

There Goes The Neighborhood

BY BILL FAVER

Some years back a cartoon appeared in one of our leading magazines showing two Indians hiding behind a rock in the forest and looking out over the sea. As the Pilgrim ships approached the shore, one Indian remarked, "Well, there goes the neighborhood!"



FAVER

around the table!

Neither Indians nor newcomers could foretell the changes that would take place on this continent. The vastness of the land would signal plenty for all—and the frontier spirit of "conquer, use, and move on" did not have much effect on the resources. Man had to fight against nature and the wilds and carve out what he needed, but there was plenty of it. The Indians must have been amazed and angry at this use of the neighborhood.

There is another side to the story and that is one of acknowledging what man has contributed to the neighborhood. There have been great strides in crop production, disease prevention, land reclamation, and many others. These contributions have enabled man to live in harmony with nature and to acknowledge the interdependencies we all have with the natural order.

It is so easy to find fault with the wrongs in our land throughout history. Perhaps, for this Thanksgiving Day, we can give thanks for our heritage and for the bounty we all share, and we can pledge to bring about the inevitable changes in a way that shows the love and respect we have for the neighborhood!



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

Potato Partners

Joseph Galloway (left) and Fred Massey of Supply planted white sweet potatoes together this year and what they dug up last week was a 7 1/2 pounder that looked like an elephant's foot. "I'm 46 years old and I've never seen one grow to be that large," said Massey. The two has planted sweet potatoes in the Royal Oak community for years.

There Is Both Good News, Bad News For Veterans

BY JESS PARKER
Brunswick County
Veteran Service Officer

The other shoe has fallen. Before adjourning Oct. 27, the 101st Congress agreed on the largest deficit reduction plan in history. It calls for savings of \$500 billion over the next five years.

According to the American Legion News Bulletin there is both good news and bad news for veterans. The good news is an increase by \$1 billion in the fiscal year 1991 budget. The overall VA budget is \$31.3 billion with \$12.3 billion for health care.

However, the FY 1991 budget includes \$621 million in savings from cuts and revenue enhancements in the area of veteran benefits. Over the five-year term of this budget the VA reductions will reflect savings of over \$3.6 billion or about one-half of one percent of the government-wide total.

The most significant cuts for the veteran community are the elimination of the presumption of total disability for non-service-connected pensions at age 65, repeal of Death Indemnity Compensation (DIC) eli-

gibility restoration for remarried spouses, implementation of a \$2 surcharge on certain outpatient prescriptions, and a one-year increase in the VA home loan user fee. Eligibility criteria for the \$150 burial plot allowance and the headstone and marker allowance will be eliminated.

The revenue enhancement moves are the normal budgetary tricks of the trade, such as: crosstalk between agencies (VA, SS, IRS) to verify income, modifying co-payments and deductible requirements, limiting vocational rehabilitation, and delay COLA payments.

The public is liable to say that the budget cuts have not hurt the veteran community with one-half of one percent of government-wide reductions totals.

One-half of one percent means nothing to the 65-year-old veteran with little or no income. The cuts can run up to 100 percent in those cases. Likewise the DIC widow whose second marriage has terminated has lost 100 percent. Veterans who are not on pension or compensation have lost 100 percent of their VA burial allowance.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Where Were The Parents?

To the editor:

The week of Nov. 11-17 was National Education Week. Union Primary's doors were open to parents from 3-8 p.m. on Thursday for parent/teacher conferences and visitation. Workshops were scheduled for that evening covering topics such as "Whole Language our Way," "Using Big Books in Kindergarten," math, computers, DARE program, health and many others.

These workshops were staffed mainly by teachers who had prepared these seminars in addition to their many other duties. They had stayed at school long after the children had left which meant their day was approximately 12 hours long. They were prepared to help enrich the parents' awareness of their school's programs.

I would like to know where were the parents? As I approached the school I had my pick of front row parking spaces. I walked down the lonely corridors wondering whether I was too early or extremely late. I probably ran into about a dozen parents. One of which I learned later was the parent of a child in the Gifted and Talented program. (Does that tell you something?) For a school that is overcrowding its doors, I felt the parent participation

in this event was disgraceful.

How many parents are willing to miss a golf game with the boss, an aerobics class, favorite TV show or dinner date? Children are our most valuable gifts. The teachers were there waiting to help the parents. What if there was a parent/teacher event and the teachers didn't show up?

Southport Elementary had a similar event and over 300 parents attended; does that mean their parents care more about their children or they had nothing else to do that night? If babysitting is a problem why not approach your PTO representative about providing some sort of babysitting service for a couple of hours during PTO events? There's not really enough excuses for at least one parent attending such an event.

I would like to thank the teachers and PTO of Union Primary for sponsoring the workshops. I learned a lot from my attendance and hope that parents will learn to participate in the children's education.

Now I understand Susan Usher's column in the Nov. 8 edition of the Beacon: "Wanted: More Parental Involvement."

Regina Britton
Supply

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