

Broyhill Talks To 450 During Visit To District

During the past two weeks I have been traveling around the 10th Congressional District meeting with individuals and groups. During the first week of the congressional district work period, I visited 28 locations where I met with more than 450 individuals.

Then last week I spoke to 13 different groups, answered questions about various issues, and again met with individuals about issues affecting them personally.

While holding office hours throughout the 10th District, I had the opportunity not only to talk with people who were having individual problems with the federal government, but also to hear the opinions of the people back home on the issues which are before the Congress and the President. In addition, many people just came by to thank me for something which I had been able to do for their individual situations and others came by just to say hello.

As usual, a large number came to talk about obtaining or keeping their social security disability benefits. I explained the procedures to each of them, including the necessity of having strong, specific, and documented medical evidence from one or more doctors. I also had the opportunity to meet with more than 100 members of the Social Security Disability Alliance in Gastonia and Hickory. I promised to work for a more equitable and fair review of those who receive social security disability. There are abuses in the system, and we must eliminate them. However, the procedures which are used must be fair and expeditious because many people cannot work and they need the benefits to which they are entitled. I am supporting efforts by the Administration and in the Congress to make sure that the review process is improved.

Another large number of people talked with me about their veterans' benefits, including pensions, disability, and medical care. Again, as with social security, I will make contact with the appropriate people in the various departments and agencies and will attempt to get answers for the people back home. Of course, I cannot wave a magic wand and get everybody every benefit they want. The system cannot afford to be "all things to all people". However, we will do

the best we can for those who have asked for our help.

Other people came by to voice complaints about our judicial system. I explained that judges are elected by the people and they are a part of a separate and equal branch of government. In particular, child custody cases, missing children, and prison issues were called to my attention. While there is little I have the authority to do in cases such as these, I did promise to look into some current legislative initiatives on these subjects, and I will do so.

Foreign policy, especially as it related to Central America, was mentioned by a number of concerned people. No one, including the President, wants another Vietnam. Neither do we want more "Cubans" in our backyard. As I pointed out, El Salvador is closer to the nation's capital than is San Francisco.

Concerns about rising health care costs, immigration reform, environmental protection, hunger, education, illegal drugs, prayer in schools, abortion, and many other issues were also mentioned by those who talked with me.

I was pleased to find growing optimism about the economic recovery which is now underway. People are pleased with the much lower rate of inflation, reduced taxes, fewer government regulations; however, unemployment remains a concern to many. The recent drop in unemployment is seen as a hopeful sign of good things to come in the future.

A number of people talked with me about the continued need to reduce government spending in order to reduce the huge deficits which were running up year after year. There is a growing concern that this problem will cause interest rates to increase. I wish these people who talked with me about this problem could speak to the majority in the Congress who refuse to reduce spending.

There were many other problems and concerns voiced during the past two weeks. This tour of the district was very helpful to me in my roles as a legislator, advocate, and ombudsman in Washington. It is my hope that every member of the Congress is spending some time in his district during this period when we are away from the nation's capital.

Former KM Resident Now In Virgin Islands

Charles Hunter Moss III, formerly of Kings Mountain, was featured in the St. James Island Daily paper recently.

Moss, who is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Moss of Kings Mountain, is a sales representative of Security Bureau, a division of Tropical Depression, Inc., in St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

He divides his time between selling protective devices, diving, wind surfing and tennis. He says that after a day of making calls at stores, homes and people interested in the purchase of the devices, he goes home to his "bachelor pad", turns on the stereo to soft music and fills his high ball glass with Hennessy, Perrier water and ice.

The 29-year-old Moss "traveled about" for several years before going to the Virgin



CHARLES MOSS III

Islands. "I came here because it doesn't snow here," he says. He worked as a bartender, beverage and food manager, and eventually held that position at the exclusive Bailey's Club of St. Croix.



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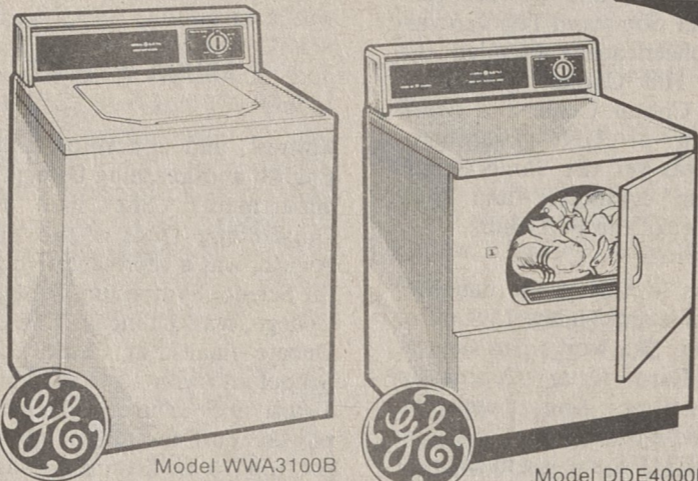
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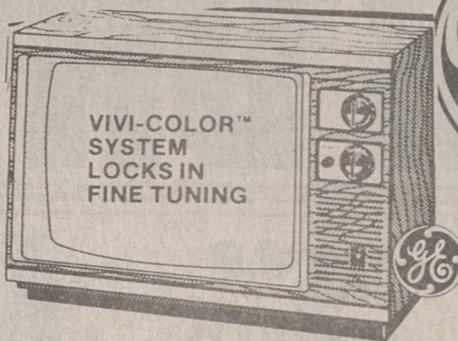
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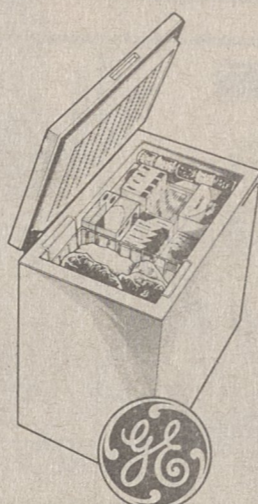


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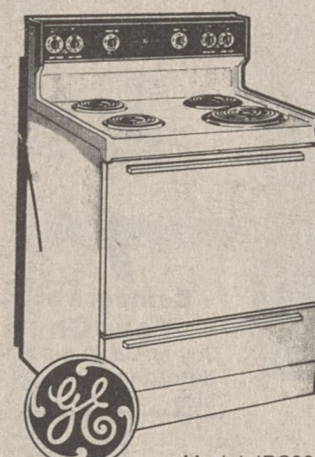


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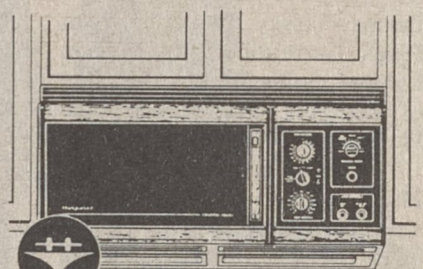


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