

# Getting Smart

BY WALTER L. SMART Executive Director  
National Federation of Settlements  
and Neighborhood Centers

It is very likely that the Congress will make welfare reform one of its high priorities. President Carter has already formed a task force on welfare reform, headed by H. E. W. Secretary Joseph Califano, which is scheduled to issue recommendations by late April of this year. Congressman Steven J. Solaz has introduced two bills which would both provide immediate fiscal relief for local governments and long term reform of the entire welfare system.

The first of these two bills is the "Uniform Federal Welfare and Medical Assistance Act of 1977," which would establish a uniform rate of Federal reimbursement of 75% for the AFDC and Medicaid Program. It would also mandate that the entire 25% local contribution be borne entirely by the states and forbids any state from requiring any of its subdivisions or municipalities to contribute to the cost of the program.

The second bill introduced by Congressman Solaz is the "Family Income Maintenance Act" which if enacted would totally change the welfare program by consolidating the existing SSI, AFDC, Food Stamp and Home Relief Programs into one comprehensive program which would provide all eligible families with a minimum of \$4,700 a year. The bill, besides eliminating existing eligibility requirements relating to family structure which contribute to family breakups, contains strong work incentives and requirements. In addition, the bill would provide special adjustments for high cost of living areas.

The "welfare system" consists of diverse federal, state, and local programs including social insurance (principally Social Security, Railroad Retirement, Workmen's Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, Veterans Compensation, and Medicare) and income assistance (principally Aid for Children, Supplemental Security Income, Food Stamps and Medicaid, Public Housing, and General Assistance). Social Services are also related to some of these programs.

In Fiscal Year 1977 social insurance benefits will equal approximately \$134 billion. Some of these benefits go to low income families, but most will go to families and individuals with incomes above the official poverty line.

Benefits under income assistance programs, i.e., AFDC and SSI will equal approximately \$49 billion in Fiscal Year 1977. Even with this vast array of programs and services, nearly 25 million Americans still remain in poverty.

Legislation is indeed needed to reform our chaotic welfare system. However, one of the major problems with our welfare program is the belief among the majority of people in our society that the system encourages able bodied persons to be dependent upon the state. There is a great deal of controversy as to whether jobs do exist. The Solaz Bill stresses the referral of able bodied persons on welfare to job opportunities. However, if members of Congress are convinced that the jobs are available, then would it not be both proper and effective to pass H. R. 50, the Equal Opportunity and Full Employment Act prior to the enactment of any legislation leading toward welfare reform? By doing so, we will put the issue in the proper perspective. Let your elected representative know how you feel about full employment, the nation's number one priority. H. R. 50 virtually needs Congressional support.

# Infant Mortality And Teenage Pregnancy Highest In Southeast USA

## North Carolina Selected To Participate In IPOC

CHAPEL HILL — The infant mortality and teenage pregnancy rate is higher in the Southeast than elsewhere in the United States.

To combat the problem, the Bureau of Maternal and

Child Health, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare is starting the "Improved Pregnancy Outcome Program," said Dr. Vince L. Hutchins, associate bureau director.

Thirteen states with high infant mortality and teenage pregnancy rates, health manpower shortages and large numbers of people at risk, were selected to participate in the program. North Carolina and

seven other Southeastern states were chosen and notification of funding should be received within a few weeks.

Hutchins described the need for and purpose of the program Tuesday, March 22 at the Regional Conference on Maternal and Child Health, Family Planning and Crippled Children's Services in Chapel Hill. The conference was sponsored by the department of maternal and child health and the office of continuing education, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The goal of the "Improved Pregnancy Outcome Program," he said, is to improve maternal care and pregnancy outcome in states which greatly contribute to the incidence of infant mortality and teenage pregnancy in an effort to reduce these problems. North Carolina has the fourth highest infant mortality rate, according to Hutchins, following the District of Columbia, Alabama and Mississippi.

"There is considerable variation among states in infant mortality rates," Hutchins said. "For example, in 1975

it ranged from 22.3 per 1,000 live births in Mississippi to 12.9 in Hawaii.

"For infants aged 1 - 11 months, the mortality rate in isolated areas is 45 per cent higher for whites and 136 per cent higher for non-whites than in greater metropolitan areas. And in 18 of the 26 largest cities, the infant mortality rate was above the national rate from 1968-70."

The infant mortality rate for white infants is half what it is for non-white infants, Hutchins said.

High infant mortality is usually associated with teenage pregnancy, and in 1973, North Carolina ranked ninth in the nation in the number of births to teenage girls.

"In 1975," Hutchins said, "there were nearly 600,000 births in the U. S. to women 19 years of age and under. Over 12,000 of these births were to girls less than 15 years of age. The only increase in fertility rates was for girls aged 10 - 14 years, which had risen 8 per cent from the previous year."



**NNPA AWARD TO REYNOLDS** — Colin Stokes (center), chairman and chief executive officer of R. J. Reynolds Industries, Inc., receives an award from Dr. Carlton Goodlett, president, National Newspaper Publishers Association, for Reynolds Industries' scholarship program for black journalism students. At the Marth 18 presentation in Washington, D. C., Stokes announced that the program would be extended to include 20 additional students in a second seven-year phase. Seated next to Stokes is Thurgood Marshall, associate justice, United States Supreme Court.

## Gov. Proclaims Foreign Language Week

Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., has proclaimed the week of April 3-9 Foreign Language Week in North Carolina, and public school students throughout the state have planned a variety of activities in recognition of the commemorative event.

"It is a fact that knowledge of the language and culture of another nation makes our citizens more aware of their common language and of their basic cultural patterns, and more tolerant and appreciative of our pluralistic society," Hunt said in the proclamation.

Students in Durham county/city schools will participate in many classroom and schoolwide activities featuring the language and customs of other cultures. Many schools in the state will sponsor foreign language festivals, featuring the music, dance, language and food of other cultures, and will invite parents and interested citizens to join

them. Some schools will also feature foreign language contests.

Foreign Language Week is sponsored each year by the Department of Public Instruction's Division of Languages

## Flexitime To Begin At EPA March 28

Flexitime, a work schedule that offer full time employees greater flexibility in determining work hours, will begin at all of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's North Carolina facilities on March 28.

Norman Childs, coordinator for establishing the program at Research Triangle Park explained that with flexitime, fixed times of arrival and departure are replaced by a working day with two different types of times: core time and flexible time.

EPA's flexitime program consists of 10% operating hours, from 7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. There is a 6 1/2 hour core time, from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., during which all employees in each work unit must be present. Flexible time is a 2 hour period before and after one core time in which employees may choose their arrival and departure times. Under the new system all employees still work an eight hour day plus a half hour for lunch.

Childs noted that the public will continue to be served during the regular work-

ing hours of 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

"By expanding our work hours we hope flexitime will give employees greater control over their personal and working lives. The new system will also provide employees with more quiet time before or after our regular hours to accomplish work requiring greater concentration," continued Childs. "Under flexitime, child-care arrangements, public transportation, and car pooling are often more workable than under fixed hours," said Childs. "and most agencies have found that flexitime has reduced tardiness and use of sick leave." "Flexitime will also allow some employees to travel to and from work at other than peak rush periods. And for other employees it may mean the opportunity to enroll in courses which could not be taken under EPA's fixed schedule."

Flexitime will be tried by EPA for a one year period and then be evaluated for its continued use.

Flexitime programs now affect more than 60,000 Federal employees in 50 or-

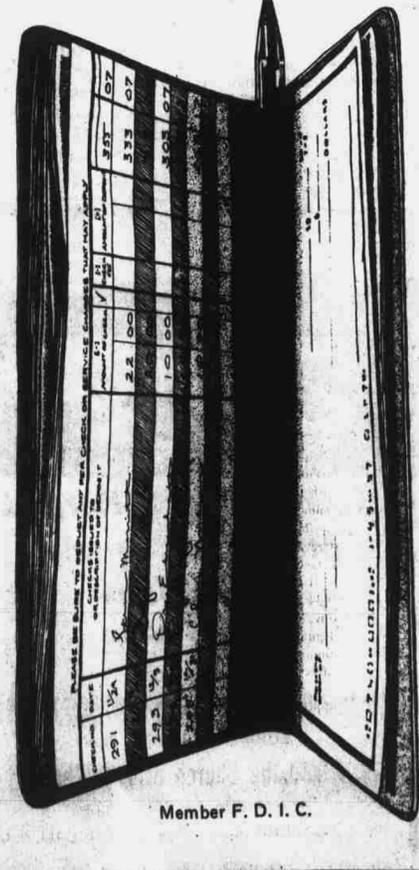
ganizations throughout the country. The program has been adopted at EPA Headquarters, EPA's Research Laboratory in Cincinnati, and in five Regional offices.

# Who'll help you keep a diary?

A checking account is a financial "diary." It shows you who you paid, when, and how much. You'll find other uses for this little book. Like itemizing deductions for your income tax return and making up a budget. Come in today and we'll show all the ways a checking account can make your life lots easier.



**Liberty Bank & Trust Company**



Member F. D. I. C.

## 16,000 Elderly Get Jobs In 3 Month Period; 20% Are Black

WASHINGTON — The U. S. Department of Labor provided 16,000 workers age 55 and over with part time community service jobs in the three month transition period in 1976 "between" fiscal years.

The older workers, all economically disadvantaged, were participants in the Senior Community Employment Program (SCSEP), in which wages are subsidized by the Labor Department.

Almost three fourths (74 per cent) of the participants were white, 20 per cent were black, and the remaining 6 per cent were American Indian or from other ethnic groups. Slightly more than 5 per cent were of Hispanic origin.

The department spent \$10,254,000 for the program from July 1 through Sept. 30, 1976, the so-called transition period between the end of the old fiscal year period and the start of the new period three months later.

SCSEP participants work in a wide variety of activities in such places as day care centers, schools, hospitals, senior citizens centers, and on beautification, conservation and restoration projects.

SCSEP offers the communities where it operates a federally supported pool of workers than can be drawn upon to enhance existing services or to create new ones. It provides program participants with a much needed supplement to their incomes.

SCSEP projects are sponsored primarily by five national organizations: Green Thumb, Inc. (an arm of the National Farmers Union); the National Council on the Aging; the National Council of Senior Citizens; the National Retired Teachers Association -- American Association of Retired Persons; and the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

These organizations sponsor all SCSEP projects now being conducted in 47 states, Washington, D. C., and Puerto Rico. In the three states and four territories not covered by these organizations (Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the Virgin Islands), SCSEP projects are being sponsored by the state and territorial governments.

SCSEP is authorized by Title IX of the Older Americans Amendments of 1975 (PL 94-135) and includes projects that are formerly conducted under the National Older Workers Program -- Operation Mainstream.

**Kimbrrell's EXCHANGE** 212 Foster St. Ph: 682-9287

**3 BIG DAYS this week** Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10 a.m. to 9 a.m. to 9:00 to 7:30 5:30 5:30

**Foam Bedpillow** \$1.00 EACH 17x23

**Wood Framed Pictured** \$1.00 8x10

**Quilted Bedspreads** Full Size \$8.88

**Throw Rugs** Assorted Colors \$1.00 18x27

**Grand Opening Sale** Starts Thursday 10 A.M. Sharp!

**Spanish Style Bedroom Suite** \$228.00 Bed Chest Dresser Mirror

**2-Pc. Living Room Suite** \$197.00 Tuzeo Style Sofa Matching Chair Close out covers 2-Pc. Suite

**Sleeper Sofa** \$199.00 Hercules Covers Foam mattress

**Oak Swing** \$198.00 48" un-assembled Take along

**3-Pc. Table Set** \$98.00 Fine Finish Factory Seconds 3-Pc.

**5 Drawer Chest** \$44.00 5 Drawer Walnut Finish Chest

**Metal Robe** \$58.00

**Love Seat** \$66.00 2 Cushion Low Bed Hercules Cover Close out covers

**TV** \$147.00 14" Portable

**Bean Bags** \$14.00 Vinyl Covers

**Bunk Beds** \$68.00 Maple Finish

**Stereo** \$148.00 USED

**3-Pc. Spanish Style Bedroom Suite** \$188.00 USED

**Single Dresser** \$78.00 USED w/ mirror, white and gold

**Register for Man Size Recliner \$200.00 Value \$300.00 in Gift Certificates. No purchase required during our GRAND OPENING!**

**2-Pc. Living Room Suite** \$178.00 USED 3-Pc. Spanish Style Bedroom Suite

**7-Pc. Dinetto** \$88.00 Factory Seconds

**3-Pc. Porch Set** \$66.00 2 Chairs 3 Chairs

**Twin Size Rollaway Bed** \$58.00

**7-Pc. Chrome Dinetto** \$88.00 USED

**3-Pc. Living Room Suite** \$128.00 USED 3-Pc. Solid Amer. Living Room Suite

**7-Pc. Chrome Dinetto** \$90.00 Double Size Maple Bed

**3-Pc. Solid Amer. Living Room Suite** \$198.00 USED 4-Pc. Spanish Oak Bedroom Suite

**Electric Range** \$10.00 USED

**Matched Bedding Sets By American Bedding** \$11.88 Values to 149.00

**Twin Size 88.00** Full Size \$98.00

**TWIN BED OUTFIT** \$99.00 Three Piece Twin Bed Outfit

**ALL THE CREDIT YOU NEED!** 212 Foster St. 682-9287

**YOU PAY ONLY KIMBRELL'S!**

**Kimbrrell's EXCHANGE** 212 Foster St. 682-9287

CASH OR CREDIT - WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS