



Congressman James T. Broyhill's Washington Report

WELFARE PROGRAM

No one I know is satisfied with the welter of costly programs that make up our welfare laws. Reform is urgently needed and the House of Representatives took up legislation last week to change the system. After long and careful study of this bill, I felt that it was defective. In spite of many favorable features, it contained elements that risked uncharted territory too far and too fast.

The new bill is one of the most complex far-ranging, and controversial measures considered by this Congress. Last summer, the President recommended the plan and since that time its merits and impact upon the nation have been sifted carefully. The measure was brought forward for debate under a parliamentary procedure which prevented consideration of any amendments or changes. Many of us believed that a more modest bill that would include practical parts of the plan should have been considered. However, these were sandwiched into a large package that had to be approved or rejected in total. The bill was agreed to by the House but, in my opinion, there are too many questions unanswered and too many doubtful assumptions about the bill as a whole.

Certainly, there is ample evidence to support the charge that the present welfare program has failed the taxpayer and insulted the poor. The existing welfare mess is not adequately meeting the basic needs of those who are permanently dependent nor does the present program inject any requirement that people be helped to become self-supporting. In fact, in some States, it is more

attractive to go on welfare than to go to work. During the 60's, welfare cases have soared from 5.8 million to 10 million people. In five years, at present rate of increase, the costs will triple, from \$4 billion to \$12 billion. The poor will remain just as dependent in this present system of institutionalized misery and the taxpayer's sense of frustration at these costly failures will increase.

On the plus side, this plan would encourage families to stay together. It would require that adults securing benefits must register for work. Incentives are provided for job training so that they can become able to take care of themselves. Those not accepting suitable employment would be denied benefits. Exceptions would be made for the aged, the disabled, and mothers of pre-school age children. However, a new program of day-care centers would free mothers during the working day to accept employment. Parents who desert their children would be responsible for repaying the cost to the public for their support. These are useful ideas and they offer excellent possibilities for success. However, the plan plunges on into a vast new commitment for a guaranteed annual income.

The so-called Family Assistance Plan would provide income guarantees from the Federal government both for unemployed persons and for those employed with low incomes. A very serious question arises immediately about this aspect of welfare reform that begins by adding 15 million people to the present welfare rolls. To administer the program, a huge new Federal

eral bureaucracy would be created to bring in tens of thousands of additional Federal workers to administer what promises to be a virtually unworkable mass of procedural detail appeal processes, and Federal court reviews. As the debate progressed, answers to reasonable questions about this plan were simply an administrative monstrosity.

Aside from these problems, though embarking upon a guaranteed annual income could prove ruinous to the country. Family guarantees of \$1,600 per year are contained in this bill, but pressures to increase these guarantees to \$3,600 or \$5,000 are already felt in Washington even before the principle is enacted into law. The willingness and the ability of the country to assume these huge new obligations are, I believe, not fully understood. When they are, we are likely to see a vigorous reaction. There are many Americans in genuine need of public assistance. However, reforming a bad system should not call for the impoverishment of the middle-income citizen who will, in the final analysis, bear the greatest burden of the costs.

Hugh W. Putnam At Conference

Hugh W. Putnam of Cherryville, biology teacher at Kings Mountain High School, has just completed a marine sciences conference at Morehead City which was sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the N. C. Department of Public Instruction.

The conference was the first statewide biology teachers conference designed to explore marine sciences. Conducting workshops and field trips for the teachers were the UNC Professors Howard T. Odum, Frank McCormick and A. F. Chestnut; and Wil Hon, director of the Carteret County Marine Science Institute.

More than 100 Tar Heel biology teachers attended the conference, which was funded by the National Science Foundation and directed by Dr. Paul Hounshell, director of Institutes in Science at UNC-CH. This NSF grant also funded a workshop for science supervisors in October, 1969, and a February workshop for chemistry teachers.

Charles Dickens wanted to be an actor.

Her mind was an open book and judging from her hemline the rest of her was too.

One of our schools recently bought some second-hand playground equipment and installed it. The other day the principal passed by while a janitor was servicing the equipment. "Say," said the principal with a twinkle in his eye, "are you still greasing that used kid stuff?"

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Pd. Pol. Adv.

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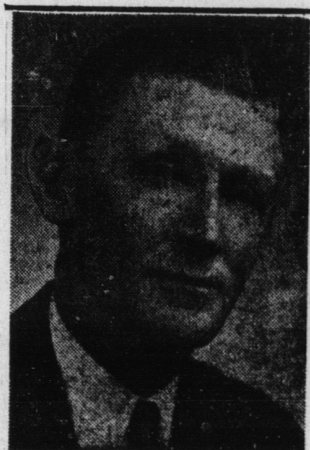
Judge Lewis Bulwinkle of Gastonia and Judge John Friday (formerly of Dallas) of Lincolnton, have served many years as a Recorder Judge, including being duly elected and serving as District County Judge of District from the creation of District Court to present time. No other candidate for Superior Court Judge of 27 Judicial District has experience as a Judge or served as a Judge. The Public should be informed as to the qualifications of candidates for Superior Court Judge. Any elected Judge of Superior Court should have experience as a Judge.

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