

Laredo: Mano de obra de exportación... ilegal.

LAREDO.- Nuevo León es un Estado que se ha distinguido por su afanosa industria y por los productos que de ella se trasladan a Estados Unidos. Sin embargo en los últimos meses ha agregado a esa lista uno nuevo con respecto a Laredo: Mano de obra de exportación... ilegal.

De acuerdo con los reportes de la Patrulla Fronteriza del Sector Laredo, Nuevo León es el que más produce indocumentados. Los informes señalan que la mayor parte de las personas que se detectan provienen de este estado mexicano.

Oscar Gërza, subjefto de la Patrulla Fronteriza, expresó que del total de los indocumentados detectados, el 22 por ciento pertenece al Estado de Nuevo León. Añadió que durante el mes de julio fueron regresados por la frontera de Laredo mil 941 nuevoleonenses.

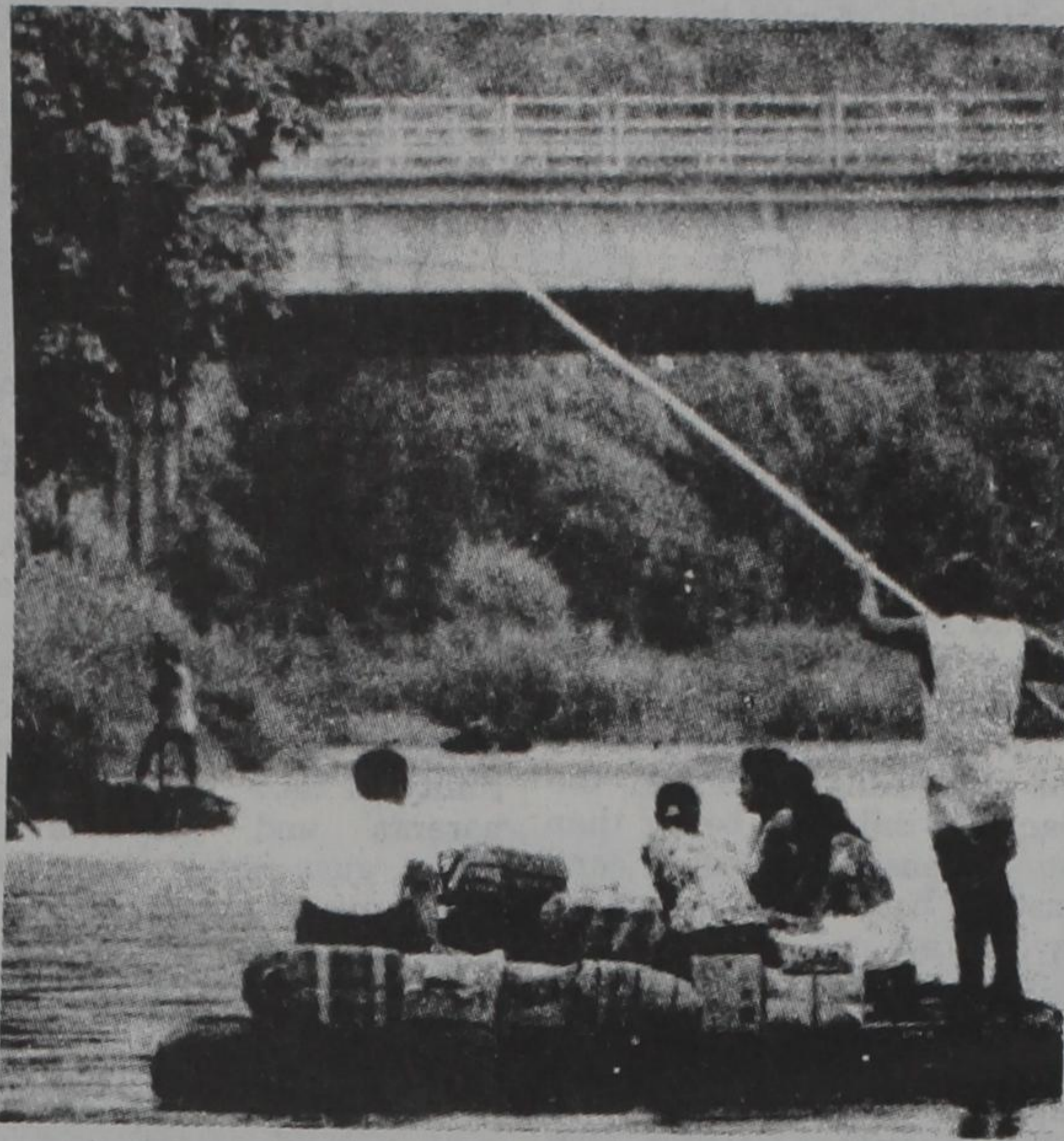
"Anteriormente detectábamos a las personas que venían de los ranchos. Ahora vienen de las ciudades grandes como Monterrey, que es una ciudad industrial. La gente viene a pedir chamba porque la situación se está poniendo peor en México y muchos de ellos son profesionistas", señaló Garza.

Agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza entrevistados señalaron que los mexicanos indocumentados hacen uso de gran variedad de formas para intentar cruzar a Estados Unidos. Indicaron que ellos se ven rebasados a pesar del equipo con el que cuentan para la vigilancia, que consta de 180 sensores electrónicos, cámaras de video con rayos infrarrojos y helicópteros.

Añadieron que los ilegales viajan por lo regular en vagones de ferrocarril de la línea Union Pacific, ocultos a veces entre vehículos nuevos que son transportados después de ensamblarse en México.

De acuerdo a sus registros, en cuanto a personas detectadas, el segundo lugar lo ocupa Guanajuato con mil 262 y el tercero San Luis Potosí con mil 042 indocumentados.

Raúl Cárdenas Heraldez, Cónsul de México en Laredo, señaló que los nuevoleonenses son los que menos se accidentan de acuerdo a las estadísticas que llevan registradas.



News Briefs

Clinton OKs Minimum-Wage Law

President Clinton Tuesday approved legislation raising the hourly minimum by 90 cents to \$5.15 per hour over 13 months, reports Associated Press.

The bill, passed by Congress on Aug. 2, raises the minimum from \$4.25 an hour to \$4.75 effective Oct. 1 and to \$5.15 an hour on Sept. 1, 1997. The minimum has dropped near a 40-year low when adjusted for price increases in recent years.

The minimum-wage measure partly excludes workers who receive tips. Their employers will have to pay a minimum of \$2.13 an hour, the same as before, and provide more only if the employees don't collect enough tips to earn the new minimum rate.

Also, a "training wage" holds the hourly rate at \$4.25 for employees younger than 20 during their first 90 days on the job.

Other tax provisions would:

-Provide a \$5,000 credit for both domestic and foreign adoptions through 2001 and a \$6,000 permanent credit for domestic adoptions of hard-to-place children.

-Permit homemakers to contribute \$2,000 to Individual Retirement Accounts, the same as spouses working outside the home.

-Retroactively reinstate the \$5,250 exclusion for employer-provided tuition and extend it through June 1996 for graduate-level tuition and May 1997 for undergraduate tuition.

Bank Technology Leaves Poor Further Behind

8/18/96 - Consumer advocates worry that the poor - already underserved by banking - are threatened with being left out as the financial industry strides into the electronic age, reports Associated Press.

Online banking, computerized loans and smart cards have become an integral part of financial exchange. But the cost of personal computers and a lack of training in their use are preventing the poor from keeping up with the changes.

"It's very likely that the poor will be left further and further behind," said Margot Saunders, managing attorney for the National Consumer Law Center.

"You could see increasingly those people being shut out of basic banking services and, you know, in our society that sort of access is critical to being able to function as a citizen," said Allen Fishbein, general counsel for the Center for Community Change.

"The professional elite thinks that the entire world shifted over to computers," he said. "The reality is that in most communities people...go to brick-and-mortar facilities with paper checks."

The poor won't be completely shut out. For one thing, new teeth in the federal Community Reinvestment Act put pressure on banks to serve poorer neighborhoods.

"The net effect is that there is more banking service in low economic areas," said Fritz Elmendorf, spokesman for the Consumer Bankers Association. "But it may not be in the form of a fully manned office." That means low-income customers will have to use cheaper alternatives like ATMs, computerized kiosks, online accounting and supermarket mini-branches.

But some feel electronic alternatives cannot provide the specialized service that the poor may need. Besides language barriers, activists say many have spotty work or credit histories that might be understandable to human bank officers but not to a computer.

The Clinton administration is pushing to eliminate welfare checks and food stamps by 1999 in favor of the electronic benefit transfer, or EBT. Recipients receive special cards that they can use like debit cards to withdraw cash from ATMs or to buy food.

But making the poor reliant on such computer-linked cards gives them new problems, according to recent House testimony. They can't afford to defer food purchases or rent payments because the computer system is down, or to run around looking for a working ATM, said a report by the National Consumer Law Center and the Food Research and Action Center.

Report: Kids Make Up Half of U.S. Poor

The Census Bureau reported Monday children made up nearly half - 48 percent - of the chronically poor in 1992 and 1993, living in families that stayed below the poverty line in every month of those years, reports Associated Press.

Among the overall population, more than 8 percent of all American children were chronically poor during the time period.

About 5 percent - or 12 million - of the nation's total population was chronically poor in all 24 months of 1992 and 1993, the report said. That figure was not statistically different from the 5.1 percent, or 12.5 million, who were poor for all of 1991 and 1992.

"The differences in chronic poverty are striking. Eight percent of children versus 3 percent of non-elderly adults were poor in all 24 months of 1992 and 1993," said T.J. Eller, the report's author. "About 5 percent of the elderly population, persons 65 and over, were chronically poor during the same period."

The average poverty threshold for a family of four in 1993 was \$14,763. The government calculates poverty levels based on a family's income, its size and the age of the head of the household. People in families headed by a married couple were more likely to be above the poverty line than members of other types of families, the report said.

"Single-parent families generally have female householders (heads of households), and people in female-householder families are much more likely to be poor than people in married-couple families," it noted.

Nearly 38 percent of people in households headed by a woman were poor in an average month in 1993, the Census Bureau report said. Forty-six percent were poor at least two months, and 17.2 percent were poor continuously for 24 months.

"The corresponding proportions of people in married-couple families who were poor were significantly smaller - 7.7 percent, 13.7 percent and 1.6 percent, respectively," the report said.

An estimated 22 percent of people who fit the government's definition of poverty in 1992 rose above it in 1993, the report said.

It said 3.1 percent of whites were chronically poor during all of 1992 and 1993, compared with 15.1 percent of black Americans and 10.3 percent of Hispanics, who can be of any race.

"Whites were less likely than blacks and Hispanics to be poor in an average month and for two months or more during 1993," the report said. "Blacks were slightly more likely than Hispanics to be poor in an average month in 1993, although this was not true in 1992."

Half of all typical poverty spells - defined as two or more consecutive months below the poverty line - lasted 4.9 months or longer. Half of all poverty spells for blacks lasted 6.2 months or longer, compared with 4.6 months or longer for whites.

EL EDITOR

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Republican Strategists to Pursue Latino Vote with Economic Policies

By Patricia Guadalupe
SAN DIEGO -- Hispanic delegates at the Republican National Convention say they will concentrate on GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole's economic proposals in their efforts to reach Latino voters. Dole's main initiatives include an across-the-board tax cut of 15 percent and a per-child tax credit of \$500. "You and I work four months out of the year for the government," Antonio Monroig, chair of the National Hispanic Republican Assembly, told Hispanic Link Weekly Report. "Our commun-

ity is hard-working and entrepreneurial. We deserve to keep more of what we earn, and the Republican Party is the only one addressing our economic concerns."

According to the Small Business Administration, the fastest-growing small businesses are Latino-owned family enterprises -- many passed down from parent to child -- and Dole's proposal to reduce estate and inheritance taxes from their current 55 percent to less than a third has wide support among Latino Republicans. Charlie Serrano, a public policy analyst and delegate from Illinois, explained, "We are in a position as Latinos to tap into this fast-growing market of business but we need someone in Washington who is on our side."

Added Edgardo Soberanes, also an Illinois delegate: "This (party) is about telling our community that we don't need to

count on the government to get what we want."

The strategy to concentrate on economic issues is a shift from early days of the convention over the inclusion of former HUD secretary Jack Kemp on the GOP ticket. Latino delegates interviewed by Hispanic Link were unanimous in support of Kemp, citing his "Latino friendly" perspective on affirmative action and urban empowerment zones, among other things, and his opposition to California's Proposition 187.

"Kemp is one we can count on to emphasize to Dole that legal immigrants are an asset, that English-only is not necessary and that the party is good for Latinos," said Heana Ros-Lehtinen on Aug. 12, the first night of the convention.

But just a few hours later on CNN's Larry King Live, Kemp reversed his strongly stated positions and declared that he now supports the California

Civil Rights Initiative, which seeks to end affirmative action programs in the state.

Latino activists protesting outside the San Diego Convention Center said they were not surprised. "Actually, I'm glad he said this now," said United Farm Workers secretary-treasurer Dolores Huerta. "The Republican Party has been feeding us these lies and now we know early enough so that they can't continue to deceive us."

Added a senior-level Latino in the Clinton administration who spoke on the condition of anonymity, "Frankly, we were worried about Kemp. But now, it's completely different. He's the Dole clone in a pseudo-moderate suit."

Kemp did say, however, that he was against the proposal to deny citizenship to U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants. "Born in America, you are American."

Dole said he would "think long and hard" before approving such a measure.

Once Kemp's comments on CCRI and later opposing affirmative action became widely circulated at the convention, Republican delegates were hard-pressed to comment. "We're here to talk about the positive things, to show that the Dole/Kemp ticket is much more than just one issue," said Maria Guzman Kennedy, state coordinator for the California Hispanic delegation to the GOP convention and an aide to Gov. Pete Wilson. She declined to comment on Kemp's change in position.

Many of the controversial proposals initially approved by the platform subcommittee were included, albeit in banal, less controversial language.

For example, while the subcommittee platform included support for "English Only," the final platform said, "We support the official recognition of English as the nation's common language." The platform also supports denying government benefits to legal immigrants who have not become citizens, while recognizing that immigrants "enrich our country."

NHRA chair Monroig said, "We shouldn't be concentrating so much on this document and emphasize more what the party can bring to the community."

(Patricia Guadalupe is editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report)
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Morales Revela Plan Para Colonias

SAN ANTONIO.- Dan Morales, Procurador de Justicia de Texas, anunció una cumbre en la que se diseñará el futuro de las mil 500 colonias carentes de infraestructura habitadas por 300 mil hispanos de ascendencia mexicana.

La denominada cumbre Colonias Texasas, un plan estratégico para el futuro, se efectúa en coordinación con la Escuela de Asuntos Públicos Lyndon B. Johnson de la Universidad de Texas.

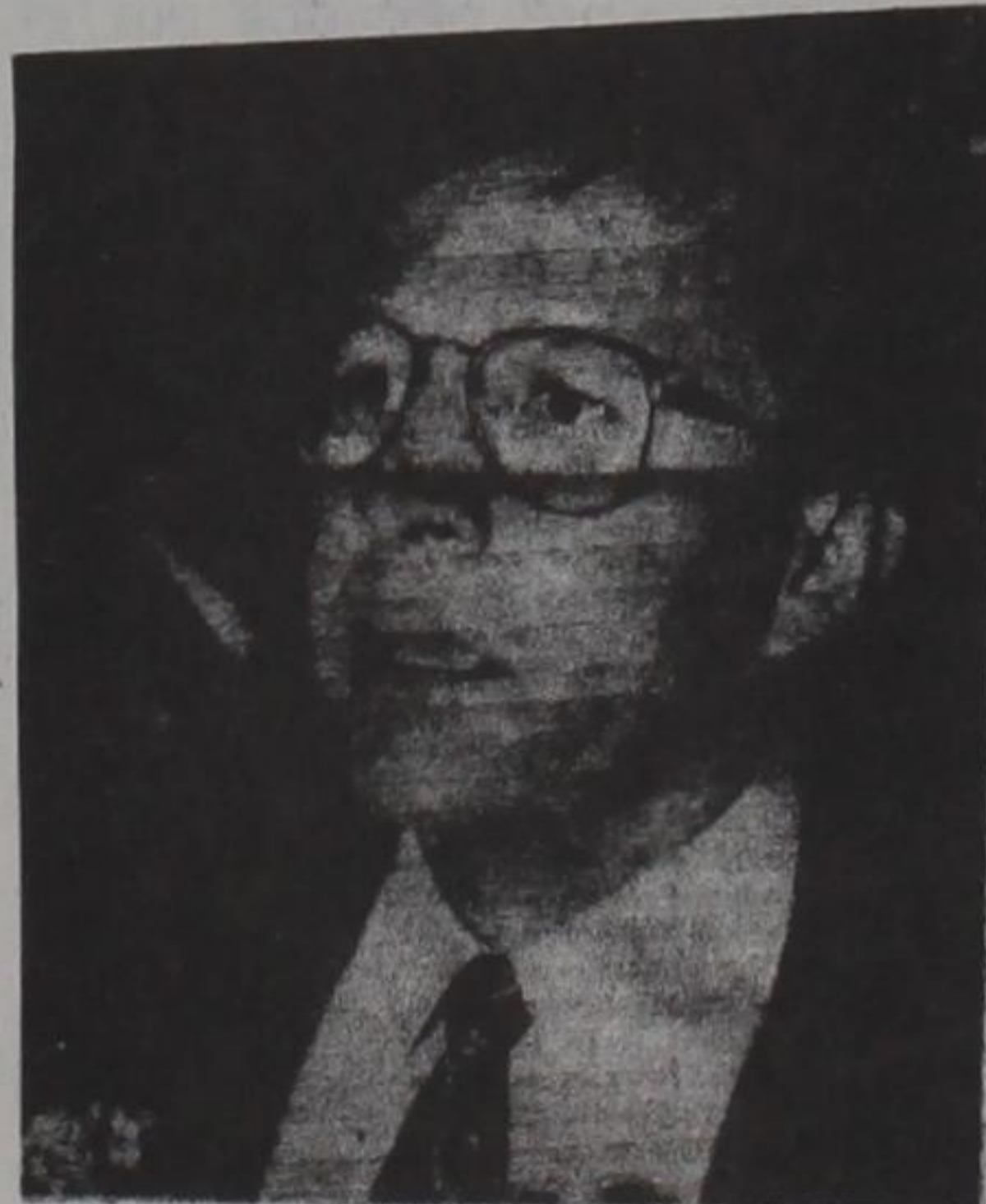
Las llamadas Colonias son comunidades localizadas a lo largo de la frontera con México que han sido desarrolladas sin servicios básicos como pavimento, agua potable, drenaje sanitario, electricidad o protección de emergencia.

Como resultado de las demandas interpuestas contra los desarrolladores y la ley que desde 1995 prohíbe este tipo de vecindarios, se detuvo la proliferación de colonias.

La cumbre se enfocará en la segunda fase del programa de la procuraduría, consistente en la dotación de infraestructura en las comunidades ya existentes.

"Debemos aliviar y terminar la miseria que actualmente existe", manifestó Morales. "Con el compromiso de agencias estatales y federales, fundaciones privadas y grupos comunitarios empezaremos a convertir estas condiciones de vida tipo Tercer Mundo en condiciones por lo menos habitables", agregó.

Las Colonias se localizan en su mayoría en las zonas aledañas a las poblaciones fronterizas como El Paso, Laredo, McAllen, Brownsville, Eagle Pass y Del Río y en promedio carecen además de transporte público, teléfono y centros de atención médica.



Comentarios de Bidal

by Bidal Agüero

Well it finally happened. The question now is who will run for what.

Montford's selection to be Chancellor of Texas Tech has triggered, as expected,



scramble for just about every political position in Lubbock starting from the Senatorial position to City Council. Many are now saying that they are looking at stepping up to higher electoral offices with the most definite being Mayor David Langston. Langston has already said that he will step down from the Mayor's position and perhaps step up to the senatorial position. The position of Mayor is one of vital importance to Lubbock. Two of Lubbock's councilpersons, Sitton and Nagerbauer say that they are interested in running. In the Hispanic community, Victor Hernandez is also saying that he might leave his position to seek either the State Representative post, if Delwin Jones decides to seek the Senate job, or Hernandez is also looking at the Senatorial position.

Whatever the case may be it would be very wise for all potential candidate to play very close attention to the Hispanic vote. In a race

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When Your Mother Is 82 And You Have A Decision to Make

By Joe Rodriguez

If your parents are getting old and sick, and if the thought of putting them away in a nursing home breaks your heart, then this story is for you.

I've recently returned from a week of caring for my ailing, 82-year-old mother at my brother's house near Los Angeles. Mama lives there with his family and my sister, who is her regular caregiver.

They are the saints in this story, not me. They are the ones who look into Mama's crying eyes each morning, listen to her sadness all day long, and then collapse at night hurting from fatigue, guilt and desperate questions.

How much more can we sacrifice for Mama? Is it time to put her in a nursing home? Wouldn't that be the kiss of death?

Mama is too healthy for a nursing home but too dependent to live without someone around.

Every day and every year, the number of sick and old individuals like her grows as Big Government and Big Insurance ignore this time-bomb. Latino families, with our exceptionally strong traditions of family unity, feel extra pressure to keep the old ones at home.

My mother's condition is common. She needs someone around during the day to bathe her, get her dressed, administer her pills, cook her meals and generally keep her company and make sure she doesn't fall and break her hip.

In health care jargon, she needs simple custodial care.

The problem is that our government and private health insurance system usually won't pay for such care. So the responsibility falls on family members like my sister.

Let me tell you a little about Edelia. A lot of working adults, most of them women, will be facing my sister's choices before they know it.

Edelia has always wanted to be a Catholic nun. After one false start as a teenager, she finally decided to pursue her dream seven years ago at age 43. She joined a progressive order committed to social justice, education and helping the poor.

Edelia had worked a regular job and taken care of Mama for years. It was now time for her to start her life. Our whole family supported her, including Mama. So my sister sold her house and Mama moved in with my brother's family.

Life wouldn't follow our plan. Mama's health deteriorated. My brother's family coped as much as they could, but it's hard enough raising three kids on a modest income. They eventually burned out, and we had to move Mama into a nearby retirement home, a nice one that didn't smell of death, even though people died there all the time. Immediately, two of our aunts gave my sister hell for "abandoning" our mother.

Within two years, Mama began falling routinely and had to leave. We moved her back into my brother's home. And Edelia, still the dutiful daughter, asked her religious order for a leave of absence to care full-time for Mama.

One year from now she will have to decide between caring for Mama and her calling. Our "tias" will be there, ready to criticize. But I've already decided. I want my sister to start living her own life again.

We all like and love Mama. She can be engaging and brimming with old family stories when she's in the mood. My

brother's 6-year-old daughter adores her. But Mama's doctors haven't yet prescribed the magic bullet to cure her debilitating anxiety, fear of abandonment, and depression -- that which torments even us. Yet she's physically and mentally strong enough not to need a nursing home.

If you have aging parents and aren't seriously wealthy, you will soon face my family's hard choice. The shame of it all is that we, our nation, passed up the chance to keep the old ones at home without driving their adult children into the ground. Do you remember the Bill and Hillary Clinton universal health care plan?

For all its bureaucratic faults and blundering leadership, the plan was infinitely better than the expensive, unequal and wasteful health care system we have today.

One of the Clinton plan's most important but virtually ignored provisions was a whole new approach to home care for older Americans. Under that plan, a local agency would have sent a case manager to Mama and others like her. What does she need to stay at home? And then that agency would contract out for whatever it was -- grab bars in the bathroom, home delivered meals, trips to an adult day center, or custodial care by a trained caregiver.

Every family would have been covered. The cost: About \$58 billion phased in over seven years.

Expensive? No. Implemented properly through community-based home care organizations, it would have reduced long-term care costs. Many more persons who would otherwise have been warehoused in expensive nursing homes would have been taken care of more

cheaply and humanely at home by the people who love them.

Yet no part of the Clinton health plan survived once the insurance companies and other selfish interests and the politicians they bought with hefty campaign contributions decided to kill the whole thing.

Now we have presidential candidate Bob Dole, who has said there is no health care crisis even though some 37 million U.S. residents, most of them kids, don't have any health coverage at all.

And we have House Speaker Newt Gingrich, whose Medicare and Medicaid cuts to nursing homes and community-based home care will give more families like yours the opportunity to take in sick and old parents and grandparents. These guys would turn your house, apartment or condo into a nursing home and tell you to take two aspirins for relief.

Dole and Gingrich represent a class of powerful men who enjoy complete government-paid insurance and who are wealthy enough to pay for any amount of home care for their family members. They do not know the hardships of 24-hour care, incontinence and frequent doctor and hospital visits.

Take the word of this forty-something guy who's lucky enough to have a saintly sister: Look into the near future and picture yourself trying to do all that you do every day plus care for the parent who raised you. Then call, write a letter or e-mail your representative or senators and tell them you're going to need help.

(Joe Rodriguez is an editorial writer for the San Jose Mercury News. Address comments to him c/o the Mercury News at 750 Ridder Park Drive., San Jose, Calif. 95190.)

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Politics As Usual

By Todd R. Klein

The recent saber rattling by the Republican leadership has given the impression that government programs are nothing more than a waste of money, our money as taxpayers. I don't buy that, and I hope you don't either. This election year the GOP is gearing up to crank out this their latest party line out at full speed, but it is the same old line. They must do this to attempt to persuade the middle and working classes to ignore all the evidence that voodoo economics failed.

The GOP leadership has to do this in order to convince the public that they are a viable choice to the Democrats. It boils down to the simple fact that without votes from the middle and working classes they don't stand a chance of winning at the polls.

So this latest GOP effort, along with their long standing practice of going negative, attacking and labeling their campaign opponents in an attempt to distort the issues and disgust the voters into staying home, is essentially the Republican strategy in '96.

If you were to rely on Rush Limbaugh for your information you might come away with the impression that government as an identity is a louse. Or worse as Rush describes it government is not only incapable of solving society's problems, it is the source of the problems.

However, my purpose here isn't to defend government programs, nor is it to take a broad swap at the Republican leadership and its propaganda machine. In all fairness the GOP played a role in making many post W.W.II programs possible, but it was typically at the end of the process after Democratic initiative and a ground swell of public support.

Democrats can be proud of such programs as the GI Bill which after W.W.II II enabled literally thousands of returning GIs to make the transition from the military into the post-war work force in a more gradual and smoother transition. And at a higher level of opportunity than they otherwise would have. As the GI Bill gave the vets a leg up on the economic ladder it is no mere coincidence that the economy grew at its greatest levels ever. Educating GIs is a good idea, and a program we can all be proud of.

Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare are other glowing examples of what can be done if the government has the commitment and compassion to improve the quality of life for all Americans. Each of these programs have reduced the number of poor Americans. That means that those hit the hardest by poverty, the elderly, women, and children now face a better chance of being healthy, safe, and more independent. Since their inception the number of elderly living in poverty is half of what it use to be. Yes, we can do better but that's a darn good start.

It is amazing what can be achieved if we work together, and discard the current Darwinian political notion that those left out of the American Dream aren't worth saving—that somehow those out in the cold deserve it, or have chosen to be there. Survival of the fittest politics isn't very pretty, maybe that is why polls are showing such disapproval of the congressional GOP. Nobody gave them a mandate to reward the strongest members of society at the expense of the middle and lower classes.

Then there is the *Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)* nutritional program, and *Headstart*—the educational program assisting underprivileged preschoolers which by conservative estimates has produced a \$1.60 to two dollars and sixty cents for every one dollar spent on it. And the school lunch program which has provided us a healthier and more productive America. That sounds like economic savings to me.

Rural Electrification, FDIC, and Farm programs each have played a critical role in making Texas the state that it is today. In short, for those of you who use electricity, or banks, or depend on the success of the farmers to succeed I imagine you will find these programs indispensable.

Then there is the Republican's favorite whipping boy, the *Clean Water Act*. The GOP leadership apparently forgot how bad things were a mere twenty or so years ago. The act was started exactly because of all the contamination of chemicals by industrial plants, as well as the dumping of raw sewage and trash into the waterways that lead to poisonous, foul, and even flammable rivers. That is something I don't think many Americans want to go back to, and other than congressional extremists no one seems to be complaining about the regulations preventing such a return.

These programs and countless others like them have greatly improved the lives of Americans since their creation. With that stated, it makes perfect sense to occasionally review programs to see if they still meet their intended purposes. In those cases where they don't meet those intentions then modifications, consolidations, and in some cases elimination may be in order.

However, I believe just standing up to their efforts at distorting the success of government programs will cause them to cease such efforts. Then perhaps if the extremists in the GOP have the courage of their convictions they might get to the real question at hand. Which is, what role does government play in society?

The problem is the Republicans don't think they can win on that issue. At least not with the answer they provide.

Cuando Su Madre Tiene 82 Años Y Usted Tiene Que Adoptar Una Decision

Por Joe Rodriguez

Si sus padres envejecen y están enfermos, y si la idea de alojarlos en un hospicio para ancianos le parte el corazón, entonces este relato es para usted.

He regresado hace poco de una semana de cuidar a mi madre enferma, de 82 años de edad, en casa de mi hermano cerca de Los Angeles. Mamá vive allí con la familia de él y con mi hermana, que es su prestadora de servicios normal.

Ellos son los santos de este relato, no yo. Ellos son los que miran a los ojos húmedos de mamá cada mañana, escuchan su tristeza durante todo el día y después se derrumban por la noche, cansados de fatiga, culpabilidad y preguntas desesperadas.

¿Cuánto más podemos sacrificarnos por mamá?

¿Es hora de ponerla en un hospicio para ancianos?

¿No sería eso como el "beso de la muerte"?

Mamá está demasiado saludable para un hospicio de ancianos, pero demasiado dependiente para vivir sin alguien junto a ella. Cada día y cada año, la cantidad de personas enfermas y ancianas como ella aumenta, a medida que el Gobierno Grande y las Compañías Grandes Seguro pasan por alto a esta bomba de tiempo. Las familias latinas, con nuestras tradiciones excepcionalmente sólidas de unidad familiar, sienten la presión adicional para mantener a los ancianos en sus casas.

El estado de mi madre es común. Ella necesita de alguien que esté alrededor de ella durante el día para bañarla, vestirla, darle sus píldoras, cocinar sus alimentos y en general hacerle compañía y asegurarse de que no se caiga y se fracture la cadera.

En la jerga de la atención a la salud, ella necesita atención de cuidado simple.

El problema es que nuestro gobierno y el sistema privado de seguro sobre la salud no acostumban pagar por ello. De modo que la responsabilidad recae sobre los miembros de la familia, como mi hermana.

Déjenme decirles un poco sobre Edelia. Muchos adultos que trabajan, la mayoría de ellos mujeres, estarán haciendo

frente a las selecciones de mi hermana antes de lo que piensan. Edelia siempre ha querido ser una monja católica. Después de una arrancada en falso cuando era adolescente, por último decidió proseguir su sueño hace siete años, a la edad de 43. Se unió a una orden progresista dedicada a la justicia social, la enseñanza y la ayuda a los pobres.

Edelia había trabajado en un empleo normal y había cuidado a mamá durante años. Ahora era la hora de que ella empezara su vida. Toda nuestra familia le apoyó, incluyendo a mamá. De modo que Edelia vendió su casa y mamá se mudó con la familia de mi hermano.

La vida no quiso seguir nuestro plan. La salud de mamá desmejoró.

La familia de mi hermano se adaptó lo mejor que pudo, pero es lo suficientemente difícil el criar a tres niños con un ingreso reducido. Ellos se quemaron con el tiempo, y tuvimos que mudar a mamá para un hogar de jubilados cercano, uno agradable que no olía a muerte, aunque las personas morían allí todo el tiempo. Inmediatamente, dos de nuestras tías se enojaron mucho con mi hermana por "abandonar" a nuestra madre.

En el espacio de dos años, mamá empezó a caerse a menudo y tuvo que irse. La mudamos de regreso a casa de mi hermano. Y Edelia, todavía la hija cumplidora, pidió a su orden religiosa una licencia para atender a mamá todo el tiempo.

De aquí a un año, ella tendrá que decidir entre cuidar a mamá y su vocación. Nuestras tías estarán allí, listas para criticar. Pero yo he decidido ya. Quiero que mi hermana empiece a vivir su propia vida otra vez.

A todos nos gusta mamá, y todos la amamos. Ella puede ser atractiva y rebosar de antiguos relatos familiares cuando se siente con ánimo para hacerlo. La hija de mi hermano, de 6 años de edad, la adora. Pero los médicos de mamá no han recetado aún la "bala mágica" para curar su ansiedad debilitadora, su temor al abandono y su depresión -- eso que nos atormenta aún a nosotros.

Empero, ella está física y mentalmente lo suficientemente fuerte como para no necesitar un hospicio para ancianos.

Si usted tiene padres ancianos y no es seriamente rico, pronto se enfrentará a la selección difícil de mi familia. Lo vergonzoso de todo eso es que nosotros, nuestra nación, pasó por alto la oportunidad de mantener a los ancianos en casa sin tirar a sus hijos adultos por el suelo. ¿Recuerdan el plan universal de atención a la salud de Bill y Hillary Clinton?

Con todos sus defectos burocráticos y su dirigencia disparatada, el plan era infinitamente mejor que el sistema costoso, desigual y desperdiciador de atención a la salud que tenemos ahora.

Una de las disposiciones más importantes, pero virtualmente pasada por alto del plan de Clinton era un enfoque completamente nuevo a la atención domiciliar para los estadounidenses de edad avanzada. A tenor de ese plan, una dependencia local habría enviado un administrador de caso a mamá y otras personas como ella.

¿Qué necesita ella para permanecer en casa? Y entonces esa dependencia hubiera contratado lo que quiera que fuera, como barras de sujeción en el cuarto de baño, comidas entregadas a la casa, viajes a un centro diurno para adultos o atención de cuidado por parte de un prestador de servicios capacitado.

Todas las familias habrían quedado amparadas.

El costo: \$58,000 millones graduados a lo largo de siete años.

¿Costoso? No. De haberse implantado adecuadamente a través de organizaciones comunitarias de atención domiciliar, habría disminuido los costos de la atención a largo plazo. Muchas más personas, que de otro modo habrían sido almacenadas en hogares costosos para ancianos, habrían sido atendidas más económica y humanamente en sus casas por las personas que las aman.

Empero, ninguna parte del plan de salud de Clinton sobrevivió una vez que las compañías de seguros y otros intereses egoístas, así como los políticos a quienes aquéllos compraron con aportes de campaña

cuantiosos, decidieron eliminar todo el asunto.

Ahora tenemos al candidato presidencial Bob Dole, que ha dicho que no hay crisis de la atención a la salud, aún cuando cerca de 37 millones de residentes de los Estados Unidos, la mayoría de ellos niños, no tienen ninguna clase de cobertura sobre la salud.

Y tenemos al presidente de la Cámara, Newt Gingrich, cuyas rebajas del Medicare y Medicaid a los hogares para ancianos y a la atención de la salud basada en la comunidad darán a más familias como las de ustedes la oportunidad de alojar a los padres y abuelos ancianos y enfermos. Estos tipos convertirían las casas, los apartamentos o los condominios de ustedes en hogares para ancianos y les dirían que tomaran dos aspirinas para procurar alivio.

Dole y Gingrich representan a una clase de hombres poderosos que disfrutaban de seguros completamente pagados por el gobierno y que son lo suficientemente acomodados como para pagar cualquier cantidad de atención domiciliar para los miembros de sus familias. Ellos no saben de las dificultades del cuidado durante las 24 horas del día, de la incontinencia y de las visitas frecuentes a los médicos y los hospitales.

Tomen la palabra de este tipo de algo más de cuarenta años que es lo suficientemente afortunado como para tener una hermana piadosa: Miren hacia el futuro cercano e imagínense a ustedes mismos tratando de hacer todo lo que hacen cada día, además de cuidar a uno de los padres que les crió. Después llamen, escriban una carta o dejen un recado en el correo electrónico de sus representantes o senadores, y díganles que van a necesitar ayuda.

(Joe Rodríguez es redactor de editoriales del "San José Mercury News". Diríjanle sus comentarios a él, atención del "Mercury News", 750 Ridder Park Dr., San José, CA. 95190.)

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Clinton Signs Retirement Savings

More than 10 million workers at small businesses nationwide could benefit from new retirement savings programs under a federal law President Clinton signed yesterday making it easier and cheaper for small companies to start and administer such programs,

reports the San Francisco Chronicle. The law also lets couples with one income contribute as much to Individual Retirement Accounts as couples with two working spouses. The pension simplification legislation, packaged with the

minimum wage bill signed by Clinton yesterday, takes effect January 1. It is part of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996. Small businesses employ about 54 percent of all U.S. workers, but retirement plans are offered by just 10 percent of

businesses with 50 employees or fewer - and about 24 percent of companies with 51 to 100 workers. Specifically, the new law: - Creates a "SIMPLE" (Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees) plan that eliminates several complicated,

costly government pension reports and tests for companies with 100 employees or fewer that contribute 2 percent of each eligible employee's salary, or match employee contributions up to 3 percent of pay. The plan, which can be set up with a one-page form, allows employees to save up to \$6,000 annually, compared with a maximum of \$9,500 per year that employees can save in 401(k) plans.

Small companies can deduct the matching funds as a business expense, and small businesses have the flexibility to drop the match to 1 percent during unprofitable years.

- Repeals family aggregation rules, which are of particular importance to family-owned businesses. This will allow each family member within the business to save independently of other members.

Previously, two family members who worked for a single family-owned company were treated as one person for benefit purposes.

- Simplifies the definition of "highly compensated" employees, making it easier for companies to administer plans correctly and for middle managers to save appropriately.

Under the new rules, "highly compensated" workers in 401(k) plans are those who earn \$80,000 annually or own at least 5 percent of the company.

The previous threshold was \$66,000.

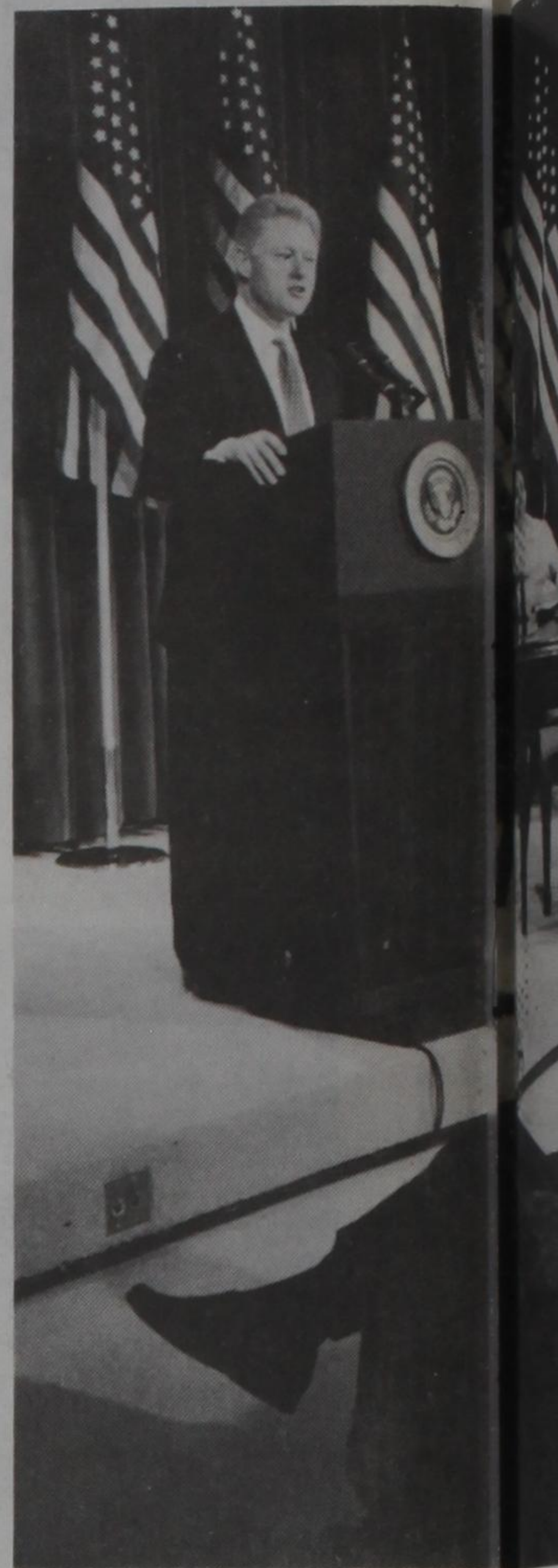
Also, a five-part test in the law could determine that an employee earning as little as \$35,000 annually at a small company is "highly compensated."

- Eliminates the requirement that plan distributions begin at age 70 1/2 for participants who are still working, thereby simplifying the administration of plans for businesses with older employees.

- Allows employees of non-profit corporations that do not qualify for 403(b) retirement plans, provided for government and tax-exempt organizations, to join 401(k) plans.

- Expands the spousal Individual Retirement Account requirements so that married couples with one income can save \$4,000 annually instead of \$2,250.

Steve Merritt, president of the National Association of 401(k) Investors in Melbourne,



Fla., said the new legislation has one possible negative aspect:

Some smaller companies may not feel comfortable committing themselves to making matching contributions in order to participate in the SIMPLE plan.

The new pension simplification legislation for small businesses will:

- Create a Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees for companies with 100 or fewer workers. Each worker can contribute up to \$6,000 per year to a SIMPLE plan. Companies must either contribute 2 percent of each eligible employee's salary or match employee contributions of up to 3 percent of pay (but can drop the match to 1 percent in an unprofitable year). Employer and employee contributions are tax deduct-

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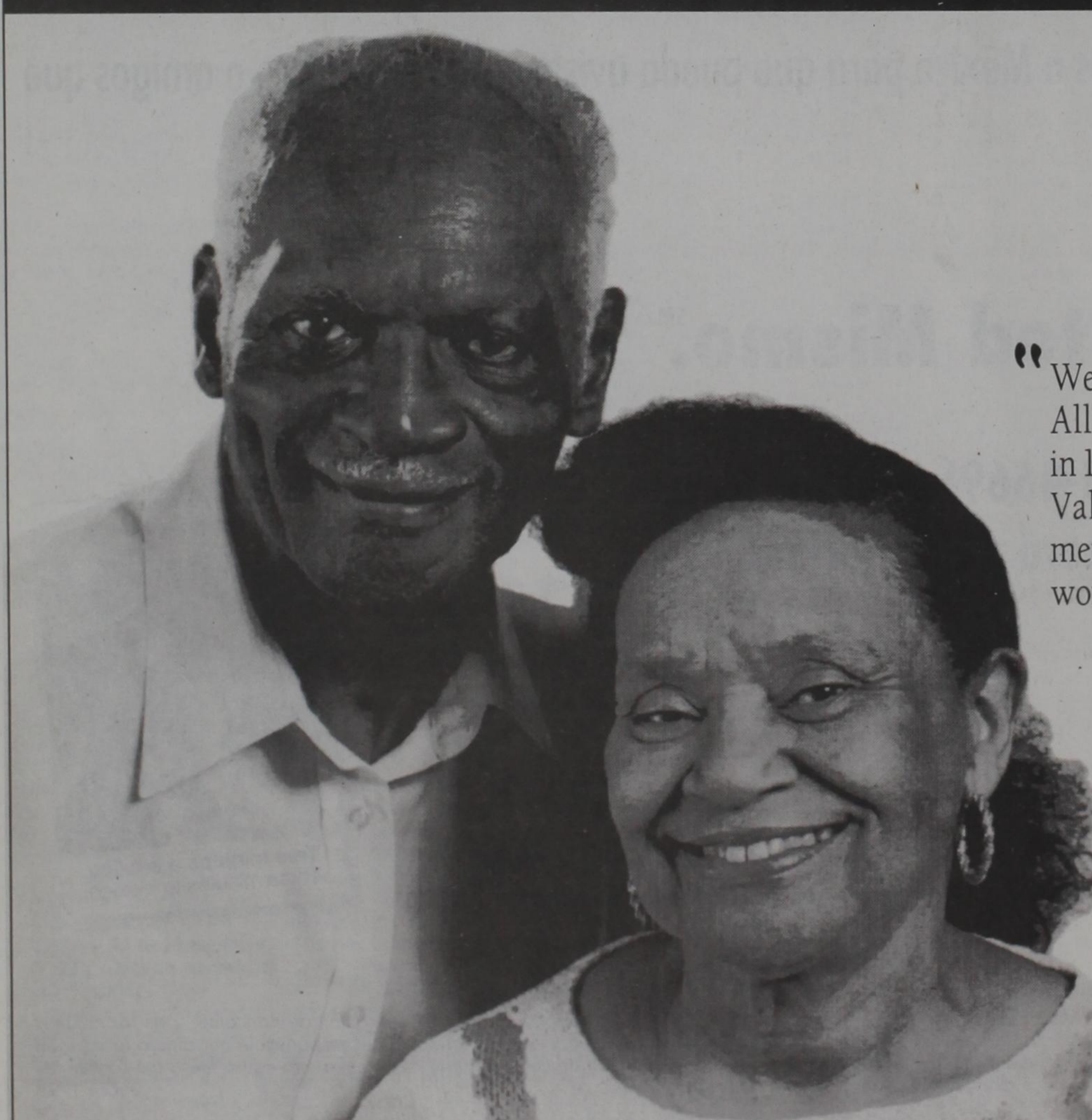
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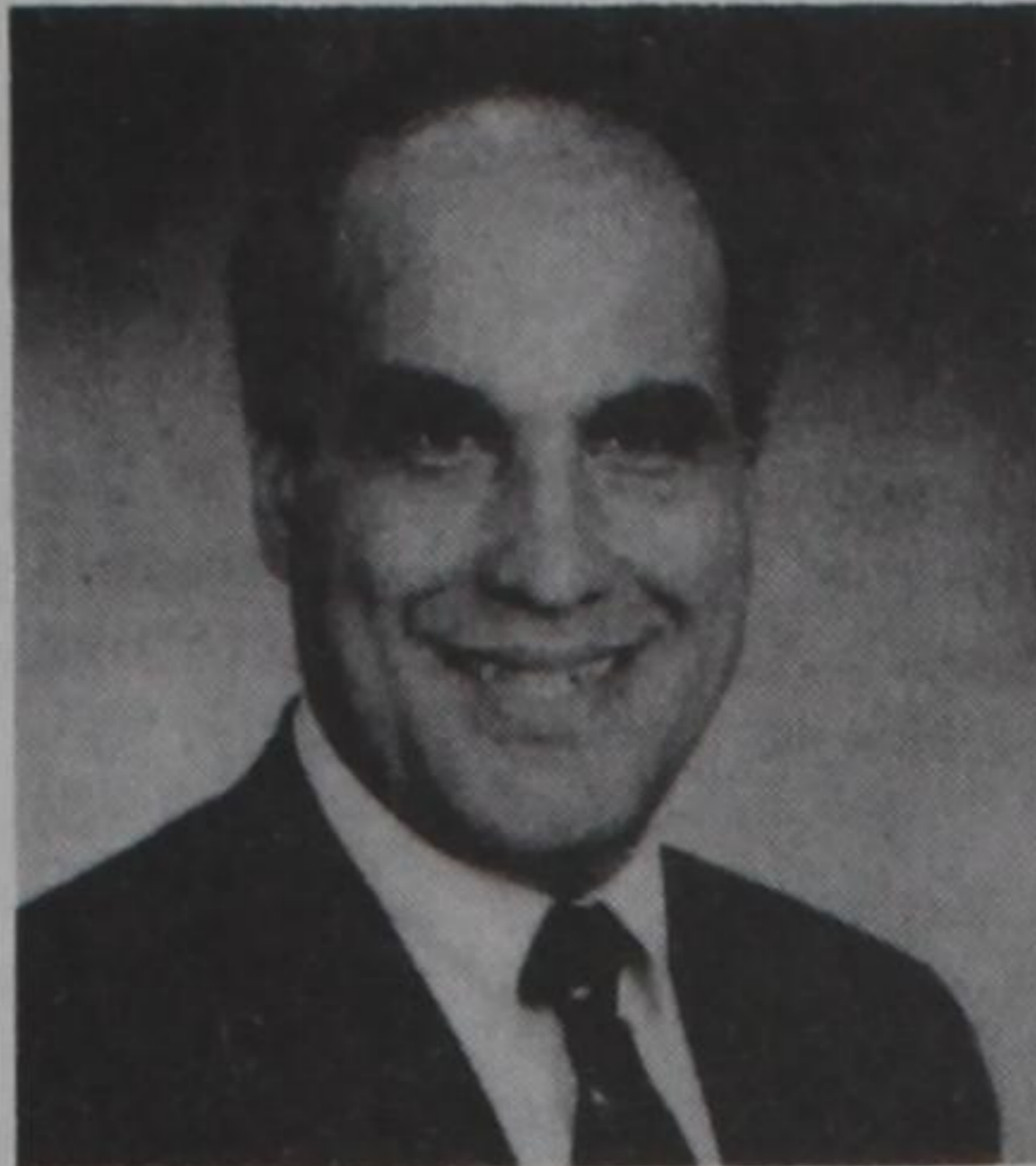
Imagine the possibilities

Law

Su Consejero De Salud

Por Dr. Guillermo E. Villalona

Siguiendo con el tema de la Medicina preventiva que comenzamos la semana pasada queremos repasar hoy cuales son los programas de detección temprana mas importantes de acuerdo a su edad y sexo. Primero comenzaremos con el grupo de personas de menos de 35 años de edad, en ellos se recomienda un examen médico cada 2-3 años que deben incluir: una citología vaginal anual (pap smear) Para las mujeres -una mamografía inicial que, si es normal se repetiría cada 2 años después de los 40 años y cada año después de los 50. chequeo de la alta Presión-Chequeo de la azucar en la sangre (diabetes) chequeo del colesterol en la sangre. Para los hombres se necesitan los mismos exámenes de las mujeres excepto por la citología vaginal y la mamografía. El hombre necesita además un chequeo de la prostata que se tiene que hacer anual después que cumpla 40 años. En general estos mismos exámenes tienen que hacerse después de los 35 años con la diferencia que ya tendrían que ser anuales (salvo las excepciones mencionadas arriba). Claro volvemos a enfatizar que el proposito de estos exámenes es detectar a tiempo cualquier problema y ofrecer tratamiento oportuno. Después de los 40 el examen para la prostata en el hombre, además de el examen rectal, debe incluir un examen de sangre llamado PSA que ayuda a detectar el cancer mas temprano. Para este tiempo tanto los hombres como la mujeres deben hacer un examen anual de sangre aculta en el excremento (occult blood in



stool) esto sirve para detectar el cancer del colon. Tambien se debe incluir un examen de la piel de la Tuberculosis desde el primer examen físico. Cuando se cumplen los 60 años se le deben aplicar la vacuna de la influenza todos los años y la vacuna de la neumonia que se aplica solo una vez en la vida. Ahora bien cualquiera se puede preguntar: Para que tantos exámenes?, es que de veras son tan importantes? Y yo vuelvo y les repito si sin muy importantes, estos exámenes juntos con algunos cambios en los hábitos de comer, la abstinencia del tabaco y la moderación en el alcohol, constituyen la base la medicina preventiva y lo que hace diferentes los países desarrollados de los que no los son. A partir de la proxima semana vamos a dedicar el espacio a analizar uno por uno todos esos programas de detección temprana, y el impacto que han tenido en nuestra sociedad. Como siempre les invito a que manden sus preguntas y comentarios a la dirección de este periodico, Sección Su Consejero de Salud. A nosotros nos pueden llamar al telefono 743-2885, estamos a sus ordenes.

Clinton To Sign Health Bill

President Clinton is expected to sign legislation today effectively ending the practice of denying insurance coverage on the basis of pre-existing conditions, reports Associated Press. The president doesn't consider today's signing to be a fulfillment of his 1992 promise, but rather "a very important incremental step" toward overhauling the nation's health care system, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry. "Health care reform will continue to be a very important

part of his agenda, should the American people decide he deserves a second term," McCurry said Tuesday. The legislation also increases the tax deductibility of insurance premiums for the self-employed and offers tax breaks for premiums on long-term care and the cost of the care. The bill does not extend equal coverage to mental illness, and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill urged Clinton to take the lead in pressing for parity.

Gov't Says Teen Drug Use Up

By MARCY GORDON

WASHINGTON - A 105 percent jump in teen-agers' drug use since 1992 instantly became a campaign issue Tuesday. GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole called it a "national tragedy," and the White House warned against political grandstanding.

Dole, speaking to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Louisville, Ky., said, "This is nothing short of a national tragedy. Starting next January, I'm going to make the drug war priority No. 1 once again."

The Clinton administration expressed concern about the new government report on drug use, released Tuesday, but said it was too important to be merely fodder for political attacks.

"The one thing we can't do is to turn drug use among young people into a political football because that is the wrong message for kids," presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said. "They'll just think it's an issue for the politicians and not something that they have to accept responsibility for."

"This is a bipartisan issue. These are all of our children," said Donna Shalala, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, which produced the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

A second government report showed that visits to hospitals for drug-related emergencies also are up.

The drug abuse survey found that drug use among 12- to 17-year-olds rose 105 percent from 1992 to 1995. The increase was from 5.3 percent of those surveyed in 1992 to 10.9 percent in 1995. There were 22.2 million Americans in that age group last year and 20.7 million in 1992, according to government figures.

The survey of 17,747 people showed levels of drug use were about the same among white, black and Hispanic teens and in teens from different economic backgrounds. It also said:

Monthly use of LSD and other hallucinogens by teenagers jumped 183 percent from 1992 to 1995 and 54 percent between 1994 and 1995.

Cocaine use rose 166 percent from 1994 to 1995. An estimated 0.8 percent of U.S. teens used cocaine in 1995.

Marijuana use increased 105 percent in the 1992-95 period and 37 percent between 1994 and 1995. In 1994 alone,

an estimated 2.3 million people started using marijuana.

There were about 10 million beer, wine and distilled spirit drinkers under age 21 last year. Of the total, 4.4 million were described as binge drinkers, including 1.7 million described as heavy drinkers.

The total number of occasional cocaine users - all ages - last year was 2.5 million.

Drug use was well below the peak levels of the late 1970s, Shalala said at a news conference releasing the survey. But she added that "while the vast majority of young people do not use illicit drugs, increasing numbers are reaching for drugs and risking their futures. And that's wrong."

Now that Dole has formally become the Republican nominee, his accusations could have a sharper impact.

In recent months, Republicans have used the issue of alleged drug use by some White House employees to imply that the administration is soft on the issue. At least 21 current or former White House aides have been subjected to heightened drug testing because their background security checks showed drug use recent enough to prompt Secret Service security concerns.

Earlier this month, Barry McCaffrey, the national drug control policy director, implored politicians from both parties to stop trying to make an issue of whether an opponent has used drugs.

The HHS survey said drug use among adults did not change. Previous surveys show teen drug use was at its lowest in 1992 after a decade of

decline.

"Parents have to talk to their children" about drugs, McCaffrey said. "There has to be a consistent message from kindergarten through the 12th grade."

A report from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, also administered by HHS, showed emergency room visits since 1992 rose 96 percent for marijuana, 58 percent for heroin and 19 percent for cocaine.

Last year there were 531,800 drug-related emergency room visits across the nation, compared with 518,500 in 1994. Heroin-related episodes jumped from 64,000 in 1994 to 76,000 last year. Officials attributed part of the increase to the aging of drug-using populations, noting that 55 percent of the heroin cases last year were people 35 or older.

That age group accounted for 40 percent of all the drug-related emergency room visits in 1995, people ages 26-34 represented another 28 percent of the total cases. The reasons cited by patients for taking the drugs were suicide attempt or gesture, 203,000 or 38 percent; dependence, 174,600 or 33 percent, and recreational use, 46,900 or 9 percent.

Said McCurry, "The overall drug-use figures are relatively stable. The figures related to drug use among young people are obviously of great concern. That's why we have a strategy to deal with that."

Declaring that the administration has the right strategy to curb use and control imports, McCurry added, "Above all, this has to be a bipartisan effort that all join into."

ible. Expand the spousal IRA requirements so that a married couple with one income can save up to \$4,000 per year instead of the current \$2,250 annually.

Allow each family member working at a family-owned company to save for retirement independently of each other.

Eliminate the requirement that retirement plan distributions begin at age 70.5 for participants who are still working.

Allow employees of non-profit corporations to join 401(k) plans.

Small businesses or employees who work at small companies should contact their local Small Business Administration office to get more information on the new legislation, said Canales.

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Bettye and Ray Huddle

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Republican Strategists To Pursue Latin Vote With Economic Policies

Por Patricia Guadalupe

SAN DIEGO -- Delegados hispanos en la convención republicana han dicho que se concentrarán en las propuestas económicas del candidato Bob Dole en sus esfuerzos para alcanzar el voto latino.

La iniciativa principal de Dole comprende un recorte universal sobre impuestos de 15 por ciento y un crédito para familias de \$500 por hijo.

"Tú y yo trabajamos cuatro meses del año para el gobierno (para pagar impuestos)", comentó Antonio Monroig, director de la Asamblea Hispana Nacional Republicana. "Merecemos quedarnos con más de nuestros ingresos y el partido republicano es el único que se preocupa de nuestros intereses económicos".

De acuerdo con la administración federal de pequeñas empresas, los negocios de mayor crecimiento en el país son los de dueños hispanos -- muchos de estos dado de padre a hijo -- y la propuesta de Dole de recortar impuestos de herencia del actual 55 por ciento a menos de un tercio, tiene mucho apoyo de los republicanos latinos.

Charlie Serrano, analista político y delegado por Illinois, explica, "Nosotros como hispanos tenemos una ventaja de poder aprovecharnos de este rápido crecimiento, pero necesitamos alguien en Washington que nos ayude".

Agrega Edgardo Soberanes, también un delegado de Illinois, "Este partido se trata de decirle a la comunidad que no necesitamos contar con el gobierno para lograr lo que quere-

mos". La estrategia de concentrarse en asuntos económicos es un cambio de la política en los primeros días de la convención, cuando se hablaba de Jack Kemp, el que fuera el secretario de vivienda, en la boleta republicana. Delegados latinos hablaban con unanimidad en apoyo de Kemp, indicando que este se conocía por su perspectiva política "amistosa" a la comunidad latina. Kemp se había postulado a favor de acción afirmativa y programas de desarrollo urbano, entre otras cosas, y se había opuesto a la propuesta 187 en California.

"Kemp es alguien con quien podemos contar para enfatizarle a Dole que los inmigrantes legales son de gran beneficio al país, que la política del llamado English-only no es necesaria y que el partido republicano es de gran beneficio a la comunidad latina," dijo la congresista Ileana Ros-Lehtinen de la Florida el primer día de la convención. Pero apenas unas horas después, en el programa Larry King Live de la cadena CNN, Kemp cambió radicalmente su postura y se declaró a favor de la iniciativa para eliminar programas de acción afirmativa en California y que también favorecía negarle una educación pública a niños indocumentados.

Activistas latinos protestando en los alrededores de la convención dijeron no estar sorprendidos. "A la verdad que yo estoy feliz que lo hizo", comentó Dolores Huerta, la secretaria-tesorera del sindicato de trabajadores agrícola (UFW, por sus siglas en inglés). "El

partido republicano le ha estado mintiendo a la comunidad latina y ahora sabemos temprano (en la campaña) para que no nos puedan seguir engañando."

Agregó un funcionario latino de la administración Clinton en anonimato, "Francamente estábamos preocupados por Kemp. Pero ahora es totalmente diferente. El es una copia de Dole vestido de moderado".

Por su parte, Kemp ha dicho que está en contra de la propuesta republicana de negarle ciudadanía a niños nacidos en EE.UU. de padres indocumentados. "Nacido en America, eres americano".

Dole dice que tendrá que pensar "mucho y por un largo rato" antes de apoyar semejante medida. Empero, cuando se dieron a conocer los otros comentarios de Kemp en la convención, surgió un hermetismo entre los delegados.

"Estamos aquí para hablar de cuestiones positivas, de mostrar que la boleta Dole/Kemp es mucho más que un solo tema," dijo María Guzmán Kennedy, coordinadora estatal de la delegación de California y asistente al gobernador de ese estado, Pete Wilson. Guzmán Kennedy -- como muchos delegados latinos -- se negó a comentar sobre el cambio en la postura de Kemp.

Durante la convención, muchas de las propuestas anteriormente aprobadas por el comité sobre la plataforma fueron aprobadas, en tanto escritas con lenguaje menos controversial. Por ejemplo, mientras el subcomité sobre la plataforma aprobó un reconoci-

miento del llamado English-only, la plataforma final tiene escrito, "Apoyamos un reconocimiento oficial del inglés como idioma común".

La plataforma también apoya el retiro de beneficios sociales para inmigrantes legales, a la misma vez que reconoce la contribución del inmigrante de "enriquecer nuestro país". Comentó Monroig, "No debemos concentrarnos en este documento y enfatizar qué es lo que éste partido puede traer a la comunidad."

(Patricia Guadalupe es editora del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report)
Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link News Service en 1996. Distribuido por The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

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Un Rayito De Luz

Por Sofia Martinez

El Credo nos dice que "Jesucristo está sentado", para darnos a entender que "descansa y goza, en el cielo" de una dicha que no tendrá fin jamás. Allí está sentado como un rey en su trono y como un juez en su tribunal. Gracias a esa doble cualidad, ejerce el poder de hacer las leyes y de administrar la justicia de que hablaba, cuando decía antes de dejar este mundo: "Me ha sido dado todo poder en el cielo y en la tierra". allí, está sentado a la derecha de Dios Padre. Esto no quiere decir que Dios tnega mano derecha a mano izquierda; pero como la

derecha es el puesto de honor, estas palabras significan que Jesucristo, que es igual al Padre en cuanto Dios, se halla elevado como hombre sobre todas la cr3eaturas.

Aunque seamos deudores de nuestra salvación y nuestra redención a la Pasión de Jesucristo, Sus méritos han abierto la puerta del cielo a los justos, pero la Asunción no es nomás un modelo colocado antes nuestros ojos para enseñarnos a elevar nuestros pensamientos y subir al cielo en espíritu, sino que asemáns nos comunica una fuerza divina para que Jesucristo fue a prepararnos.

La Asunción colma el mérito de nuestra fe, fortalece nuestra esperanza, y dirige invariablemente hacia el cielo el amor de nuestro corazón. (Marc. 16, 19). (Hechos 1,9-112. Luc. 24, 50.)



PENSAMIENTOS DEL PREDICADOR

POR PASTOR FRANK GARCÍA

Lubbock, Texas
CRISTO Y SU CONSEJO

No juguéis, para que no seáis juzgados. Mateo 7:1. He aquí uno de aquellos pasajes de la Escritura de los cuales han abusado los enemigos de la religión verdadera.

Acontece a veces que se apretan tanto las palabras de la Biblia que no producen bálsamo sino veneno. Nuestro Señor no quiso decir que fuera repudiable un juicio desfavorable acerca de la conducta o las opiniones de los demás, porque es claro, que estamos en el deber de examinarlo todo y formar conceptos decididos. Y ni tampoco quiere decir que sea malo reprobos los pecados y faltas de los demás en tanto que nosotros no seamos perfectos. Pues esa interpretación estaría en contradicción con otros pasajes de la Escritura. Pues esto aría de todo punto imposible impropiar el error; y privaría a todos de ejercer las funciones del magistrado; y la tierra quedaría abandonada en manos de los perversos y la heregía y los atentados estaría al orden del día.

LA MURMURACION

Lo que nuestro Señor se propone a condenar fue la murmuración, y la costumbre de poner faltas. Esa inclinación de culpar a los demás por ofensas labiales, o por asuntos de ninguna significación; y ese hábito de pronunciar juicios precipitados; y esa propensión de ver con lente de aumento los extravíos y debilidades de nuestros prójimos...hé aquí lo que nuestro Señor prohibió.

Pues esa era una falta muy común entre los fariseos, y ha prevalecido desde entonces hasta nuestros días. Todos, debemos guardarnos de incurrir en ella. Y con respecto a lo s demás debemos creerlo y esperararlo todo y no apresurarnos a sensurar. Pues esto es lo que nos dicta la caridad cristiana. 1 Corintios 13:7.

LO SIGUENTE

La segunda lección que se nos enseña en este pasaje es la importancia de ejercer prudencia en cuanto a las personas con quienes hablamos de materias religiosas. Pues todo debe hacerse en su tiempo y lugar correspondientes. Pues Salomón dijo: "No castigues al burlador, porque no te aborrezca." No es prudente abrir nuestro corazón a todos respecto de asuntos espirituales. Porque hay algunos hombres que, por tener genios violentos o por estar entregados a los vicios, no se hallan en actitud de formar un juicio acertado de las doctrinas del Evangelio. Pues mencionar el nombre de Cristo a las gentes en tales condiciones puede ser como arrojar las perlas a los puercos. Pues de ello no les resulta provecho sino daño. Pues esto puede despertar todo su encono (rencor) y los pone coléricos. Pues éstos son como los Judíos de Corinto, (Hechos 18:6. o como Nabal de quien dice la Escritura que éste era un hijo tal de Belial que nadie podía dirigirle la palabra. 1 Samuel 25:17. "Ahora pues, entiende y mira lo que has de hacer, porque el mal está de todo resuelto contra nuestro amo y contra toda su casa; pues él es un hombre tan malo, que no hay quien pueda hablarle." ¡CUIDADO!

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News Briefs

Most U.S. Poor Escape Poverty

According to a federal study released Monday on both the strengths and weaknesses of the new welfare reform act, only about 5 percent of Americans are chronically poor, reports the San Francisco Chronicle.

The chronically poor are people who have poverty-level income for two straight years. They constitute a minority, roughly one-third, of the people who are below the poverty line in a given year.

"People move in and out of poverty - only a small portion are always and chronically poor," said Elizabeth Sawhill, a poverty analyst for the Urban Institute.

For example, at any point in time in recent years, roughly 14 to 15 percent of Americans are classified by the federal government as poor. But, as today's report by the U.S. Census Bureau indicates, these are not necessarily the same people year after year. At least 6 million people escape poverty annually - only to be replaced by another 6 million.

The government report, like most studies of income patterns, was based on a survey. But unlike most surveys, which measure poverty only at a single time, the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) tracked the same 20,000 families over an extended period, in this case during 1992 and 1993.

From this survey, it was determined that the median poverty "spell" in those two years was about five months. This median means that half of those who had poverty spells were poor for more than five months, and half for less than that.

"This fact illustrates why the basic direction of welfare reform is right. Most poor people only need assistance temporarily; they don't need to be on welfare indefinitely," Sawhill said.

On the other hand, she pointed out that the chronically poor are going to be extremely difficult to move into the job market, a primary goal of the new welfare plan. Sawhill said other studies have shown that nearly two-thirds of the chronically poor never graduated from high school.

"My guess, and these numbers sort of demonstrate it, is that about one-third of the current welfare caseload is not going to be able to cope out in the real job market," she said.

The fact that people move in and out of official poverty classifications does not mean they are becoming middle class, or even working class, explained Sharon Parrott, an analyst with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

"The average person isn't going to go from being poor to being (wealthy basketball star) Charles Barkley," she said. "They may have a change of circumstance, like getting a better-paying job, but their income will still leave them hovering around the poverty line."

Parrott said that the new federal figures also demonstrate why scheduled cuts in food stamps, which are heavily used as a supplement by the "temporary" poor, will hit so hard when they take full effect over the next six years, as required by the welfare reform act.

"People who are poor for a couple of months a year aren't getting welfare. It is too difficult," she explained. "Where these cuts will hit hard are in those who go in and out of poverty, mostly the working poor who use food stamps as a supplement to their low earnings."

Teen Drug Use Up, Gov't Says

The White House expressed "great concern" Tuesday about a big surge in teen-age drug use and said the problem should not be turned into an election-year issue against President Clinton, reports Associated Press.

"The one thing we can't do is to turn drug use among young people into a political football because that is the wrong message for kids," presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said. "They'll just think it's an issue for the politicians and not something that they have to accept responsibility for."

Two surveys show that teen-age drug use has risen sharply since 1992 and that visits to hospitals for drug-related emergencies also are up, USA Tuesday reported.

Drug use among 12- to 17-year-olds rose 78 percent from 1992 to 1995, according to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse by the Department of Health and Human Services, the paper reported.

It said use of LSD and other hallucinogens rose 54 percent, cocaine use rose 166 percent and marijuana use rose 37 percent among teen-agers, the paper said. The report said drug use among adults did not change.

A report from the Drug Abuse Warning Network, also administered by HHS, showed emergency room visits since 1992 rose 96 percent for marijuana, 58 percent for heroin and 19 percent for cocaine.

Higher Wages Don't Necessarily Cost Jobs

The common economic belief that low wages keep unemployment low by encouraging businesses to hire low-skilled, poorly educated workers is being challenged in a new study, reports the Chicago Tribune.

In its Employment Outlook, issued in July, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report said all the evidence, in fact, points the other way: - There's no real connection between low wages and low unemployment, especially among low-skilled workers. Some high-wage countries have high unemployment; others don't. Other factors-worker training, for instance-may be much more important.

- Low-paid workers move up or down the economic ladder at about the same pace in most countries. The United States has by far the biggest share of its workforce in low-paid jobs, but doesn't move them into better jobs any faster than, say, the more egalitarian Scandinavians.

"Nothing is simple," an OECD economist said. "What we're saying is that Europeans who might be tempted to follow the United States in lowering wages might find there's no payoff. What this shows is that low wages don't necessarily buy more jobs."

The OECD had expected to find that low-wage countries like the United States, where the minimum wage has been \$4.25, would create many more jobs for low-skilled workers with minimal education than a country such as France or Germany, where the effective minimum hourly wage is about \$9.

Instead, it said, "the correlations are low and not significant."

The United States and Britain are the only nations where

wage inequality is expanding fast, and the United States, Australia and New Zealand are the only ones where wages at the bottom of the scale are actually falling when adjusted for inflation.

In most European countries, a variety of factors-high minimum-wage laws, strong unions, high levels of unemployment pay, a collective-bargaining system that sets wages across entire industries or regions - kept wages high. But not much of this has affected unemployment, the OECD said.

Some European countries with relatively high wages have high unemployment-11.6 percent in France, 12.2 percent in Italy, 22.7 percent in Spain. Others with equally high wages have relatively low unemployment - 4.9 percent in Norway, 6.5 percent in The Netherlands, 8.2 percent in Germany.

The U.S. unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in July. But the Europeans point out that the United States has more hidden unemployment - workers who aren't counted because they've exhausted

their unemployment pay - than does Europe.

Lester Thurow, an economist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, says the U.S. rate would be closer to 14 percent if these hidden workers, plus the millions of part-timers who want full-time employment, are counted. This rate would go up another 1.5 percent to 2 percent if the vast American prison population - much higher than any European nation - was counted.

Continued Page 8


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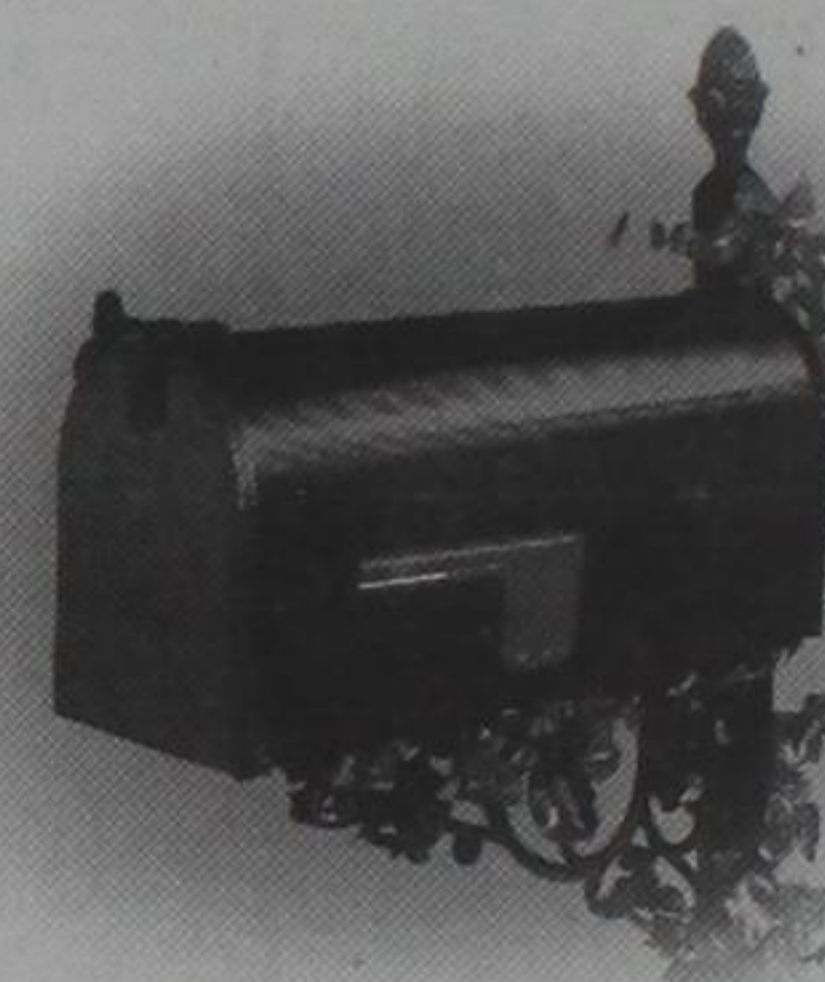
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La Estrategia Electoral Republicana Situa a La Acción Afirmativa en un Plano Secundario

Por Patricia Guadalupe

El liderazgo republicano en el congreso está alejándose durante esta temporada electoral de la legislación para poner fin a todos los programas de acción afirmativa. Empero, viene enfocándose sobre finalizar el programa 8(a) para desarrollo de negocios de la Administración de Pequeñas Empresas (SBA en inglés).

"Esta legislación sobre acción afirmativa no está sucediendo ahora, y seguramente tampoco este verano", dijo el Presidente de la Cámara de Representantes, Newt Gingrich, el 14 de julio en el programa "Esta Semana con David Brinkley" de la cadena ABC. "La agenda de trabajo está bastante llena".

Pero la política, mejor que el programa de trabajo, es el factor determinante, según dicen a Hispanic Link miembros del liderazgo congresional y empresarial. Las mujeres y las personas de color -- especialmente los empresarios -- más afectados por la abolición de los programas de acción afirmativa han estado cabildando fuertemente a un partido ansioso de atraer a esos grupos.

"Podríamos perder a muchos de ellos que ya están políticamente en nuestro campo", comentó un asistente congresional de alto rango. "Francamente, es de costumbre un "suicidio político" aquí el agitar a la comunidad empresarial, particuta la propuesta de la Representante Meyers dentro de poco.

Propiedad literaria registrada por Hispanic Link Ne Kansas. Se le conoce comúnmente por Proyecto Dole-Canady, luego de que el Representante Charles Canady (republicano de la Florida) presentó en la cámara una medida semejante. El proyecto de ley prohibiría al gobierno federal el otorgar "cualquier preferencia basada en raza, color, origen nacional o sexo" en contratos o empleos.

El ejemplar de este mes de la revista "Hispanic Business" informó que la cantidad de negocios en Estados Unidos con dueños hispanos sobrepasó un millón el año pasado y continuará aumentando cada año al menos en un 10 por ciento. Según la SBA, los negocios con propietarios de color son las empresas de mayor crecimiento entre los negocios pequeños.

"Ellos (el liderazgo republicano) están empezando a darse cuenta de que quienes somos y (ellos) están prestando atención," dice Nancy Archuleta, directora de Mevatec Corp., en Huntsville, Alabama, y presidenta de la junta de directores de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Gerencia en Washington, D.C. "Ellos tienen que darse cuenta de que somos un electorado, de que somos votantes".

Los representantes de 17 grupos en favor de la acción afirmativa, entre ellos LAMA, se reunieron el 15 de julio con

funcionarios de alto rango dentro de la Administración Clinton, incluyendo el jefe de personal de la Casa Blanca, Leon Panetta y Alexis Herman, asistente del presidente y directora de la oficina de asuntos del público, para hablar sobre las medidas congresionales planificadas para destruir la acción afirmativa. LAMA fué la única organización hispana presente.

"Se nos prometió que el presidente diría al liderazgo demócrata de no apoyar esa legislación, y que si la misma lle-

gara a su escritorio, él no lo firmaría", comentó la presidenta de LAMA, Marina LaVerdy. "Sin embargo, es difícil medir lo que los otros (los republicanos) terminarán por hacer. Ellos no están hablando".

Gingrich y otros líderes republicanos dicen que todavía están a favor de poner fin a lo que ellos llaman "programas de preferencia basada en raza o sexo". Antes que impulsar el proyecto de ley Dole-Canady, el cual se discutió en el Comité Judicial hace poco, los republicanos

están debatiendo ahora la aprobación de una propuesta presentada por la Representante Jan Meyers (republicana por Kansas), presidenta del comité de pequeñas empresas.

A su propuesta, que no ha sido presentada aún, se oponen con vehemencia los empresarios latinos y grupos de derechos civiles. La misma eliminaría virtualmente el programa para las empresas "desventajadas social y económicamente", al abrir la competencia para todos.

Actualmente, la SBA sólo considera elegibles para el programa 8(a) a las empresas que tengan un 51 por ciento de propietarios hispanos u otras personas de color. Se espera que el Comité Judicial de la Cámara discuta. Hasta Andy Hernández, director de comunicación del DNC con los latinos, objetó a las imágenes visuales del anuncio. "El anuncio da la apariencia de que hay poca diferencia entre ambos partidos sobre el asunto de la i

(Patricia Guadalupe es la editora del semanario nacional Hispanic Link Weekly Report en Washington, D.C.)



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From Page 7

Americans have long believed that workers in low-wage jobs have a better chance at rising through the economy to better-paid ones in the United States than in the more traditional, class-ridden societies of Europe.

The OECD shot down that belief, too.

Between 1986 and 1991, it said, the pay of about 50 percent of all American workers moved up or down by 20 percent or more. But the results were about the same in France, Germany, Britain and other European countries, it said-not much better but not much worse, either.

The upshot, it said, is that there are "more broad commonalities than differences across these countries, despite large differences in their labor market institutions, performance and economic structure."

¿Cómo reformar el estado?

Este libro de Michel Crozier, ¿Cómo reformar al estado? Tres países, tres estrategias: Suecia, Japón y Estados Unidos, viene a darle continuidad a los estudios que en los últimos años le han ocupado; la reforma del Estado para adecuar su funcionamiento dentro del marco de una política de ingresos y gastos mesurada; política cuyo objetivo es la optimización de un aparato burocrático vigente en función de una mayor participación de las distintas fuerzas sociales en la regulación de la economía y la política de sus sociedades.

Así, el volumen de Crozier al planear el caso de Suecia, Japón y Estados Unidos, países que constituyen casos paradigmáticos de una eficiente reforma de la administración y planeación pública, que en los tres casos hizo más eficiente y democrática la participación de los grupos sociales involucrados en el ejercicio del gobierno y en su conducción y proyección al futuro, nos entrega un estudio que se hace fundamental para aquel que guste de involucrarse y enterarse de reformas al Estado. De ahí que resulte interesante el libro que nos presenta este autor, el cual se involucra intensamente en su trabajo provocando, a través de sus conjeturas, la reflexión.

¿Cómo reformar al Estado? no se suscribe únicamente a la especulación de mejoras u optimización del funcionamiento y operatividad del Estado en los distintos ámbitos que lo conforman; económico y político, sobre todo.

Al contrario, Crozier se adentra en el disertamiento de cómo ha evolucionado, para bien en cuanto a su administración y planeación pública. Estados que parece ser son los arquetipos a seguir: Suecia, Japón y Estados Unidos.

Tres países tan distintos entre sí, pero que tienen su denominador común: su reforma al Estado regulador, para adecuar su funcionamiento en los márgenes de una política de ingresos y gastos mesurada, que cada uno de ellos ha tenido resultados variados.

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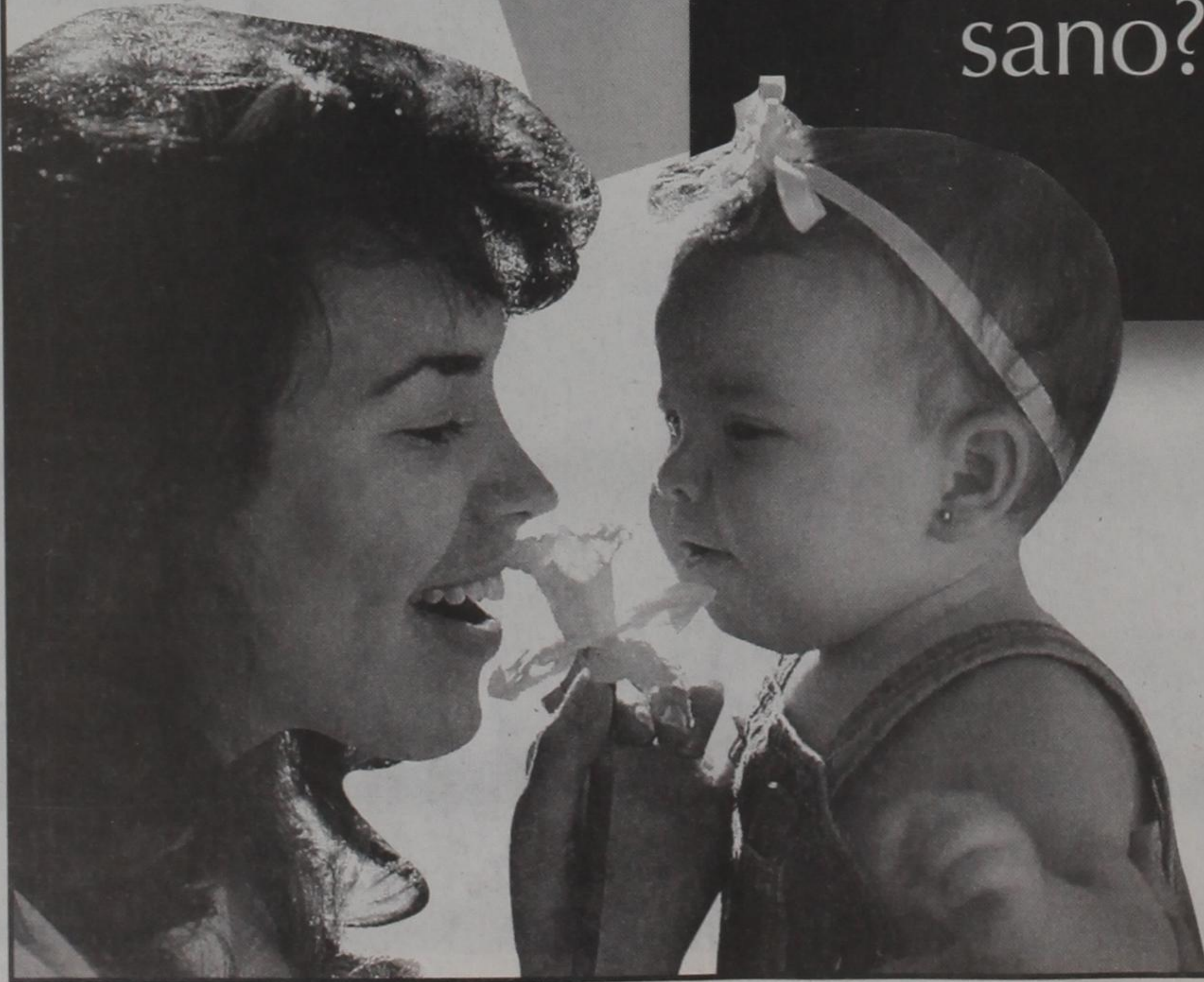
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