

Public Notices

POLK COUNTY LEGAL NOTICES

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
The following personal property of RICHARD A. JONES, SHANNON MARIE REBELLO and CARLOS A. REBELLO, will, on July 26, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at 4508 Arlington Park, Lot 82, Lakeland, Polk County, Florida 33801; be sold for cash to satisfy storage fees in accordance with Florida Statutes, Section 715.109:

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
HIGHLAND MEADOWS WEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
The organizational meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Highland Meadows West Community Development District will be held on July 24, 2018 at 1:00 PM at 346 East Central Ave., Winter Haven, FL 33880.

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under fictitious name of Bear Creek Apartments located at 1295 N. Holland Pkwy, in the County of Polk in the City of Bartow, Florida intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under fictitious name of BJ Lawn Care located at 370 9th Ave, in the County of Polk in the City of Bartow, Florida 33830 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

FIRST INSERTION
Public Auction list
Public auction to be held July 25th 2018 @ 9:00AM
2000 W Memorial Blvd Lakeland, FL 33815, FL 33762 pursuant to subsection 713.78 of the Florida Statutes.

FIRST INSERTION
Notice Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under fictitious name of Melisa campbell unit #L04 Services in Blue Ridge unit #M12 Services in Blue unit #B23 Services in Blue unit #B24 Services in Blue unit #B27 Services in Blue unit #B25 Services in Blue unit #M17 Services in Blue unit# M12 Cynthia Rowe unit#K01 Fred Coyne unit #D30 Fred Coyne unit #M08 auction date : 08/10/2018

FIRST INSERTION
Notice Of Sale
Lakeland Affordable secure Self Storage 1925 George Jenkins Blvd Lakeland, FL 239-682-2988 Personal Property consisting of sofas, TVs, clothes, boxes, household goods, totes, boat and trailer and other personal property used in home, office, or garage will be sold or otherwise disposed of at public sales on the dates and times indicated below to satisfy owners lien for rent and fees due in accordance with Florida Statutes: Self storage act, Sections 83.806 and 83:807. all items or spaces may not be available for sale. Cash or Credit cards only for all purchases & tax resale certificates required if applicable.

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under fictitious name of Soloma Lawncare Services located at 4802 Puritan Ln. Lot 10, in the County of Polk in the City of Lakeland, Florida 33810 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of Val's Homemade Creations located at 8523 Planation Ridge Blvd., in the County of Polk, in the City of Lakeland, Florida 33809 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under fictitious name of Brews N Cues located at 5100 US Hwy 98 N. Ste 13, in the County of Polk in the City of Lakeland, Florida 33809 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under fictitious name of Melisa campbell unit #L04 Services in Blue Ridge unit #M12 Services in Blue unit #B23 Services in Blue unit #B24 Services in Blue unit #B27 Services in Blue unit #B25 Services in Blue unit #M17 Services in Blue unit# M12 Cynthia Rowe unit#K01 Fred Coyne unit #D30 Fred Coyne unit #M08 auction date : 08/10/2018

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FIRST INSERTION
FICTITIOUS NAME NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that RUTH E. CROFT, owner, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of CROFT MOBILE HOME PARK located at P.O. BOX 101, 2856 BROOKS STREET, EATON PARK, FL 33840 in Polk County intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations, Florida Department of State, pursuant to section 865.09 of the Florida Statutes.

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 18CP-1614 Division Probate IN RE: ESTATE OF CAROLYN JASPER Deceased.
The administration of the estate of Carolyn Jasper, deceased, whose date of death was March 9, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 255 N. Broadway Ave., Bartow, FL 33830. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION
File No. 18CP-1614 Division Probate IN RE: ESTATE OF CAROLYN JASPER Deceased.
The administration of the estate of Carolyn Jasper, deceased, whose date of death was March 9, 2018, is pending in the Circuit Court for Polk County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 255 N. Broadway Ave., Bartow, FL 33830. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under fictitious name of Melisa campbell unit #L04 Services in Blue Ridge unit #M12 Services in Blue unit #B23 Services in Blue unit #B24 Services in Blue unit #B27 Services in Blue unit #B25 Services in Blue unit #M17 Services in Blue unit# M12 Cynthia Rowe unit#K01 Fred Coyne unit #D30 Fred Coyne unit #M08 auction date : 08/10/2018

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA GENERAL JURISDICTION DIVISION
CASE NO. 2016CA-001617-0000-00 NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff, vs. BRIAN D. HETHERINGTON, et al. Defendant(s).
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated May 08, 2018, and entered in 2016CA-001617-0000-00 of the Circuit Court of the TENTH Judicial Circuit in and for Polk County, Florida, wherein NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC is the Plaintiff and BRIAN D. HETHERINGTON; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; are the Defendant(s). Stacy M. Butterfield as the Clerk of the Circuit Court will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash at www.polk.realforeclose.com, at 10:00 AM, on August 07, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: LOT 32 OF THE UNRECORDED PLAT OF VALENCIA WOODS, BEING A PART OF LOTS 747, 748, AND 749, ELOISE WOODS, EAST LAKE MARIAM UNIT, AS SHOWN BY MAP OR PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION: CASE NO.: 2016CA-001470-0000-00 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff, vs. THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST, MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA; CAROL PATTERSON, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; CATHERINE GROOVER, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; HAROLD GROOVER, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; LORETTA LAWSON, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; PRECIOUS GURLEY, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; RICHARD GROOVER, JR., AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; RICKY GROOVER, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; VERONICA GROOVER, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, AND AGAINST THE HEREIN NAMED INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANT(S) WHO ARE NOT KNOWN TO BE DEAD OR ALIVE, WHETHER SAID UNKNOWN PARTIES MAY CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSES, HEIRS,

FIRST INSERTION
NOTICE Under Fictitious Name Law Pursuant to Section 865.09, Florida Statutes
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of TOP 2 BOTTOM located at 1824 E LAKE CANNON DR NW, in the County of POLK, in the City of WINTER HAVEN, Florida 33881 intends to register the said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN PLAT BOOK 19, PAGES 32 AND 32A, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE MOST NORTHERLY CORNER OF LOT 749 OF SAID SUBDIVISION, RUN THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOTS 749, 748, AND 747 A DISTANCE OF 80 FEET, RUN THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY AND PARALLEL TO THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 749 A DISTANCE OF 147 FEET TO THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 747, RUN THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOTS 747, 748, AND 749 A DISTANCE OF 80 FEET, RUN THENCE NORTHWESTERLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. Property Address: 537 ALACHUA DR, WINTER HAVEN, FL 33884-0000 Any person claiming an interest in the

DEVISEES, GRANTEES, OR OTHER CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN PARTY #1, UNKNOWN PARTY #2, UNKNOWN PARTY #3, AND UNKNOWN PARTY #4 THE NAMES BEING FICTITIOUS TO ACCOUNT FOR PARTIES IN POSSESSION, Defendants. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated the 18th day of June, 2018, and entered in Case No. 2016CA-001470-0000-00, of the Circuit Court of the 10TH Judicial Circuit in and for Polk County, Florida, wherein BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. is the Plaintiff and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING THROUGH SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; STATE OF FLORIDA; CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA; CAROL PATTERSON, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; CATHERINE GROOVER, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; HAROLD GROOVER, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; LORETTA LAWSON, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; PRECIOUS GURLEY, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; RICHARD GROOVER, JR., AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; RICKY GROOVER, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; VERONICA GROOVER, AS AN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES CLAIMING BY, THROUGH, UNDER, OR AGAINST,

surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the lis pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale. IMPORTANT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4686, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. Dated this 5th day of July, 2018. ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ & SCHNEID, P.L. Attorney for Plaintiff 6409 Congress Ave., Suite 100 Boca Raton, FL 33487 Telephone: 561-241-6901 Facsimile: 561-997-6909 Service Email: mail@rasflaw.com By: \S\Thomas Joseph Thomas Joseph, Esquire Florida Bar No. 123350 Communication Email: tjoseph@rasflaw.com 16-214538 - MoP July 13, 20, 2018 18-01209K

MARY L. GROOVER A/K/A MARY LEE GROOVER, DECEASED; and UNKNOWN TENANT (S) IN POSSESSION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY are defendants. STACY M. BUTTERFIELD, CPA as the Clerk of the Circuit Court shall sell to the highest and best bidder for cash electronically at www.polk.realforeclose.com at, 10:00 AM on the 17th day of August, 2018, the following described property as set forth in said Final Judgment, to wit: LOT 4, A.K. SERDJENIAN SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 3, PAGE 23, OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 27 SOUTH, RANGE 26 EAST. A/K/A 321 MYERS LN, LAKE ALFRED, FL 33850 ANY PERSON CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE SURPLUS FROM THE SALE, IF ANY, OTHER THAN THE PROPERTY OWNER AS OF THE DATE OF THE LIS PENDENS MUST FILE A CLAIM WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SALE. If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Office of the Court Administrator, 255 N. Broadway Avenue, Bartow, Florida 33830, (863) 534-4686, at least 7 days before your scheduled court appearance, or immediately upon receiving this notification if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days; if you are hearing or voice impaired, call 711. Dated this 5th day of July, 2018. By: Steven Force, Esq. Bar Number: 71811 Submitted by: Choice Legal Group, P.A. P.O. Box 9908 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310-0908 Telephone: (954) 453-0365 Facsimile: (954) 771-6052 Toll Free: 1-800-441-2438 DESIGNATED PRIMARY E-MAIL FOR SERVICE PURSUANT TO FLA. R. JUD. ADMIN 2.516 eservice@legalgroup.com 17-00999 July 13, 20, 2018 18-01197K

SAVE TIME E-mail your Legal Notice legal@businessobserverfl.com Sarasota & Manatee counties Hillsborough County | Pasco County Pinellas County | Polk County Lee County | Collier County Charlotte County Wednesday 2PM Deadline Friday Publication Business Observer

Choices and Solutions

What Should Be Done

Left unchanged, Social Security and Medicare are bankrupting America. Here are practical ways to provide a social safety net for those who need it. Unfortunately, politicians don't show the courage to cross that bridge.

BY MILTON & ROSE FRIEDMAN

Most of the present welfare programs should never have been enacted. If they had not been, many of the people now dependent on them would have become self-reliant individuals instead of wards of the state.

In the short run, that might have appeared cruel for some, leaving them no option to low-paying, unattractive work. But in the long run, it would have been far more humane. However, given that the welfare programs exist, they cannot simply be abolished overnight. We need some way to ease the transition from where we are to where we would like to be, of providing assistance to people now dependent on welfare while at the same time encouraging an orderly transfer of people from welfare rolls to payrolls.

Such a transitional program has been proposed that could enhance individual responsibility, end the present division of the nation into two classes, reduce both government spending and the present massive bureaucracy, and at the same time assure a safety net for every person in the country, so that no one need suffer dire distress.

Unfortunately, the enactment of such a program seems a utopian dream at present. Too many vested interests — ideological, political and financial — stand in the way.

Nonetheless, it seems worth outlining the major elements of such a program, not with any expectation that it will be adopted in the near future, but in order to provide a vision of the direction in which we should be moving, a vision that can guide incremental changes.

The program has two essential components: first, reform the present welfare system by replacing the ragbag of specific programs with a single comprehensive program of income supplements in cash — a negative income tax linked to the positive income tax; second, unwind Social Security while meeting present commitments and gradually requiring people to make their own arrangements for their own retirement.

Such a comprehensive reform would do more efficiently and humanely what our present welfare system does so inefficiently and inhumanely. It would provide an assured minimum to all persons in need regardless of the reasons for their need while doing as little harm as possible to their character, their independence or their incentive to better their own condition.

THE NEGATIVE INCOME TAX

The basic idea of a negative income tax is simple, once we penetrate the smoke screen that conceals the essential features of the positive income tax. Under the current positive income tax you are permitted to receive a certain amount of income without paying any tax. The exact amount depends on the size of your family, your age and on whether you itemize your deductions. This amount is composed of a number of elements — personal exemptions, low-income allowance, standard deduction (which has recently been relabeled the zero-bracket amount), the sum corresponding to the general tax credit, and for all we know still other items that have been added by the Rube Goldberg geniuses who have been having a field day with the personal income tax.



STEPS TO FIX ENTITLEMENTS

- Enact a “negative income tax.”
- Wind down Social Security

““““

Yet, as Anderson says, “There is no way that the Congress, at least in the near future, is going to pass any kind of welfare reform that actually reduces payments for millions of welfare recipients.”

To simplify the discussion, let us use the simpler British term of “personal allowances” to refer to this basic amount.

If your income exceeds your allowances, you pay a tax on the excess at rates that are graduated according to the size of the excess. Suppose your income is less than the allowances? Under the current system, those unused allowances in general are of no value. You simply pay no tax.

If your income happened to equal your allowances in each of two succeeding years, you would pay no tax in either year. Suppose you had that same income for the two years together, but more than half was received the first year. You would have a positive taxable income, that is, income in excess of allowances for that year, and would pay tax on it. In the second year, you would have a negative taxable income, that is, your allowances would exceed your income but you would, in general, get no benefit from your unused allowances. You would end up paying more tax for the two years together than if the income had been split evenly.

With a negative income tax, you would receive from the government some fraction of the unused allowances. If the fraction you received was the same as the tax rate on the positive income, the total tax you paid in the two years would be the same regardless of how your income was divided between them.

When your income was above allowances, you would pay tax, the amount depending on the tax rates charged on various amounts of income. When your income was below allowances, you would receive a subsidy, the amount depending on the subsidy rates attributed to various amounts of unused allowances.

The negative income tax would allow for fluctuating income, as in our example, but that is not its main purpose. Its main purpose is rather to provide a straightforward means of assuring every family a minimum amount, while at the same time avoiding a massive bureaucracy, preserving a considerable measure of individual responsibility and retaining an incentive for individuals to work and earn enough to pay taxes instead of receiving a subsidy.

Consider a particular numerical example. In 1978, allowances amounted to \$7,200 for a family of four, none above age 65. Suppose a negative income tax had been in existence with a subsidy rate of 50% of unused allowances. In that case, a family of four that had no income would have qualified for a subsidy of \$3,600. If members of the family had found jobs and earned an income, the amount of the subsidy would have gone down, but the family's total income — subsidy plus earnings — would have gone up. If earnings had been \$1,000, the subsidy would have gone down to \$3,100, and total income up to \$4,100. In ef-

fect, the earnings would have been split between reducing the subsidy and raising the family's income.

When the family's earnings reached \$7,200, the subsidy would have fallen to zero. That would have been the break-even point at which the family would have neither received a subsidy nor paid a tax. If earnings had gone still higher, the family would have started paying a tax.

We need not here go into administrative details — whether subsidies would be paid weekly, biweekly or monthly, how compliance would be checked and so on. It suffices to say that these questions have all been thoroughly explored; that detailed plans have been developed and submitted to Congress.

The negative income tax would be a satisfactory reform of our present welfare system only if it replaces the host of other specific programs that we now have. It would do more harm than good if it simply became another rag in the ragbag of welfare programs.

NEGATIVE TAX HELPS POOR

If it did replace them, the negative income tax would have enormous advantages. It is directed specifically at the problem of poverty. It gives help in the form most useful to the recipient, namely, cash.

It is general — it does not give help because the recipient is old or disabled or sick or lives in a particular area, or any of the other many specific features entitling people to benefits under current programs. It gives help because the recipient has a low income. It makes explicit the cost borne by taxpayers. Like any other measure to alleviate poverty, it reduces the incentive of people who are helped to help themselves.

However, if the subsidy rate is kept at a reasonable level, it does not eliminate that incentive entirely. An extra dollar earned always means more money available for spending.

Equally important, the negative income tax would dispense with the vast bureaucracy that now administers the host of welfare programs. A negative income tax would fit directly into our current income tax system and could be administered along with it. It would reduce evasion under the current income tax since everyone would be required to file income tax forms. Some additional personnel might be required, but nothing like the number who are now employed to administer welfare programs.

By dispensing with the vast bureaucracy and integrating the subsidy system with the tax system, the negative income tax would eliminate the present demoralizing situation under which some people — the bureaucrats administering the programs — run other people's lives.

It would help to eliminate the present division of the population into two classes — those who pay and those who are supported on public funds. At reasonable break-even levels and tax rates, it would be far less expensive than our present system.

There would still be need for personal assistance to some families who are unable for one reason or another to manage their own affairs. However, if the burden of income maintenance were handled by the negative income tax, that assistance could and would be provided by private charitable activities. We believe that one of the greatest costs of our present welfare system is that it not only undermines and destroys the family, but also poisons the springs of private charitable activity.

HOW TO FIX SOCIAL SECURITY

Where does Social Security fit into this beautiful, if politically unfeasible, dream?

The best solution in our view would be to combine the enactment of a negative income tax with winding down Social Security while living up to present obligations. The way to do that would be:

1. Repeal immediately the payroll tax.
2. Continue to pay all existing beneficiaries under Social Security the amounts that they are entitled to under current law.
3. Give every worker who has already earned coverage a claim to those retirement, disability and survivors benefits that his tax payments and earnings to date would entitle him to under current law, reduced by the present value of the reduction in his future taxes as a result of the repeal of the payroll tax. The worker could choose to take his benefits in the form of a future annuity or government bonds equal to the present value of the benefits to which he would be entitled.
4. Give every worker who has not yet earned coverage a capital sum (again in the form of bonds) equal to the accumulated value of the taxes that he or his employer has paid on his behalf.
5. Terminate any further accumulation of benefits, allowing individuals to provide for their own retirement as they wish.
6. Finance payments under items 2, 3 and 4 out of gen-



eral tax funds plus the issuance of government bonds.

This transition program does not add in any way to the true debt of the U.S. government. On the contrary, it reduces that debt by ending promises to future beneficiaries. It simply brings into the open obligations that are now hidden. It funds what is now unfunded.

These steps would enable most of the present Social Security administrative apparatus to be dismantled at once.

The winding down of Social Security would eliminate its present effect of discouraging employment and so would mean a larger national income currently. It would add to personal saving and so lead to a higher rate of capital formation and a more rapid rate of growth of income. It would stimulate the development and expansion of private pension plans and so add to the security of many workers.

WHAT IS POLITICALLY FEASIBLE?

This is a fine dream, but unfortunately it has no chance whatsoever of being enacted at present. Three presidents — Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter — have considered or recommended a program including elements of a negative income tax.

In each case, political pressures have led them to offer the program as an addition to many existing programs, rather than as a substitute for them. In each case, the subsidy rate was so high that the program gave little if any incentive to recipients to earn income.

These misshapen programs would have made the whole system worse, not better.

Despite our having been the first to have proposed a negative income tax as a replacement for our present welfare system, one of us testified before Congress against the version that President Nixon offered as the “Family Assistance Plan.”

The political obstacles to an acceptable negative income tax are of two related kinds. The more obvious is the existence of vested interests in present programs: the recipients of benefits, state and local officials who regard themselves as benefiting from the programs and, above all, the welfare bureaucracy that administers them. The less obvious obstacle is the conflict among the objectives that advocates of welfare reform, including existing vested interests, seek to achieve.

As Martin Anderson puts it in an excellent chapter on “The Impossibility of Radical Welfare Reform”:

“All radical welfare reform schemes have three basic parts that are politically sensitive to a high degree. The first is the basic benefit level provided, for example, to a family of four on welfare.

“The second is the degree to which the program affects the incentive of a person on welfare to find work or to earn more.

“The third is the additional cost to the taxpayers.

“To become a political reality, the plan must provide a decent level of support for those on welfare. It must contain strong incentives to work, and it must have a reasonable cost. And it must do all three at the same time.”

The conflict arises from the content given to “decent,” to “strong” and to “reasonable,” but especially to “decent.” If a “decent” level of support means that few if any current recipients are to receive less from the reformed program than they now do from the collection of programs available, then it is impossible to achieve all three objectives simultaneously, no matter how “strong” and “reasonable” are interpreted.

Yet, as Anderson says, “There is no way that the Congress, at least in the near future, is going to pass any kind of welfare reform that actually reduces payments for millions of welfare recipients.”

Consider the simple negative income tax that we introduced as an illustration in the preceding section: a break-even point for a family of four of \$7,200, a subsidy rate of 50%, which means a payment of \$3,600 to a family with no other source of support. A subsidy rate of 50% would give a tolerably strong incentive to work.

The cost would be far less than the cost of the present complex of programs.

However, the support level is politically unacceptable today. As Anderson says, “The typical welfare family of four in the United States now [early 1978] qualifies for about \$6,000 in services and money every year. In higher paying states, like New York, a number of welfare families receive annual benefits ranging from \$7,000 to \$12,000 and more.”

Even the \$6,000 “typical” figure requires a subsidy rate of 83.3% if the break-even point is kept at \$7,200. Such a rate would both seriously undermine the incentive to work and add enormously to cost.

The subsidy rate could be reduced by making the break-even point higher, but that would add greatly to the cost. This is a vicious circle from which there is no escape.

So long as it is not politically feasible to reduce the payments to many persons who now receive high benefits from multiple current programs, Anderson is right: “There is no way to achieve all the politically necessary conditions for radical welfare reform at the same time.”

However, what is not politically feasible today may become politically feasible tomorrow. Political scientists and economists have had a miserable record in forecasting what will be politically feasible. Their forecasts have repeatedly been contradicted by experience.

Our great and revered teacher Frank H. Knight was fond of illustrating different forms of leadership with ducks that fly in a V with a leader in front. Every now and then, he would say, the ducks behind the leader would veer off in a different direction while the leader continued flying ahead. When the leader looked around and saw that no one was following, he would rush to get in front of the V again. That is one form of leadership — undoubtedly the most prevalent form in Washington.

While we accept the view that our proposals are not currently feasible politically, we have outlined them as fully as we have, not only as an ideal that can guide incremental reform, but also in the hope that they may, sooner or later, become politically feasible.