

SIIS Provides Ombudsman Program

Injured workers with a question or complaint about the way their claim is being handled by the State Industrial Insurance System have access to an ombudsman who will provide a prompt resolution to problems within SIIS' control. Ombudsman Bernice Jenkins says her office at 1700 West Charleston is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., including the noon hour, to assist claimants. No appointment is necessary, but for those who wish to call, the number is 388-3114.

Jenkins says her office can resolve problems with a late or missing compensation check. The ombudsman's office can also expedite problems with benefit amounts if an error has been made on the wage base of an injured worker.

While the ombudsman's program has been in place for some time, Jenkins said a number of claimants are unaware of its existence. "Most of the referrals to my office have come from unions and other state agencies, but I want people to know there is another avenue if they feel their concerns are not being addressed."

Jenkins said a great majority of the concerns regarding claims are resolved within the normal claims process. However, Jenkins says her office will look into any workers' compensation matter the claimant desires. Translators are available for those clients who speak Spanish.

"Claimants should know that we will take the time to sit down and get to the bottom of the problems. We will explore all possible avenues

to see that their questions or complaints are answered," the ombudsman said.

Jenkins has been the SIIS ombudsman for southern Nevada since Jan. 1986. She was formerly an aide to Gov. Richard Bryan.

Prior to her state service she was the director of management services for the City of Las Vegas, and for 20 years she was an educator in southern Nevada.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN'S BLACK FAMILY REUNION COMES TO L.A. AUGUST 1 AT EXPOSITION PARK

The event that attracted an estimated 200,000 people to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. last year, is coming to Los Angeles. The National Council of Negro Women's Black Family Reunion Celebration for the California region, is scheduled to take place Saturday, August 1, at Exposition Park in Los Angeles,

it was announced by Dr. Dorothy I. Height, President of the Washington based national organization.

The festival-styled event is aimed at Black families of all compositions and will feature a full day of entertainment, exhibits, workshops, health checks, and a free concert. The activities will take place in six Pavilions constructed

as individual presenting areas where events will occur simultaneously.

Through the use of performing arts, lectures, demonstrations, and exhibits, the Pavilions will explore the traditional, historical, and cultural strengths of the Black family as well as seek solutions to issues affecting Black family

members. The six Pavilion themes are: Children, Young Adult, Work Ethic, Health/Sports, Family Values, and Education.

Celebrities from the entertainment and sports world will be active participants in the Black Family Reunion, taking part in most of the daylong list of activities including opening ceremonies that morning and Pavilion activity during the day. The free event ends with an outdoor concert beginning at sunset.

Event coordinators are expecting people from throughout the Western United States to participate in this year's event, and are encouraging everyone to pack a picnic basket and prepare to spend an entire day, free, sharing the Black family experience and celebrating its future.

Black Family Reunion Celebrations are also taking place in Atlanta, GA (concluded), Detroit, MI (late August), and Washington, D.C. (September). Volunteers are needed for a number of assignments. If you're interested, contact Tobin & Associates at (213) 856-0827 or (213) 231-1250.

BUSINESS IN THE BLACK

Outlook For Employment Varies in Places

JOB HUNTING IN A HURRY!

by Charles E. Belle,
Business Editor

One of the most startling statements on the national outlook for employment by Manpower, Inc., third quarter, 1987, Employment Outlook Survey is that "the forecast is favorable across a wide spectrum of industries, with the strongest improvements expected in the manufacturing and service sectors." Services employers should record their best third quarter since 1979, "before the Ronald Reagan era." Nothing new about the latter prognosis. But, manufacturing jobs have been taking a beating with the beginning of Reaganomics. *Business Week*, bible of corporate America, comments it best on the mark, "manufacturing employment ceased dropping last September, yet there has been no real turnaround. Job growth in the service-producing area is coming strong," in spite of

the spiraling labor force. Which brings us to the problem of unemployed Black American male workers.

While the number of jobs have increased modestly, many more workers are in the work force. Women, white women in particular, have participated in the meager job opening expansion exceeding their previous workforce percentage presence for significant reasons. Divorce rates have increased substantially in White America forcing more white women to work to support themselves and supplement their child support payments which have been cut due to more "equal" division of property and alimony settlements under state laws. Some women have also opted to work rather than get married at an early age. Others have decided to remain longer in the work force to maintain a higher standards of living or have just simply learned to

love their work.

Whatever the basic reasons, the results are reflected in the astounding low unemployment of women in the American workforce.

"The jobless rate for women has fallen to 6.1%, the first time it has been below that for men," according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Since women have come into the labor force in greater numbers again since World War II, they have been stymied in the same old fashion at the top corporate level.

A list of one hundred top corporate women by *Business Week* in 1976 is today left with only one quarter of them still working. While a few were frustrated but remained in the work force with their own firms, most were forced out in the end. This start and stall tactic of white male America still takes place today for women and minorities attempting to climb the corporate ladder.

The most promising place for cementing continued promotion for males, minorities or women is the manufacturing plant. Performance is difficult to mask in the manufacturing sector.

Since this is a dwindling arena in America, a job here is worth its weight in gold.

Where are the few remaining robust areas for factory jobs in the United States? Well according to Wharton Economics, after peering at the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics reports, in California try Anaheim, Riverside, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, and San Diego. On the East Coast, would you believe Washington, D.C. and Tampa, Florida. Detroit is finally doing its renaissance thing, as is Dayton, Ohio in the Midwest. "The summer quarter of 1987 should be the most optimistic for Western job seekers since mid-1984," according to Manpower, Inc. If you don't go West young man, do go where there are jobs.

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NMA From Page 3

Henderson professor and vice chair, Department of Surgery, Tulane University Medical Center, at 4 p.m. Tuesday, August 4. The Stubbs lecture is presented by a renowned non-NMA surgeon chosen for contributions to the training of Black surgeons.

The 11th NMA Women in Medicine Luncheon will be held at noon, on Tuesday, August 4, preceded by the Women in Medicine Symposium set for 9 a.m. until noon.

The National Medical Association is headquartered here at 1012 Tenth St., N.W.

The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice welcomes expressions of all views from readers. Letters should be kept as brief as possible and are subject to condensation. They must include signature, valid mailing address and telephone number, if any. Pseudonyms and initials will not be used. Because of the volume of mail received, unpublished individual letters cannot be acknowledged. Send to: Letters to the Editor, The Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, 1201 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104.