Mildred Johnson
Speaks

Another Memorial Day has passed and many of our friends have gone away since the last Memorial Day. Last week Rochester lost one of its most interesting women activists. My cousin, Metta V. Caston, who was ninety years old passed away at Strong Memorial Hospital after a heart attack at her home on Green Knowles Drive. She was active right up until the end. She was the oldest member of Eldorado Towers senior citizen group and was its President. For a number of years she was a charter member of the Army and Navy Union No. 274. In her later years she was an active member of the Danforth Towers senior citizen group and painted many oil paintings of interest. She was also a charter member of the St. Simons Episcopal Church. Canon Moore, four grandchildren and one great grandson were her immediate family. She was my cousin who was born in Medina, N.Y. She was a happy beautiful lady who was very outspoken and enjoyed making those she met laugh about her witty remarks. She was a joy to all who met her and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. We thank God for letting her live for ninety years to spread joy in this sad world of ours. May her soul rest from her labor.

Many do not know of this group, Spectrum Models. The founder of this group is Gloria Winston. Each year this group of young models present a fashion show. This year it was held at the beautiful Café LaBe at Centennial Ave. and Clinton Ave. North. The dynamic speaker for the occasion was our own woman of Buffalo, N.Y. Mary Chappel Crosby. She spoke on the beauty of women. Ms. Winston presented awards to three young models. Their names are about five, which is a small number. I asked Officer Boyd, where he was located and he said he is recruiting people who are interested in becoming a State Trooper thru the Urban League Office on West Main Street. He said most black men are not interested in this type position. I told him they must be interested in one way or another, being about eighty percent of the crimes committed. Officer Boyd gave me the flyers which tell of the qualifications needed to apply for a State Trooper position. He will be at his office every week day to accept applications. If you are a high school graduate with no felonies you may apply. Drop in and talk to Trooper Boyd, he will be happy to help you.

Is there a chapter of the National Assn. of the Advancement of Colored People, (the NAACP) here in Rochester? Yes, we do have a chapter which meets each fourth Sunday of each month at the Montgomery Neighborhood Center. I am a member and have been for a number of years. We do not have many members. We are in need of active members and we invite those interested to come and join. There is a great need for the NAACP here so come out to the June meeting and join and help strengthen our chapter. Mr. Howard Coles, editor of this newspaper is the president of the Rochester NAACP.

The Atlanta children should be the concern of each and every black person in America. We here in Rochester seem to act as though it is none of our business or it is not related to us at all. What are the churches doing in regards to bringing to light the serious acts of murdering our children and now grown ups. We should be having mass meetings in each church to let the public know we will not stand for another murder of our male children. We should all be concerned because we are related to each and every child killed. Let’s stop the killings by voicing our opinions. Do not remain silent, speak out.

The first Negro president of RIT University was Charles S. Johnson.

Raymond B. Logan, head of the Howard University department of history.

Eula L. Harris, past president of the American Society of Zoologists.

Dr. Daniel Hale Williams first successfully operated on the human heart.

E. Franklin Frazier, head of the department of sociology at Howard University.

Richard C. Montaner founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.
When holes taste good, we'll put them in our bread.

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Barbe Conable

Some things just aren't pretty to watch or easy to do. I've never seen a glamorous opossum or a graceful giraffe. Divorces are never comfortable. The seriously overweight should stay away from short shorts. Deep mud doesn't make for light movements. All politicians have a hard time looking relaxed when found with his hand in the cookie jar.

In the same way, government, which has a great time making people happy by allocating surplus, always looks awkward — and sometimes downright foolish — when it tries to deal with shortages. If government is a democracy, it will go through the most remarkable contortions to avoid unpleasant duties, even when everyone understands the necessity and yearns for grace under pressure.

We have no choice but to make some long-term and long- overdue decisions this year with respect to a notoriously neglected social security system. The benefits are outracing our ability to finance them, and everybody knows it. Everybody knows, from looking at the birthrate and longevity growth, that it's going to get worse if we delay. While there once were seven employees for every retiree, the ratio is now down to 3 to 1 and headed for 2 to 1 yearly in the next century.

In the same way, government has to make for light movements. A serious over-weight or a graceful giraffe. Divorces are never comfortable. The seriously overweight should stay away from short shorts. Deep mud doesn't make for light movements. All politicians have a hard time looking relaxed when found with his hand in the cookie jar.

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SECOND GENERATION
With your help and ours, part of Penfield can remain forever wild.

Few people know it, but the Thousand Acre Swamp in Penfield has been a natural wonder for 25,000 years. Without help, it may not live another 25. We believe the home for fox, deer, weasel, mink, owls, osprey, and heron is no place for cranes. So dozens of area firms and dedicated individuals are now helping the Thousand Acre Swamp Committee to preserve one of the county’s last wilderness areas.

Recent donations have enabled the Nature Conservancy, a national land management organization, to purchase 35 more acres. That has increased the size of the swamp to 185 “forever-wild” acres. And, concerned local volunteers are working to take more off the endangered-acreage list.

Contributions from Kodak and others do more than buy land. They’re building the boardwalks, platforms, and hiking trails that provide more people with approaches to enjoy the area’s abundant wildlife and 450 plant species. Kodak was at the leading edge of environmental concern long before it became fashionable. Or mandatory. That interest in ecology is a fact of life at every Kodak facility and extends well beyond our bounds in the form of financial contributions and volunteer efforts. We do it because we’re convinced that every step to preserve our habitat helps make the area a quality place to live. And work.

"Doing more than meets the eye."
Social Security Costs

By John W. Lee
Field Representative

A social security study shows that social security programs in other industrialized countries are also plagued by problems of rising costs. The reasons include a diminishing ratio of contributors to beneficiaries and increases in payments due to inflation, growth in the number of beneficiaries and liberalized benefits.

While payroll taxes have generally been raised to finance these higher costs, a number of countries have been seeking various other solutions. Among these steps are raising the proportion of the earnings subject to the social security tax, cutting back on certain benefits, particularly in the healthcare area.

The study stated that much of the need for increased funds stemming from growth in the number of beneficiaries was caused principally by the rising proportion of older people in the population and early retirements. In many countries comparatively low birth rates in the years when the current working-age population was born have often meant a shrinking work force and thus a smaller "taxable base" for social security purposes. Also, the 1974 recession resulted in widespread unemployment that is still being felt in many countries.

Social Security payroll tax rates increased considerably in most countries between 1971 and 1979. Increases were as high as 100 percent in Sweden and 60 percent in the United Kingdom. In the United States, the payroll tax for all social insurance programs, including the State-run unemployment insurance and workers' compensation as well as the federally-administered programs for old-age, survivors, and disability, increased about 21 percent, or from 13.40 percent in 1971 to 16.46 percent in 1979.

However, the United States tax rates still rank among the lowest in the world among industrialized nations, when compared with 50.80 percent in the Netherlands and 47.45 in France. It should also be noted that the countries with high social security tax rates generally have much broader and more liberal social insurance programs, ranging from national health insurance to partial disability coverage and family allowances.

In seeking additional revenues, some countries have increased the wage base— that amount of earnings subject to the social security tax. Among 11 countries studied, the wage base increase from 1971 to 1979 ranges from 97 percent in Austria to a high of 20 percent in the United Kingdom. In the United States the wage base increased 184 percent, from $7,900 in 1971 to $22,900 in 1979.

A number of countries have taken steps to slow the inflationary impact of indexing on benefit increases. Italy, Belgium, West Germany, and Finland placed a cap on increases or altered the indexing formula. In some countries however, there were simultaneous pressures to improve indexing by altering price and wage indexes to take account of whichever rose more rapidly. Several countries deferred program improvements inorder to cut cost increases.

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"I don't like the idea of us having to depend on foreign countries for our energy."
Home Improvement

Mortgages

The Rohr Street Renaissance, an intensive home improvement and street beautification program concentrating on one block of Rohr Street in the Marketview Heights neighborhood, was kicked-off today with a sign raising ceremony and vacant lot clean-up project.

A cooperative program of Columbia Banking, the Housing Council, the City of Rochester, the Northeast Block Club Alliance and the Rohr Street Block Club, the Rohr Street Renaissance will provide owners of homes on the block of Rohr Street between Bay Street and Clifford Avenue with a variety of special incentives to encourage home improvements. The pilot program is designed to test the effectiveness of a coordinated improvement effort aimed at a single block.

Columbia Banking will be offering home improvement loans to fix up properties on that block at an interest rate one percentage point below market rate. Special loan counseling and other professional services will also be offered.

The Housing Council is coordinating the project, as well as providing technical assistance to Columbia Banking and planning assistance to the Rohr Street community. Housing Council staff will be going door-to-door along Rohr Street encouraging homeowners to participate in City home improvement programs. Non-resident owners of property on that block will also be encouraged to take advantage of City housing programs. In addition, the Housing Council will counsel tax delinquent property owners in an effort to avoid tax foreclosures.

As its part in the Rohr Street Renaissance, the City will resurface that section of Rohr Street this summer, offer $500 grants to fix up the outsides of houses through the Special Materials Grants Program, put buildable vacant lots up for sealed auction, provide special assistance on HILP applications and help with vacant lot improvements.

The Northeast Block Club Alliance will be assisting in the door-to-door promotion of City housing programs, ensuring that improved vacant lots are properly maintained and upgrading the neighborhood block watch effort.

The fifth partner in this alliance, the Rohr Street Block Club, has been instrumental in planning the program. They will continue soliciting and encouraging neighborhood participation in the various facets of the program.

Rohr Street was selected for this pilot program because of its mixture of owner-occupied and investor-owned homes and the strength of its block club. If successful, this type of coordinated, intensive program may be expanded to other areas.

"The Rohr Street Renaissance is another excellent example of a cooperative approach to neighborhood revitalization," commented City Council Member Joan Hersler.
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From page 2

economy not in serious recession, and a public that expects cutbacks not just here but in almost everything. These conditions won’t occur again for a long time, and a long time isn’t left before big trouble for social security. So why be awkward about it? Maybe it’s just one of those things Congress can’t do gracefully.

The Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee was chugging along on a long-term bill, gingerly trying out this or that to save a little money, and even tentatively considering raising the retirement age from 65 to 68 by gradual steps starting in 1990. Then the Administration, fearing that such a step would cause a hailstorm of protest, recommended instead paying those who retired at 52 only 55 percent of what they would be entitled to at 65 instead of the 80 percent they now get, thus encouraging them to work longer.

Because the President has a louder voice than a little subcommittee, the outcry was instantaneous: everyone 61 years of age was furious, everyone 60 was mad and everyone 59 was irritated. The politicians recoiled in horror. They didn’t suggest alternatives, like cutting back on the cost-of-living indexing, raising taxes, taxing benefits, offsetting other pensions or following the subcommittee’s tentative lead. Assuming their "anything-but-this" posture, they tried awkwardly to back away.

I hope the President will insist that, if we don’t do what he suggests, we at least do something. It’s an awkward moment, but not as awkward as it will be if we temporize and get deeper in the mire.

The point is, that we in Congress are great at giving people relative advantages, but incredibly inept at assigning relative disadvantages. In social security we’ve run out of goodies to pass out, and we have no choice but to ask some part of all of the 135 million people involved directly through taxes or benefits to lower their expectations.

GET CHECKS?

Consider Direct Deposit

By Jim Nesbitt

Field Representative

It is easy for people who receive Social Security checks to arrange to have them deposited directly into an account in a financial organization.

All a person has to do to arrange for direct deposit is to complete form SF-1199. The direct deposit form is available at any financial institution. A monthly benefit check contains all the information needed to complete the form.

Some advantages of direct deposit are:

—No worries about a check being lost or stolen.
—No need to be home when the check arrives.
—Money is available in an account even if the person is out of town.
—Time and transportation costs are saved and there is no standing in line to cash the check.
—It is safer to keep money in an account than carrying a lot of cash.
—A check book provides a written record of expenditures.
—Money earns interest in a savings account.

These are just some of the advantages of direct deposit. More information about direct deposit may be obtained from any Social Security office or financial organization. The telephone number of the Social Security office at 100 State Street, Rochester, N.Y. is 263-6200.
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**See next two value packed pages.**