that preceded the present one (those over 35 at this time), we now are able to participate in a variety a careers to a much greater extent than our forefathers did. However, we still

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