

NALC REPORTER

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ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

AUXILIARY 240

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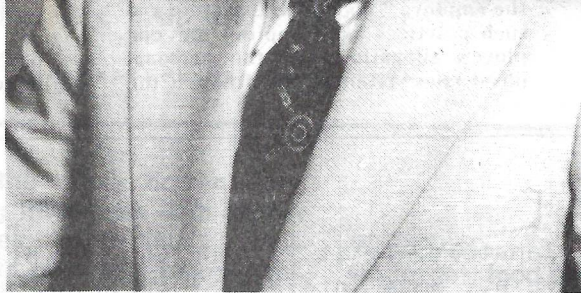
VOL. XIII, No. 7, 8 and 9

JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1978

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 10, 1978 ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 7:30 PM

IN MEMORIAM





E. BENTLEY 'BEN' REED, VICE PRESIDENT

NALCREST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DECEMBER 4, 1907 - SEPTEMBER 12, 1978

'Ben' Reed was a family man, a decent man, a dedicated man, a knowledgeable man, an unselfish man who gave his life for the cause of the letter carrier.

His spiritual heart never wavered for he was truly a giant among men - and yet so humble - he loved his work and his greatest satisfaction was helping his fellow letter carrier.

His unselfish duty to the National Association of Letter Carriers made him an ideal member. His phenomenon of loyalty in that his attendance to meetings not only in his own state, but elsewhere in his region where he could contribute support and counsel. He spent freely of his own funds and succeeded in helping literally thousands of his brothers and sisters through his quite, gentle and effective techniques.

He was never found wanting and always responded with genuine zeal for the National Association of Letter Carriers and an abundance of love for his fellowman.

He was one of the finest men the Good Lord ever placed on earth. E. Bentley Reed is truly one of nature's noblemen.

The National Association of Letter Carriers will become a poorer union with Ben's loss. He will be missed "NO LITTLE AND THEN SOME".

Compensation Claims As sailed

By Spencer Rich

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Federal agency that decides on workmen's compensation claims by injured government employees paid 10 times more awards to its own personnel last year than to other U.S. agencies of comparable size, according to a forthcoming report by the House Appropriations Committee.

The agency is the Labor Department's Office of Workmen's Compensation Programs. It is the government-wide administrator of the Federal Employees Compensation Program, which pays out funds to U.S. employees who are injured or become ill as a result of their work.

Appropriations Committee investigators, in a scorching and sarcastic report, said, "OWCP is a small organization with an end of the year employment (including temporaries and part-timers) of 1,125.

"Yet at the end of the year it reported a total of 156 cases of employees who had received one or more benefit payments under the Federal Employees Compensation Act with benefits totalling \$570,411.

"For comparison purposes we also looked at the record of five other small agencies (average employment 1,431). On the average these agencies had 16 cases of employees receiving payments during the year and total benefits of \$29,450 per agency."

The committee said OWCP executives appeared just as prone to illness as their underlings and shared in the payments. Five of them received compensation payments (three due to "stress-related" conditions) in the \$23,000 to \$31,000 range in 1977.

lowed it in the law, figured the man would have earned \$32,531 had he been working full-time, and awarded him \$25,326 in tax-free benefits his first full year on the compensation roll.

By contrast, the Federal Power Commission, with 1,363 employees, had only nine compensation cases; the Federal Communications Commission 14, and three other small agencies between 7 and 33. While OWCP employees were awarded \$570,411 for the year, total compensation awarded to injured employees in the five other small agencies combined was less than \$150,000.

"While the frustrations of OWCP (executives) are recognized," the committee investigators said, "the stresses and strains of executive responsibility are not unique to OWCP. Other executives, however, lack knowledge about the (compensation) program and are more inclined to accept many routine physical problems as a normal part of the job."

The House investigators didn't attempt to explain why OWCP personnel were able to win compensation awards for themselves at such a disproportionate rate, except to observe drily that there is a "correlation between awareness of how the compensation program works and increased claims."

The investigators, however, did launch an all-out attack on the OWCP in its conduct of the whole governmentwide compensation program, asserting that costs had skyrocketed from \$190 million in 1972 to \$700 million this year although the size of the government workforce was stable.

It said OWCP "invites outright

OWCP medical officer did not have the facts he needed to make a decision in 40 percent of the cases reviewed."

The report also said there appeared to be substantial abuse of the compensation program by government-employed air traffic controllers, with claims filed for a grossly disproportionate number of cuts, bruises and upset stomachs.

The report said "stress-related" cases amounted to 77 percent of controller claims and that controllers have "the only line of work where an employee can at will effectively disqualify himself. All he has to do is allege a nervous or other condition impairing his ability to separate traffic, and the supervisor must take him off the job. He cannot take a chance the employee is faking."

The report said one controller was able to get 40 hours off with pay for chest pains due to "reaction to supervisor discussion," another 10 hours for a cut hand when a salt-shaker slipped and hit a table, and another 224 hours after "bumped head searching for a head-piece set."

Assistant Secretary of Labor Don Elisburg, who heads the division of the Labor Department that includes OWCP, made the following statement:

"That report is one of a number I inherited here that generally reflect the state of disarray I found within the agency. There are a whole litany of things that we want to do to put the agency on a different basis."

"There is one thing on which I would dispute the report—the question of whether our own people are dumping themselves into the program. It appears that the figures are

...partner who had earned only \$15,640 the year before he slipped and injured himself getting out of a chair. The OWCP, citing "discretion" al-

the employee, poor administration and such practices as "accepting the employee's allegations; and the personal physician's statement even though the

and that only two cases of compensation were added in the last year. They're adding up people already on the rolls."

SELF INTEREST

The above article is self explanatory. If it is true you can plainly see that the management of OWCP doesn't have any ones interest at heart but their own...EDITOR

The Religious Herald
5101 Monument Avenue
Richmond, Va. 23226

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to the article, Rates Reluctantly Raised.

I work for the post office and have for more than 22 years. Now that we have that out of the way I will tell you what is on my mind.

I am sick to death of having the postal rates blamed for every ill in the world. In regard to your paper I guess ink, paper, labor to print, cost of folding, type setters, and the other necessary things needed to put out a paper have not increased in price at all. Steel to make cars has not increased in price. It does not cost any more to ride a bus than it used to. Gas for the car has not increased. Your light bill is still what it was a year ago.

I could go on and on but I think you get my message. I am tired of having everyone blame the post office for the increase in rates and accept increases in everything else as just a part of life.

If you have to raise prices in order to meet costs of putting out a fine paper then raise them and quit crying about it and blaming the postal service.

A regular reader
Richard J. Akers, Roanoke

You missed the point. We do not blame the Postal Service for "every ill in the world," only recent increases in Herald subscription rates. True, every facet of our production cost has increased during the eight years of our editorship. Fortunately, we have been able to effect some reduction of costs in certain areas, but there is no way to effect reduction in postage and maintain present publication schedule. Postal expenses alone have increased almost 1,000 per cent in eight years. Even in our inflationary economy this is extreme.

—Editor

SINCE 1970 THERE HAS BEEN FOUR POSTAL RATE INCREASES. (.06¢, .10¢, .13¢, .15¢) THIS IS APPROXIMATELY A 150% INCREASE IN RATES CONTRARY TO THE RELIGIOUS HAROLD EDITORS REMARK THAT RATES HAVE INCREASED 1000%. THIS EDITOR IS LIKE A LOT OF OTHER EDITORS..."A MANS JUDGEMENT IS NO BETTER THAN HIS INFORMATION". HE MUST HAVE GOT HIS INFO FROM THE ROANOKE TIMES AND WORLD NEWS. EDITOR, NEWS REPORTER

EYE PEELERS

It has been reported that a new book will soon appear on the market called "How To Go From A Great Job To A Dead End One", the writer is making his debut in the literary field. He's B. Bailer.

On and after January 1, 1979, prescriptions written on printed prescription forms shall provide a choice of two lines for the prescribers signature. The left side is provided for "VOLUNTARY FORMULARY PERMITTED". The right side, "DISPENSE AS WRITTEN". This is being done to meet the requirement of the Virginia Voluntary Formulary legislation.

A leader has been defined as one "Who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way".

As of November 30, 1978 the new minimum-size standard envelopes is scheduled to take effect. Mailers who deposit items which exceed certain limits will be subject to a surcharge. As yet undetermined by the Postal Rate Commission - as to be expected.

The major cause of inflation is government. The federal deficit is very important in the cause of inflation...to name a few, government increases in Social Security, federal pay, federal minimum wage, farm price supports, unemployment insurance, workmens compensation. Union wage increases are held to be second in importance to high federal deficit as cause of inflation.

Now - you want to know who came up with this tid bit of information...The Right Wing Group? Ultra Conservatives? Jessie Helms?...You're close..... The National Chamber Of Commerce.

The Salem/Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce recently (June 1978) published a resume of CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS in the Roanoke Valley. As Chamber of Commerces go it wasn't unusual to find not a single Union organization listed.

During the negotiations of the Postal Unions contract President Carter sent two advisors to get the Unions to accept a 5.5% raise. The two advisors were well to do. One is a self-made millionaire and the other is a \$50,000 a year

Finally, the whole horror story, including interviews with former employees, Winn-Dixie's calculated war on trade unions, minorities, farmers and the laws of the land.

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* A Fact Book on the AFL-CIO Boycott of Winn-Dixie



**DON'T FORGET
TO ATTEND
YOUR NEXT
LOCAL MEETING**

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE
SHALL BE IN NOVEMBER...ELECTION
OF THESE OFFICES WILL BE HELD
IN DECEMBER...THINK...THINK...THINK

CONGRESSMEN, "ENERGY BILL", ETC.

February 1977, the 95th Congress voted itself a whopper of an increase in salary. A 29% pay increase to be exact, an increase of \$12,900. Come this October they will even get another increase of 6.5% to compensate them for the expected rise in the cost of living. This will bring their measly salary to \$61, 237.50. And too, lets don't forget the long list of fringe benefits and generous pensions, pensions they get after only a few short years of service.

These same Congressmen refused to enroll government employees in the Social Security system and voted to triple within ten years the Social Security tax paid by the average work force. These same Congressmen (including Caldwell Butler of the 6th district of Virginia) voted the retirees 1% kicker out. They have balked on the Hatch Act and turned their backs on Labor Reform while a few "Right Wing Ultra Conservatives" made a mockery of the filibuster.

That isn't all.

It is pretty near certain Congress will vote on a so called "Energy Bill" that will in essence raise the price of gas, oil and your utility bills and you name it.

"Energy Bill", my foot. Why don't they call it for what it is. It means that BIG OIL CONGLAMORATES will get richer and the people get poorer. It is nothing but a "Rip-Off Bill" preposed by Big Oil Companies and Congressmen (who want their palms oiled for re-election) perpetrated on the American people.

FOR THOSE WHO CARE

E. Bentley Reed, age 70 of 3637 Roundhill Ave. NW died Tuesday in a Roanoke hospital. Ben had under gone surgery for external bleeding and his operation was a success. However, his kidneys failed him during his convalescence and he was unable to recover. He was retired from the U. S. Postal Service with thirty-nine years of service. Ben was a member and life deacon of Central Church of the Brethren. He was a member of the National Association of Letter Carriers, a life member of Local Branch 524, the Virginia State Association of Letter Carriers and held office on the local, state and national levels. He was the first president of the Roanoke

Chapter of Muscular Dystrophy Association. He was also a member of the Villa Heights Lions Club and the Knights of Pythias, Osceola Lodge. Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Marieta Sanger Reed; son and daughter-in-law, E. Bentley (Benny) Reed, Jr., Joanne W. Reed, Vinton; two sisters, Mrs. Cora R. Dulaney, Mrs. Gladys R. Pugh, Floyd; two granddaughters, Amy Beth Reed, Julie Anne Reed. THE FAMILY SUGGESTS MEMORIALS BE MADE TO THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION OR THE WILLIAMSON ROAD LIFE SAVING CREW. Funeral services was held at 3:00PM Thursday from Central Church of the Brethren, conducted by the Rev. David A Yingling and Rev. Robert Earle Houff. Interment was in Sherwood Memorial Park.

Christianity is not a certain way of doing things but a certain way that we do all things.....

MISSING

The Postal Insight hasn't been on the scene for some time now...Another missing item from the postal scene is the Credit Union and Tips. Where art thou?

"The New Right has developed...a talent for exploiting people's anxieties and frustrations."

VA Benefits Publication

A new publication with additional information and reflecting changes resulting from the GI Bill Improvement Act and new compensation and pension rates are available...Write "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" and send \$1.00 to Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

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N A L C REPORTER
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MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of each month at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Franklin Road and Highland Avenue, S. W., 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise notified).

All correspondence and all articles for publication in this paper should be addressed to the Editor. Station articles which pertain to Union activities or legislative comment will be given preference. Articles may be edited for brevity and potential libelous statements. Advertising rates will be sent upon request.

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JUNE
Gladys Bible, Caller
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No Meeting

GROUPS

AUGUST
No Meeting

SEPTEMBER
Allene Sisson, Caller
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OCTOBER
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Jimmie Steele
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