

**V*A FACTS

Q -- How long may a "helpless child" receive VA pension benefits?

A -- Children who become permanently incapable of self-support because of a mental or physical defect before attaining age 18 are entitled to receive benefits as long as the condition exists or until they marry.

Q -- In 1948 I bought a National Service Life Insurance "V" policy with a \$5,000 face value. Can I add an additional \$5,000 worth of coverage?

A -- No. You may elect to use your annual dividends to buy paid-up additions. The amount of additional insurance you may buy depends upon your age and the amount of your dividend.

Q -- I am a veteran attending school under the GI Bill I plan to marry a widow with two children. Will I be eligible for additional education benefits based on these stepchildren?

A -- Yes. Unmarried stepchildren living with the veteran are considered dependents of the veteran until their 18th birthday, or if enrolled in a VA approved course of study until their 23rd birthday.

VA

Some 150,000 World War I veterans may qualify for higher pensions that include an extra \$800 a year in Veterans Administration payments under a revised VA pension plan approved by Congress last year.

The special add-on pension increase was earmarked by Congress for certain needy, elderly veterans of wartime service for whom VA education and loan guaranty benefits had not been made available.

The legislation limits the \$800 annual increase to veterans of World War I.

There are almost 300,000 World War I veterans currently on VA pension rolls, but because of changed income eligibility criteria under the improved pension program, VA believes some 150,000 will benefit under the new program and qualify for the special \$800 increase.

The changes under the improved pension program will mean much higher pension rates for many World War I veterans, even before the \$800 add-on included. But the income of all family members will be counted for the first time indetermining pension eligibility.

Under the current program, for example, the earned income of a veteran's wife is not counted in determining his eligibility. In addition, many of the income exclusions in the current program will not be allowed under the new program.

VA chief Max Cleland reminded World War I Veterans that they have until October 1 of this year to decide whether to remain under the current program or switch to the new one if they are to be paid increased rates from January 1, 1979.

An explanation of the provisions of the new program will accompany the March VA pension checks, he said, but reminded veterans and their dependents that assistance in deciding which plan to choose is available from local units of national veterans organizations and from local units of national veterans organizations and from any VA office.

Cleland also reminded the veterans that VA will not accept a choice that will result in lesser pension benefits for the individual.

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

of using Black Americans as "last hired and first fired" cannon fodder.

Sears, Roebuck has some 460,000 employees across the nation and overseas. Minorities employment has more than doubled domestically since civil rights activities in 1966. However, Sears minorities officials and managers are only one half their equal in the total domestic workforce.

While this leaves quite a goal for Sears to fulfill, it is even more doubtful that Sears' peer group plaintiffs are even this progressive! A successful suit by Sears would shut off further affirmative action growth in almost all giant corporations of America.

The Hughes

Report

By Thomas F. Hughes



SEGRETTI RESIGNS-E.O.B. SEEKS FUNDS-BLACK HISTORY WEEK KNOCKED

Word comes that Margaret Segretti, chairman of the Clark County Democratic Central Committee has resigned her post and will leave March 1st. Heavy losses in the fall are considered the reason although Segretti claimed personal obligations to her family as the reason. At the last regular meeting I proposed a seminar or workshop to train captains of precincts and others how to build party loyalty, registration and voting. I was surprised at the way others rallied around that idea. It seems there is a feeling among members that a "click" was controlling the committee. A familiar charge that may be true. Whether it is true or not the plain fact is that the democratic party with a 2 to 1 registration over republicans has failed miserably to deliver registered democrats to the polls to vote for democrats, instead of republicans. Workshops should be the order of the day and blacks should participate as too many of our people are not registered and do not vote. Blacks should have a greater participation in & on the committee. At present Ruby Duncan is the only notable participant.

The Economic Opportunity Board will turn to the Nevada Legislature for funds to finance its expanded Anti-Crime Program, EOB Executive Director David Hoggard said this week.

Hoggard says he wants to expand the Anti Crime Program into a state wide operation, and \$250,000 will be needed to fund the program.

Hoggard said the agency funded community and service groups to conduct crime prevention and victim assistance projects. They served 1,905 clients in 1978. They were:

- *The Nevada Association of Latin Americans, which assists residents addressing crime concerns where language is a problem.

- *Operation Life, which teaches low-income residents how to protect themselves and their property.

- *The Low Income Tenants Organization, which works closely with the North Las Vegas Police Department.

- *Community Action Against Rape, which provides counseling and assistance to victims of rape.

- *And Retired Citizens Volunteer Program, which works with seniors to make them less vulnerable to crime.

Many Black groups are pushing "Black History Week" to our great pleasure. So it was to be expected that "Tom Semmens" one of the Clark County School Trustees or someone like him would knock their effort. As the saying goes "They don't want us to have nothing." We reprint the article where Black History was rapped in the Sun.

Black History Week unfairly singles out one race and should be replaced with a week recognizing all cultures a Clark County school trustee said Monday.

"I don't think it's wrong for them (blacks) to show off their culture, but I don't think others should be slighted," Tom Semmens told the Sun. "Instead of singling out one group of people, I think that all cultures should be recognized during the week and we should call it multicultural week or American week."

The week is being observed through Friday in Clark County schools with assemblies, student exhibits and speeches by various black officials. It coincides with February's recognition nationwide as Black History Month.

"If someone should get recognition, it's the Indians. Mistreatment of the American Indian is something we should be ashamed of," Semmens said. "The black people's history should be brought out, but most students in high school now could tell me more about black history than others."

He suggested establishing a week with a "Little bit of everything," such as Irish and Italian cultures.

VOICE EDITORIALS

"If you single one out, then single all of them out he said.

Virginia Brewster, the only black school trustee, said the week was important so students, teacher and administrators can learn more about black history and customs.

"We are not just ditch diggers. We are a part of America and the only way you can know that is to show we're a part," she said. "We have black attorneys and executives and the only way you can show that is during this small segment of time."

Brewster, who spoke Monday at Orr Junior High School as part of a series of seminars there throughout the week, said "it's good for the students just to know there is somebody else in the world besides their own race."

"I can't help the way Tom Semmens feels. I am hoping the other people have common sense on the board," she said.

Al Brown, school district human relations coordinator said this year's Black History Week was featuring a tribute to Harriet Tubman, the 19th century "Black Moses" who helped free the slaves.

He said the district observes an Hispanics Week in October and devotes several days to Indian culture in April.

School board president Dr. James Lyman said he favored Black History Week, but said activities should not detract from regular classroom time.

Alexander's Album

by Clifford Alexander

"TRENDS IN AGING"

There are those who guide youth who emphasize experience. Let the young person visit a senior citizen center, let him offer to perform some chores for a home-bound neighbor, let him volunteer to sit with a patient in a nursing home. Worthwhile as these experiences may be, those who have worked closely with the aged themselves and have watched young people being about them have certain reservations about this "sink or swim" approach.

First of all the young person needs to see aging as part of his own life experience. Youth speaks as though all growth ends when he reaches physical maturity. He is seldom asked to consider or to plan for his older years and his retirement days. Nor is he likely to consider these periods on his own. He lacks familiarity with older people. His grandparents live in distant parts of the country; his neighborhood is composed of growig families like his own. Yet aging is a reality and should be seriously dealt with. Young people need to be made aware that planning is essential. What he examines and works toward in relation to the aging today will be the environment he will retire into tomorrow.

Aside from lack of familiarity with the aging, the young person is bombared by negative presentations of the senior American who is stereotyped as physically unattractive--overladen with wrinkles, loosing thin graying hair, unsteady in his pace, with a reflective pathetic countenance contemplating better days. Youth needs information on the causes of the "slowing down" process. He needs to be taught to look beyond appearances to the beauty of life within. He needs to see wrinkles, gray hair, bent over bodies as signs of conquerors of life.

There is a possibility that a recognition of these ideas can come from close association with the elderly such as in volunteer work, but there is often the danger of a negative experience. Both the student and the participating senior citizen need to know ahead and plan at least for initial encounters. Old people have a need for security in meeting new situations and young people are very impresionable. Both are emotionally