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#### ALIMONY REVERSE

**Los Angeles—Superior Court has ordered Jacqueline Ward, a singer and voice coach, to pay her husband \$1,602 in monthly alimony. The court ruled that Mrs. Ward earned \$5,700 a month more than her husband and that she should help her divorced husband support two of their four children.**



**By MARION SWINDELL**  
There have been many inspiring words about overcoming our handicaps. The pages of history are filled with the stories of men and women who, despite handicaps, have achieved greatness.

Judges in the Bible tells of an interesting event which relates to the organization of an army. It says there were 700 chosen left-handed men.

The interesting fact about this great army is that these men had not always been left-handed. They were likely seasoned soldiers who had been in battle and been incapacitated of the use of their right hands—their sword hands.

They had learned to be fighters with their left hands.

We all feel handicaps in our own lives. But the greatness in a person comes through when they overcome.

The 700 left-handed soldiers won their battle—so can we. Everyone has a strategic reserve of physical and spiritual energy and adaptability which we rarely use.

**OUR THOUGHT TO REMEMBER:** No one knows his limit—because he never reaches it.

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#### Editorial Wrong Direction

Today, as fewer people are involved in the business of agriculture, it is more imperative than ever for young people to have some knowledge of what it takes to produce food and fiber for a nation of more than 200 million people. In spite of the need for such knowledge, and in spite of the fact that the professed goal of governmental planners is to encourage decentralization and a back to the land movement, there appears to be almost a conspiracy to drive youth off the nation's farms.

A law is now proposed to prohibit the employment by farmers of workers under 16 except under federal supervisory regulation. An official of The American Farm Bureau Federation, in expressing his organization's opposition to passage of the bill, observes that, "An imperative problem of the seventies is to provide more jobs for teen-agers—not to throw more restrictions and limitations around such employment...."

Current proposed amendments revising the minimum wage and hour provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act would also strike at employment opportunity in agriculture. Every time the minimum wage is boosted, it increases the ranks of the unemployed among unskilled and part-time workers, especially among the young. Of this, the nation's largest farm organization, The American Farm Bureau Federation, says,

"We oppose any increase in the minimum wage and the extension of coverage to additional groups.... Many farm workers are persons with handicaps which have prevented their obtaining permanent employment elsewhere. Minimum wage laws are pricing many such workers out of the market, curtailing their employment opportunity and leaving welfare rolls as their only resort."

Laws that literally drive people off the nation's farms make no sense at a time when the need is for greater population dispersal and employment.

#### ON DRAFT EXAMINATIONS

Draft Director Curtis W. Tarr has instructed draft boards to begin calling men up for physical and mental examinations who drew numbers 1 through 50 in the last lottery. The tests are to examine men ahead of their call-up date with the assumption Congress will approve a draft-extension bill in October.

#### Senator Jordan Reports

**WASHINGTON** — Over 2 million Americans are afflicted with a debilitating, vicious disease known as sickle cell anemia, and on December 8 the Senate passed a bill which I co-sponsored to provide funds to assist in its control and cure.

The disease takes its name from the fact that the red blood cells of an afflicted person are a sickle or crescent shape instead of a normal smooth, round shape. Much less oxygen is carried in these pinched red cells causing fatigue and tiredness and in addition the cells can actually become snagged on the inner walls of blood vessels, clump together, and thus interrupt the blood flow to the vital organs.

Because of the strategic importance of proper circulation, victims of sickle cell anemia suffer from a wide variety of illnesses, such as blindness, stroke, and improper functioning of the kidneys, spleen, and heart.

Present evidence indicates that the disease originated in Africa many centuries ago when malaria was prevalent. It seems that for some reason people who are carriers of the disease, but are not actually affected by it, have a better protection against malaria than people without the sickle cell gene. Unfortunately although we have now developed better weapons against malaria, the genetic traits for sickle cell anemia still remain and nature's biological defense has turned into a killer of many Americans—most of whom are black.

People affected with sickle cell anemia usually do not live to be older than 20 and there are very few cases of sickle cell victims living to be 40. Children under 6 may be subjected to as many as 6 to 10 extremely painful attacks each year and these crises continue throughout their lives unless constant care is taken. Present treatment consists of blood transfusions, surgery, therapy, and medication, and techniques have been developed so that it is now possible for people with this disease to lead fairly normal lives.

Veterans receive monthly checks while enrolled under the GI Bill, Phillips pointed out.

The plan worked out with the Department of Labor provides that state employment security agencies give VA the names, addresses and phone numbers of veterans who have drawn unemployment compensation for 13 weeks or longer.

Then VA, through its 72 Veterans Assistance Centers and other facilities, will contact the veteran to encourage him to go to school or take on-the-job training (OJT) under the GI Bill.

For some time, Phillips said, the VA has been promoting education and OJT as one means of producing opportunities for Vietnam veterans. This latest plan enables VA to more effectively identify veterans, especially high school dropouts, who are in need of jobs, or may need some additional schooling to qualify for employment.

Finding jobs is not a primary responsibility of VA, but the agency helps in any way it can, Phillips pointed out. It also is a leader in hiring veterans under the Veterans Readjustment Appointment Authority, and has employed 5000 young veterans since 1968.

In addition, VA field specialists found jobs for 15,000 veterans in fiscal year 1971, and for about 45,000 veterans since 1968.

Other job-assisting activities are carried out through the agency's "Outreach Program", job fairs, job banks, job counseling, job interview classes and cooperative programming with the President's National Committee on Jobs for Veterans.

#### LABOR & DEMOCRATS

Americans for Constitutional Action has reported organized labor contributed \$4,153,746 to Democratic Candidates for Congress and gubernatorial in 1970 compared to \$142,550 for Republicans. The figures, however, represented only 44 identifiable labor political-action committees.

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"Eleven, twelve and one more for a baker's dozen," said my grandma, counting out eggs for a customer. "It'll be 'found gold' for her!" And she smiled as she bustled about the shop.

Even then, as a child, I knew that Grandma was the "found gold" for all who knew her—always giving more than was expected, cheerfully looking for ways to gladden those whose lives touched hers.

Today I know that Grandma's strength was of the spirit. The teachings of her church gave purpose to her life. She lived her creed joyously, demonstrating vividly for all around her the vitality and richness of the Christian life.

Today, in a world that sometimes seems dark with selfishness and greed, each of us needs to realize and utilize the spiritual resources of his church as a necessity of life.



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