



NAVY CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER Bernard A. Spriggs, who self-educated himself through Navy Programs after dropping out of high school at the age of 17, chats with airline stewardess Lana Lamoueus. Spriggs is now Air Terminal Officer at Naval Air Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

New York Rally to Aid Evers' Race for Governor of Mississippi

JACKSON, Miss. — Charles Evers — the first Negro to run for Governor of Mississippi — announced today (May 4) that political leaders and clubs from throughout the New York metropolitan area have agreed to conduct a massive volunteer operation to recruit skills, resources and funds for his historic campaign.

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The announcement came at a press conference held this morning at Freedom House, 20 West 40th St., New York City. Attending the press conference were more than twenty political leaders in the Greater New York area whose organizations are participating in the effort.

Under the aegis of a national committee now in formation, Mayor Evers noted, the New York political groups will provide professionals and technicians to train local Mississippians to conduct their own political organizing, canvassing, vote pulling, etc. The plan calls for clubs in the New York area to "adopt" a county in Mississippi and to mobilize teams of professionals to spend several weeks in Mississippi conducting the training, to follow-up periodically with technical assistance and to raise funds in their communities for the "adopted" county organizations in Mississippi.

"This is the first time," Mr. Evers said, "that a systematic effort is being made to bring political skills to the people of Mississippi. In the past, volunteers have come for short periods, worked energetically in a campaign, and left. Very little of their know-how has rubbed off on Mississippians. This time we hope they will leave behind the nucleus of an effective political organization at the local and county levels," he noted.

High School Dropout Scores with Courses Offered By U.S. Navy

WASHINGTON, D. C. — He was a high school dropout when he joined the Navy in 1954 ... a man with an uncertain future. Today he is self-educated, a painter, musician, all-around athlete and a budding linguist.

In 1960 Second Class Petty Officer Spriggs reported to what he still considers his best tour of duty ... the Naval Base, Rota, Spain. It was during his Spain tour that Bernie began his study, study, study program using the Navy's correspondence courses. Spriggs explained that, "As a result of these courses I later made warrant officer."

Bernie departed Rota as AB-1. His new assignment found him with Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron One based in Key West, Fla. While in Key West he took examinations for both chief petty officer and warrant officer. He made chief.

Spriggs quit high school in his senior year in Washington, D. C. At the age of 17 he answered the Navy's call.

His first tour of duty found him pushing planes and driving tractors on the hangar deck of the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea (CVA-43). The direction he took from there was fairly well determined for him when a division petty officer informed him he was going up for Third Class Aviation Boatswain's Mate (AB-3). With a laugh Warrant Officer Spriggs says, "And so I went up for AB."

He made third and in 1957 he was transferred to the air test facility, Patuxent River, Md. In December of that year Bernie Spriggs took his discharge.

Unfortunately for Bernie and million of other young people the United States was undergoing a period of rough economic conditions ... unemployment was high. As a result

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Fewer Jobless Workers Filing for Ins. Claims

WASHINGTON — Both the number of unemployed persons filing initial claims for unemployment insurance and the number receiving jobless benefits dropped substantially for the week, the Department of Labor reports.

Initial claims totaled 257,900 during the week ended April 17 — or 20,600 below the figure for the preceding week and 31,100 lower than for the corresponding week one year ago.

Thirty-nine States reported decreases — the largest occurring in Pennsylvania (6,800) due to fewer layoffs in the construction, apparel and electrical machinery industries. Other States reporting noticeable reductions included California (2,500), New York, (1,900), and Illinois and Louisiana (1,800 each).

The largest increases in initial claims occurred in New Jersey (3,900) and Michigan (3,300) — both rises caused

by cutbacks in the automobile industry.

Insured unemployment totaled 2,375,700 during the week ended April 10 — or 31,300 lower than for the previous week. One year ago the volume was 1,738,500. The insured unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.5 percent. The rate a year ago was 3.3 percent.

Thirty-six states reported

lower volumes — the most sizable occurring in California (10,700), followed by Michigan (6,800), Ohio (5,400), Wisconsin (5,000), Louisiana (3,900), and Massachusetts and Minnesota (2,600 each).

Noticeable increases in the volumes of insured unemployment were recorded in two States — Washington (7,100) and New Jersey (5,800).

TAR HEELS PAY OVER \$4 BILLION THE PAST YEAR

GREENSBORO — Figures just released show that North Carolina sources paid a total of \$4,164,454,000 in federal taxes during fiscal year 1970. This is the third consecutive year Tar Heels have paid over \$4-billion in federal taxes, and it shows an increase of about \$100-million over collections in 1969.

This total includes a manufacturer's tax on tobacco products of over one billion dollars. Tobacco taxes, how-

ever, decreased about eight million dollars in North Carolina in 1970. The decrease throughout the country in tobacco taxes totaled about \$44-million in 1970 compared with 1969.

Total tax collections in the United States during fiscal year 1970 totaled \$187,919,560,000. This was an overall increase of about \$8-billion.

New York state taxpayers paid the largest federal tax-nearly \$33-billion.



JOE LOUIS VISITS WITH TOM JONES — Former Heavyweight Champ. Joe Louis talks a few rounds with Tom Jones backstage at Caesars Palace where Jones has broken all attendance records for the Hotel. The Joe Louis Testimonial Dinner will be held at Caesars Palace on May 14.



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