

The Black Family

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Taxpayers Ask IRS

This column of questions and answers on federal tax matters is provided by the local office of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and is published as a public service to taxpayers. The column answers questions most frequently asked by taxpayers.

Q. How do I know if I must file a tax return this year?

A. A single person, under age 65, must file a tax return if the year's gross income is \$2,350 or more. The income requirement increases to \$3,100 for a person 65 or older. A single person who may be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer must file a return if the individual's income is at least \$750, or if he or she has received any unearned income during the year.

Married persons living together and planning to file a joint return do not have to submit the return unless their combined income is at least \$3,400. If they file separately, or are not living in the same household, each must file a return when his or her income reaches

\$750. The \$750 requirement also applies to each of them if another taxpayer is entitled to claim either the wife or husband as an exemption.

When either the wife or husband is 65 or older, the income requirement for filing jointly increases to \$4,150, and to \$4,900 if both are 65 or older.

Q. I would like to take my income tax form to a commercial tax consultant. Does the IRS have any guidance?

A. When you take your income tax form to a commercial tax consultant, you can take some precautions to ensure that your return is prepared honestly. Avoid preparers who guarantee refunds, want a percentage of the refund or claim

to know "all the angles." Avoid ones who advise taxpayers to overstate deductions, claim fictitious dependents or omit income.

Never sign a blank return, nor one done in pencil, since it can be changed later. Do not allow your refund check to be sent to the preparer, and insist that the preparer sign the return. Also, be sure to keep a copy of the return.

Q. I received a refund in 1975 from my 1974 state income tax. Do I have to report this on my 1975 Federal income tax return?

A. If you did not deduct the state taxes represented by the refund on your 1974 Federal income tax return, you do not have to report the state refund. Otherwise, you must include the refund as income.

On the other hand, if you itemized and paid in 1975 a balance due on your 1974 state tax, you should add this payment to your 1975 state income tax withheld to determine the deduction on your Federal income tax for 1975.

master often were harmful to the family life of the slave.

The bearing of children was extremely hard for the slave woman. By observing the white family unit, she learned the basic elements of decency and self respect. Yet she was often forced into cohabitation and pregnancy by bribery of her master and in these cases the family status was established on a tenuous basis.

The slave bride may learn to care for her husband, who was forced upon her, but it was not likely. She did not have much opportunity to develop any real attachment for her children, because there was little time off for child bearing. Despite many hardships and suffering which pregnancy and childbirth often involved, the slave mother often exhibited a fierce devotion to her children. Child rearing was a haphazard arrangement in which the mother, just as everyone else, was relieved of any responsibility. Yet the slave mother did what she could to stabilize her family and keep them together.

Running from the memory of servitude, looking for new opportunity and

searching for loved ones, the free black moved in all directions and chose their destination with care. The family life of many Blacks who were free before the Civil War was less stable than that of the better situated slaves. This was especially true of the impoverished Blacks who crowded the slums of the cities of the North as well as the South.

On the other hand, there was emerging among the free Black workers a class of skilled artisans whose family life conformed to the family pattern of the white laboring class. In some cases the tradition of stable family life had been built up during several generations of freedom and economic security, or the tradition of stable family life may have had its roots in slavery, at any rate this class continued to increase in areas where slavery was becoming less profitable up to the Civil War. The pattern of family life developed in this group was different from that of the great mass of Blacks scattered in various parts of the country.

The family life of the emancipated Black was influenced to a large degree by his social development under slavery. Even during slavery some freedmen had engaged in semi-free economic activities in order to support their families. Among some slaves, the family had acquired considerable stability and the transition to freedom did not result in disorganization. The father developed a deep attachment to his wife and an interest in his children. The Black husband and father acquired land and laid the foundation for patriarchal authority in the family. It was only after the Emancipation

when the former slave established himself as a freedman that this phase of development of masculine authority in family relations became important.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, two tendencies were apparent in the development of the Black family. (1) The increasing number of stable families with a pattern of family organization similar to the American pattern. These families were found in urban and rural communities throughout the country, and were different from the Black masses. The emergence of this group is evidence in

the growth of homeownership up to 1910. By 1910 a fourth of the Blacks in rural areas and 22 per cent of Blacks in cities were homeowners. A part of the homeownership families formed the upper class of Black communities. The remaining homeownership families represented the emerging middle class. (2) The tendency represented in the development of family life on a habitual and sentimental basis among the Black masses in the rural South. The mass migration to northern cities during World War I, has affected both of these developments.

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Frazier, E. Franklin - THE NEGRO IN THE UNITED STATES New York, McMillan C. 1949

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

S. Augustine Provides For Handicapped

RALEIGH - "Expanding Job Placement for Severely Handicapped People" is the title of a twenty-minute sound-and-slide presentation recently developed by a project at Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh. Funded by the federal government and administered by the North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the project is attempting to change or modify the attitude of employers toward hiring severely handicapped people.

The A/V show was produced and directed by Anthony Dingman, who heads the project. Featured in the slides are numerous North Carolinians who happen to be severely handicapped but who are very successfully employed in a wide variety of occupations. Several pictures of home and avocational life are also included. The handicaps that are depicted embrace a broad spectrum of both hidden and visibly obvious limitations. A brief segment at the beginning traces the growth of children who are born with handicaps and a brief segment at the end of the presentation examines numerous architectural barriers.

The single most significant obstacle to employment for most severely handicapped people, however, is the attitude of employers. Such myths as higher insurance rates, greater absenteeism, and lower productivity are exploded in an effort to make employers realize the value of severely handicapped workers. Preliminary testing has proved that this A/V presentation can modify or improve by a significant degree not only the attitude toward disabled persons held by employers but also the feelings of the general

Lee Endorses Welfare

BURLINGTON - Howard Lee, Democratic candidate for Lt. Governor, today called for reform in North Carolina's welfare system. Speaking in Burlington before the North Carolina Association of Social Workers for Mental Health, Lee stressed the need to reduce the welfare roles by helping welfare recipients to become productive members of society.

Lee said, "It is incumbent upon us to evaluate social agencies, social programs and their objectives. If we are realistic, we should be the ones to identify the weaknesses in our welfare program. We should be the ones to take the first steps to bring about a different and a more realistic approach to helping those in need."

Lee pledged, "If I am elected Lt. Governor, it will be my intention to provide the kind of leadership that will offer a new sense of hope to those who are forced to receive public funds -- a new sense of hope through realistic training and job location."

Lee said that people must be provided an opportunity to become independent and not remain dependent on the public dole.

Continued on Page 3

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | ANSWER |
| 1. Matthew (abbr.) | 21. Interior |
| 2. Genus of lily | 22. Toward |
| 3. Wee | 23. Virginia (abbr.) |
| 4. Pedal digit | 24. Bit-tern's cry |
| 5. Reverberate | 25. Stand-ards of perfection |
| 6. Medley | 26. City in New York |
| 7. Satellite of earth | 27. Approach of a crowd |
| 8. Ugly, old woman | 28. Blemish |
| 9. Skeleton piece | 29. Preposition (U.S.) |
| 10. Comply | 30. San Francisco arena |
| 11. Music note | 31. Redactors |
| 12. To slope | 32. Rodent |
| 13. Note in the scale | 33. At the present time |
| 14. Lettuce (U.S.) | 34. The yellow bugle |
| 15. Shrub (Jap.) | 35. Morsel |
| 16. Redactors | 36. Gratifies |
| 17. At the present time | 37. Poem |
| 18. The yellow bugle | 38. Sloths |
| 19. Morsel | 39. Greek letter |
| 20. Gratifies | 40. Over (poet.) |
| 21. Poem | 41. The (Fr.) |
| 22. Sloths | 42. Mongrel dog |
| 23. Greek letter | 43. Food from heaven (Bib.) |
| 24. Over (poet.) | 44. Prophets |
| 25. The (Fr.) | 45. Secular |
| 26. Mongrel dog | 46. Bulging jar |
| 27. Food from heaven (Bib.) | 47. Wild plum |
| 28. Prophets | 48. Shoshonean Indians |
| 29. Secular | 49. DOWN |
| 30. Bulging jar | 1. Grisly |
| 31. Wild plum | |
| 32. Shoshonean Indians | |

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