

You & the Law

by
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Legal Aid Society
of Northwest N.C., Inc.

The Hill-Burton Law is a federal law which gives money to hospitals for construction purposes. Any hospital receiving these funds is required to provide free or lower cost hospital services to patients unable to pay their full medical bills. The law covers present hospital bills and in some cases past and future hospital bills. It does not cover separate doctor bills or prescription-medicine bills.

Patients with excessive hospital bills, little or no medical insurance and no medicaid, medicare or vocational rehabilitation may be eligible for assistance under the Hill-Burton Law.

A patient who suspects that he qualifies for Hill-Burton assistance should say so at the hospital admittance desk. This statement should be made before you receive hospital treatment or immediately following emergency room treatment. It is best to speak directly with the hospital's Financial Counsellor and to visit the hospital's Social Service Department.

The hospital's Financial Counsellor must verify that (1) you have no insurance; (2) your insurance will not cover your bills; or (3) you are not eligible for any public assistance. Then you will be required to fill in forms that illustrate your qualification for Hill-Burton coverage.

Things You Must Do

1. See the hospital's Financial Counsellor and fill in forms.
2. List all of your bills for the last full month. Include rent, food, housing costs, water, sewage, doctor and hospital bills, medicine, car payments and insurance, taxes, loan payment, car repairs, child care, and all old bills you were unable to pay.
3. Write down your take-home income for the last full month.
4. If you are refused eligibility, make an appointment to see the hospital's Administrator or Comptroller. Explain your situation and give him or her copies of your listed bills and income.
5. If you are still refused eligibility, you may appeal the decision in writing. Write to:

I.O. Wilkerson, Director
Division of Facility Services
Post Office Box 12200
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605

(919) 733-2342

For further information, contact your local Legal Aid office.

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to achieve these necessary objectives.

"This report," the letter continues, "explains the disagreeing's reasons for disagreeing with the proposed budget and offers alternative policy recommendations to achieve growth, increase employment, promote productivity and fight inflation.

"In the public interest we urge your thoughtful consideration of our recommendations," the official added.

NAACP proposals include, the NAACP's centerpiece: instituting a zero tax bracket for a family of four earning \$12,600 a year, instead of the present \$7,400.

It also includes, attacking chronic joblessness in the black community by:

- Providing incentives to private employers to invest in human resources;
- Requiring investment in human resources as a condition for receiving tax benefits on investment in capital equipment;
- Providing such support services as flexitime, day care centers, etc., that facilitate participation in the labor force;
- Continuing CETA programs;
- Sanctioning employers who hire illegal immigrants.

To stimulate growth in inner cities, the NAACP proposals include:

- Encouraging metropolitan areas to share suburban resources directed to metropolitan area problems.
- Initiating programs for economic revitalization which encourage public-private sector cooperation in addressing the complex set of problems which affect commercial

success in inner city areas. (The Urban Enterprise Zone proposal concept should be explored).

In the field of education, the NAACP urges the Administration to channel all federal funds for elementary and secondary education either directly (through budget expenditures) or indirectly (through tax expenditures) to ensure quality public education for children throughout the United States (it urges that neither a Voucher System for Tuition Tax Credits be instituted).

Also to combat unemployment, the NAACP urges:

- Establishing a closer relationship between opportunity, placement and training by developing cooperative efforts with private enterprise.
- Providing training or employment for the long-term unemployed and to assist with youth employment;
- Strengthening and enforcing civil rights and affirmative action programs.

The NAACP budget proposal alternative also urges that government effectiveness be increased by:

- Improving management of federal programs to eliminate abuses, poor service and fraud;
- Rejecting block grants because they do not contain needed safeguards to assure that recipients achieve valid objectives of the categorical programs which they are replacing.

In sum, Mr. Hooks declared: "These recommendations do not contain all of the changes necessary to assure equal opportunity in a prosperous future for all Americans.

Pegg Calls For Public Hearing

Representative Mary N. Pegg, R-Forsyth, has requested a public hearing on the Winston-Salem Fair Housing legislation, introduced last week by Representative Ted Kaplan, D-Forsyth.

Representative Pegg sent a memorandum to Representative Edith Lutz, chairman of the HOUSE Local Government II Committee, asking her to call for a public hearing on the bill, which is in her committee.

In her memorandum, Representative Pegg cited the controversy surrounding this bill at the local level and the fact that the Winston-Salem aldermen were split on the issue, as reasons for a public hearing. It is customary for the Board of Aldermen to support local bills unanimously before they are introduced.

"The members of the General Assembly have a responsibility to be adequately informed on this legislation before they vote on it," Representative Pegg said.



UPI PHOTO

Hollywood: Actor Gregg Morris, who starred in "Mission Impossible" and is currently in the TV series "Vegas," testifies before the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control hearings, said he was "Mad as Hell" and proclaimed the proceedings "a waste of taxpayers' money," whose tactics smelled of McCarthyism. The hearings are looking into drug abuse in the entertainment industry. Morris said he and many others in the industry had spent thousands of dollars and hours making films and appearances to fight drug abuse.

The U.S. Department of Energy reports that Americans are using five percent less gasoline than at this time last year, and we're importing 13.3 percent less oil. The average price of unleaded gasoline (regular) has risen 86 percent during the same period, from 65.7 cents a gallon to \$1.22.

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department. After being advised that the breakin was a mistake, and that the police would pay for any expense involved in the accident, Mrs. Thompson left the station.

Mrs. Thompson told the Chronicle she was offered no apologies by the officers that broke into her home, nor by the police department, as reported by local papers. Also, according to Mrs. Thompson, the officers did not leave immediately after they broke into her home and discovered that they had the wrong house; they stayed in her home for 45 minutes. A very dissatisfied Mrs. Thompson said that when she went to the police station to report the officers' actions, she was not allowed to speak with Police Chief Powell; she was directed to the office of Internal Affairs instead.

In a meeting with Police Chief Lucius Powell last week, preventative procedures for error in police raids were discussed.

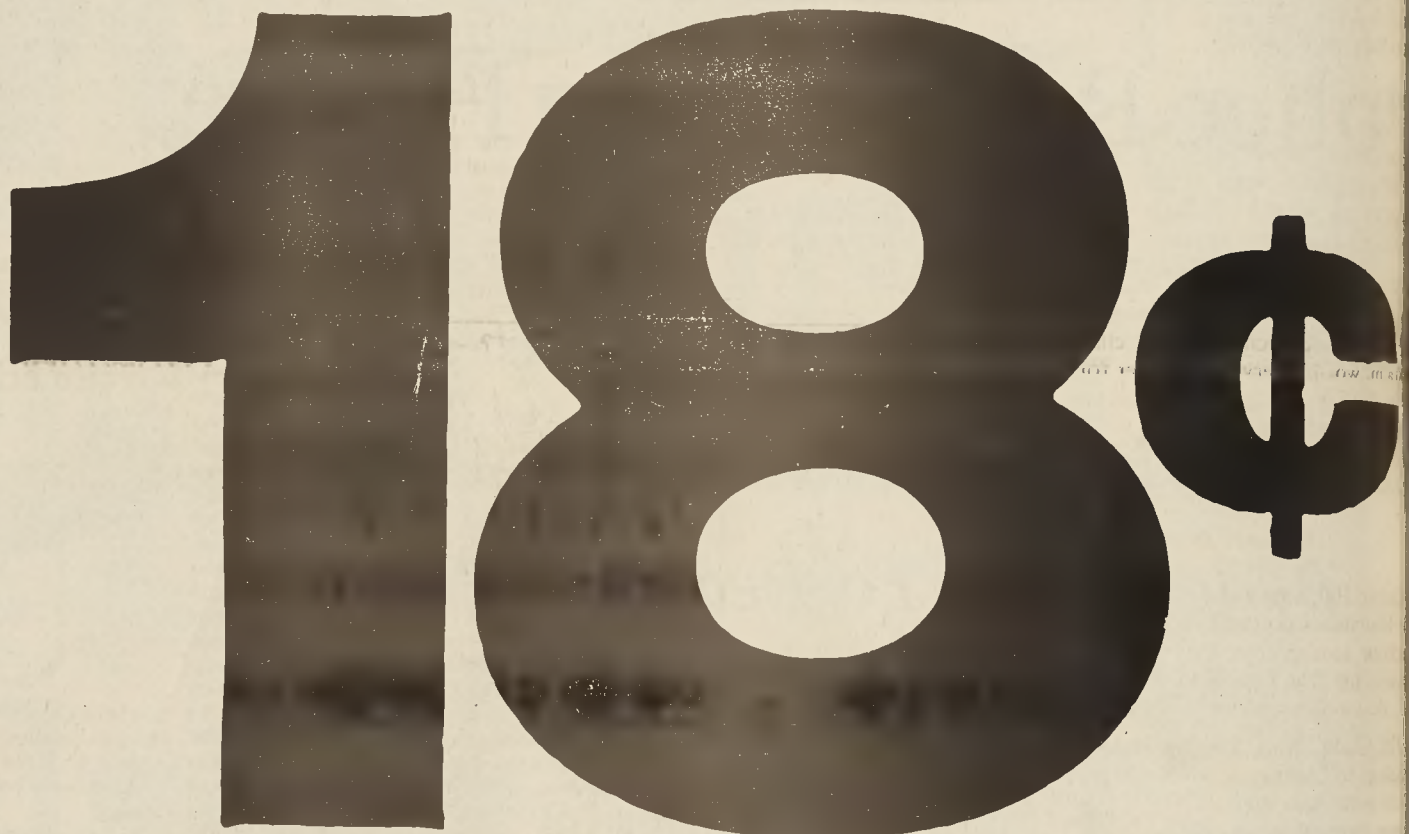
Chief Powell said that the likelihood of such an event that occurred at the home of Evelyn Thompson was very remote. He said that if

personnel followed procedure, such incidents would not happen.

Action has been taken to help prevent mistakes in police investigations according to Chief Powell. New supervisors have been assigned to various departments with mandates to make sure that there is no error in police actions. Also, existing procedures are being studied and reviewed to make sure that all personnel understand exactly what to do when following up on the occurrence of the incident at the Thompson home puts people on alert for such mishaps in the future.

"Even though it is likely that such a thing will happen again," Powell commented, "I can't guarantee that it won't. Since police personnel are selected from the human race, mistakes will be made."

Records show that a similar incident happened about four or five years ago when a mistake was made by police officers on a raid in an apartment complex. The officers raided the wrong apartment.



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