



## Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

### Saving Medicare dollars without plundering seniors

The title of this article describes an ideal. Most people's response to it is "nice trick, if you can pull it off." That is understandable given the history of the last three years. The Reagan Administration has gone about cutting billions of dollars in social expenditures essentially by cutting benefits; the theory being that the only way to save money is to take away benefits. That is a conclusion which I refuse to accept. And, based on its actions today, it is one which the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Health

and the Environment also does not accept. Earlier this summer, I wrote about my efforts to help save Medicare dollars by cutting out waste in the system. Included in that package are my bills which would: 1) Save \$300 million a year by establishing a national fee schedule for laboratory services performed for Medicare recipients; 2) Save \$30 million a year by eliminating payments for unnecessary foot care services for Medicare patients, and

3) Save \$27 million by ending excessive monitoring on cardiac pacemakers implanted in Medicare patients. I can happily report that these measures have been accepted by the Health and Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee of which I am a member. These subcommittees' actions are the important first step in getting these reforms into law. There are still other hurdles on the way to making these ideas into real reforms, but they carry with them a

compelling argument: They account for more than \$350 million worth of the required \$400 million in savings targeted by the budget resolution passed earlier this year. Most importantly, these savings are achieved without cutting benefits to recipients of Medicare or digging deeper into the already bare pockets of senior citizens. I strongly believe that this is the kind of innovative waste cutting necessary to keep the Medicare system and other government programs working well without drowning the government in a sea of red ink.

### Howard study probes Black families

by Henry Duvall

Stable middle-class Black American families today may look like they've "made it," but, according to a 50-family study at Howard University, they face economic and employment problems and a significant percentage of their children are depressed.

In a recent study on stable Black families in metropolitan Washington, D.C., researchers at Howard University's Mental Health Research and Development Center found that financial, marital and child problems head the list of problems most frequently experienced by stable middle-class Black families.

Job dissatisfaction was reported high in their assessments of their lives. And a surprising finding of the study is that one-third of the families noted that their children suffer from depression.

The problems most frequently reported by married men in the study were marital (65.4 percent), financial (61.5 percent) and children (53.8 percent), followed by health (34.6 percent) and job/employment and friends (each cited by 26.9 percent of the male respondents).

The married women cited problems they frequently experienced as financial (65.4 percent), marital and children (each cited by 53.8 percent of the respondents), and job/employment (30.8 percent).

More than three-quarters of the single women heading households named financial problems (83.3 percent) on the top of their list, followed by marital or male-female problems (75.0 percent), children (54.2 percent), and job/employment (41.7 percent).

Financial, marital and child problems are problems faced by most middle-class families today regardless of race, says Dr. Shirley Hatchett, a sociologist at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. Middle-class Blacks are perhaps more vulnerable to changes in the economy than white middle-class families because, for the most part, they are "newly arrived" mid-

die-class people, she adds. The study focused on 50 stable Black families in the Washington, D.C., area who were nominated by community organizations. The Washington metropolitan area has one of the highest proportions of middle-class Black families in the nation.

Seventy-six individual interviews were conducted with 26 wives and their husbands, as well as with 24 single women who head households. One strict criterion of stability was that the family unit be at least five years old.

Many of the families in the study were above the median income, education and employment levels in comparison to other Black and white families. More than 90 percent of the couples and almost half the single women own their homes.

The study's principal researcher, Dr. Lawrence E. Gary, director of Howard's Institute for Urban Affairs and Research, which houses the mental health research center, believes that many of these families experience financial problems because expenses virtually consume their incomes. Many of them send their children to private schools, or are paying for day care, as well as mortgages. For the most part, they have only their incomes to rely on because they have little or no financial reserves.

Gary also attributes the problem to the high cost of living in the nation's capital, and to social programs that practically give no breaks to the middle class in favor of assistance to low-income people. He says that financial planning counseling may be needed.

On the employment front, Gary believes that many of the persons in the study are dissatisfied with their jobs because there is "an awful lot of (white) resentment" of Blacks making gains. He says a large number of educated Blacks are underemployed, and are not moving up the ladder the way they should, which leads to job dissatisfaction.

Further, he notes that Black females face "a double whammy"—

sex and racial discrimination.

The marital problems cited by husbands and wives in the study were linked to five areas of disagreement in their marriages—household expenses, housekeeping chores, disciplining children, how to spend leisure time, and irritating personal habits. "Problems with in-laws, religion, relatives and plans for the two of them were seldom cited," says the report.

Seventy-five percent of the single women in the study, most of whom were divorced or separated, are experiencing male-female problems. Most of these problems are tied to experiences they are having with former mates, says Gary. They have difficulty getting child support and there are problems with visitation rights.

The most frequent problems related to children were depression and unhappiness. One-third of the parents reported child depression. The single mothers, 62.5 percent of them, saw this as a problem compared to 53.9 percent of the married mothers.

One source of the depression, says Gary, may be that the children are frustrated over the absence of their parents in the home because they are working.

Lula A. Beatty, project director, speculates that the cause of the depression may be that the children at various times have come under pressure to achieve because their parents are high achievers. And for those children in single-parent households, the depression may be attributed to the disruption arising from the break-up of their parents.

"The reason for the speculation is because we did not anticipate this," she says, noting that a study of the problems of Black children and adolescents is being planned.

Other aspects of stable Black family life were also found in the comprehensive study. Family unity, religion and love were perceived by the families as their strengths.

In analyzing life satisfaction, the study reveals that men were more satisfied than women on all dimen-

sions, and married women were more satisfied than were single women on all dimensions except for those who face, in addition to their careers, everyday routines of chores such as cooking and housekeeping.

"All groups agreed on the source of most satisfaction—family life—and the source of least satisfaction—jobs."

The profile also shows that stable Black families solve their own problems. If help is sought, they turn to relatives or friends rather than institutional sources.

The researchers recommended in the study that the church, especially the Black church, undertake programs that seek to improve the "economic viability" of families. The Black church has tended to focus attention on the adult and not the family. "There's a big difference," Gary stresses, noting that this is a recent phenomenon.

Gary emphasizes that the Black church could hold training programs and workshops on developing coping strategies, improving male-female and parent-child relationships as well as strengthening household management skills.

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### Efforts increase to defeat racist employment/immigration bill

by Ramon Ramirez

By government decree, October 10th is celebrated as Columbus Day. We, representing Oregon's Mexican and Hispanic communities, commemorate October 10th as "Dia de la Raza," or Mexican Heritage Day. This year, Dia de la Raza holds special significance in light of recent developments in our campaign to defeat the Simpson-Mazzoli "Immigration Reform and Control Act."

Last week, House Speaker Tip O'Neil declared that Simpson-Mazzoli was dead for 1983, and probably dead for 1984 as well. He went on to promise that no immigration legislation would reach the House floor unless the Hispanic Congressional Caucus supports it.

The Hispanic Caucus strongly opposes Simpson-Mazzoli, especially the provisions to create employer sanctions; these sanctions involve fines and jail sentences for hiring undocumented workers. It supports the Caucus' position and feels that the Speaker's recognition of the importance of that position was long

overdue.

In our opinion, however, Simpson-Mazzoli is not dead, not for 1983 or 1984. Congressional staff tell us that an October 18th House Rules Committee meeting, previously set for the purpose of hearing testimony on limiting the full House's debate and amendment of Simpson-Mazzoli, will proceed as scheduled. Senator Byrd threatens to attach Simpson-Mazzoli to some "urgent" piece of legislation, perhaps an appropriations bill, forcing the House to vote on Simpson-Mazzoli. Senate leaders are reported to be "considering" this approach.

We therefore are increasing our efforts to defeat Simpson-Mazzoli. As we have consistently stated, we oppose the provisions of Simpson-Mazzoli because:

- The proposed employer sanctions will only serve to increase racism against non-whites seeking employment.
- The "legalization" provisions will create a huge "guest-worker" program, denying workers the benefits their tax dollars fund.

• Cutbacks in due process protections for asylum applicants are unacceptable. People who have fled torture and hardships deserve full legal rights. These cutbacks will most seriously affect Haitians, Salvadorans and Guatemalans.

• The proposed expansion of the "temporary worker" or "H-2" program increases the forms of legalized slavery, as seen during the Bracero program terminated in 1964.

This legislation is ill-considered and backward. If passed, it will cement an anti-latino and anti-immigrant bias in U.S. immigration law and policy for generations to come.

Organizations endorsing the above opinions include: Centro Chicano Cultural (Woodburn), Centro Cultural (Cornelius), Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (Portland—statewide), Hispanic Political Action Committee (Portland—statewide), IMAGE (Portland—statewide), La Alianza Legal de Oregon (Portland), Mujeres de Oregon (Portland—statewide), Willamette Valley Immigration Project (Woodburn).

### Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

The 1984 Presidential race was in the minds of the **Street Beat** team as they asked, "Should Jesse Jackson run for the Presidency?"



**Steve Reif**  
Retired

Yes, I think he should. If he did not run we should put our vote to someone who would help the Black people.



**Debby Pierce**  
Childcare Worker

Yes, I think so. I think we need a Black president. We certainly need to get rid of Reagan.



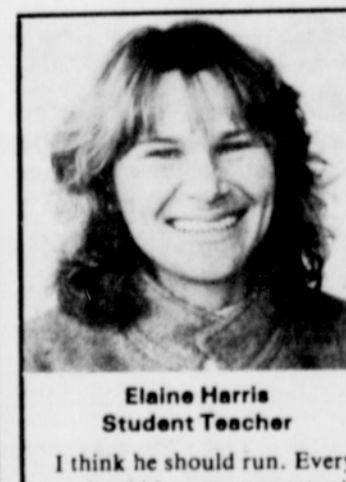
**Jim McCann**  
Student

I don't think he should run. He would be a spoiler. It would split the vote and Reagan would be in for sure.



**Glen Zimmerman**  
Greyhound Employee

I think he should run. He would not upset the Democratic ticket. Ronald Reagan shouldn't be in office anyway.



**Elaine Harris**  
Student Teacher

I think he should run. Everyone should have an opportunity to run. It gives the citizens a chance to vote for that person. He might become a spoiler but that shouldn't discourage anyone from running.



**Nina Wisner**  
Hairdresser

I don't know much about politics but I have listened to his speeches and I like the man.