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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

I checked with Aubrey
King + he said
that this was a group
that specializes in
writing insurance -
they are classified
tax-exempt
510 c 284
and ^{they} not a traditional
fraternal organization

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY

☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT.

☐ FTS

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN

☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

63-109

☆ GPO : 1981 O - 341-529 (115)

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-76)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

Knights of Columbus

A TRADITION OF DEVOTION - A CENTURY OF SERVICE

1882-1982

SUPREME OFFICE • COLUMBUS PLAZA • NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06507



VIRGIL C. DECHANT
SUPREME KNIGHT

March 10, 1982

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Office of Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Building
Room 199
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

A few moments ago I visited on the phone with Ms. Kathy Christiansen of your staff concerning the forthcoming meeting on private sector initiatives to be held on March 24. I related to Ms. Christiansen that I had been speaking with Mr. John Gorski, President of the National Fraternal Congress of America, and he informed me that he did not know of the March 24 meeting. In that the National Fraternal Congress of America is an affiliation of some 100 fraternal benefit societies covering approximately 10 million members, it would be beneficial if Mr. Gorski could be asked to attend the meeting in Washington.

Accordingly, if such an invitation is a possibility, you may reach Mr. Gorski at the headquarters office of the National Fraternal Congress, 230 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. He also is High Chief Ranger of the Catholic Order of Foresters at 305 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. His telephone number at the latter address is (312) 372-2615. I hope you will agree that Mr. Gorski's presence will be appropriate at the discussions to take place on March 24.

In closing I was wondering whether we could have a few moments to visit with you either before or after the sessions, or at some later date, to discuss ways in which the depth and breadth of our fraternal-benefit societies could best be utilized in the President's renewed emphasis on volunteer services.

With best wishes and regards, I am,

Sincerely,

Virgil C. Dechant
Virgil C. Dechant
Supreme Knight

VCd/pmc

cc: Mr. John Gorski

*also
call Gorski
& find out about
Nat. Fraternal
Congress
from King's view.
King may be
a rival*

*shall
we
pass
this
name
over?*

*Mr. 2
S. Christiansen
yes
no*

CONPOR

Natl Club Assoc.

CONFERENCE OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS
1625 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 466-8424

October 8, 1981

DIRECTORS

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Executive Director

Gerard F. Hurley, CAE

Mr. Red Caveney
Deputy Assistant to the
President
for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

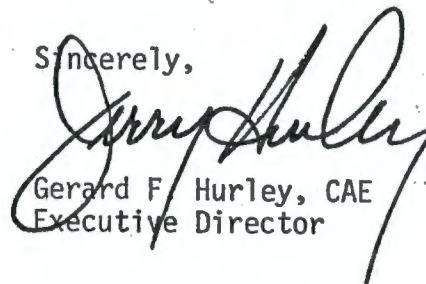
Dear Mr. Caveney:

Thanks to you, Diana Lozano and Morton Blackwell for taking time out to show us what's possible and how to get there.

I have reported our meeting to our officers. Our Chairman, Clarence Ruddy wants to assure you we will vigorously pursue this question. However, the nature of our organizations dictates a slower than normal pace, as I mentioned, so it will be a few weeks before we can get back to Ms. Lozano.

We applaud President Reagan's establishment of the Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives. We agree the American people have great strengths and capacities that can be tapped and focused on private sector needs. Our people form a major component of that private sector, and we stand ready to support your efforts in every possible way.

Sincerely,



Gerard F. Hurley, CAE
Executive Director

GFH/kld

cc: D. Lozano
M. Blackwell

NATIONAL CLUB ASSOCIATION



1625 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
[202] 466-8424

Gerard F. Hurley, CAE
Executive Director

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John J. McEnerney
Union League Club of Chicago
Chicago, IL

Milton E. Meyer, Jr.
Pinehurst Country Club
Denver, CO

George S. Squibb
Dunes Club
Narragansett, RI

February 5, 1982

Honorable Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison
Room 191
Old Executive Office Building
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

Here are the two items I promised to send you
last week.

In Defense of Selective Membership Policies is
NCA's latest analysis of this highest priority concern
of clubs and other private membership organizations.
We believe it provides sound constitutional and prac-
tical bases for private organizations to defend their
rights.

Also enclosed is the latest update of our private
organizations directory. We have added an index for
all 55 organizations listed.

We appreciate your counsel on the school tax ex-
emption matter.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Aubrey C. King
Director of Public Affairs

Enclosure

get this
for me
MRB

we filed
for the
planned (?)
briefing
of material
9/25 -

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 1, 1982

Dear Aubrey:

Thank you for sending me the latest update of your private organizations directory.

We are presently working towards a White House briefing for organization chairman which may include President Reagan.

Please keep me informed of your concerns and let me know where we can help.

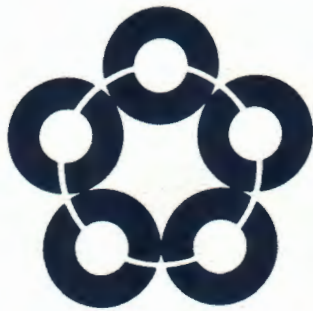
Again, thanks for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

Aubrey C. King
National Club Association
1625 Eye St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006



NATIONAL CLUB ASSOCIATION REFERENCE SERIES

In Defense of Selective Membership Policies

**"The fundamental arguments in support of
selective membership policies will prevail
when properly presented."**

I. Introduction: A Heritage Under Siege

The essence of the private club is its control over its own membership admission policies and practices. This control is derived from the individual club members, exercising their Constitutionally protected rights of association and privacy. From these individual rights has grown the private club heritage in America.

Like other enduring institutions, clubs are many things to their members. To some they are extensions of the home, where family and friends meet for social and recreational purposes. To others they are havens or refuges from society, where one can relax in privacy. Without the right of members to control their club membership requirements, however, it is clear that all clubs would merely become public accommodations.

In this publication, the term "selective membership policies" will refer to this most fundamental aspect of private clubs. Yet what is a "selective membership policy?" Is the phrase, as some critics argue, little more than a euphemism for bigotry? Does it merely mean membership that excludes all those who are not of a particular race, color, religion, sex or national origin? Of course not.

The right of members of a private club to design and practice a selective membership policy simply means they have the right to associate in that club with whomever they wish — and only with whomever they wish. Therefore, it is their corollary right to exclude from that association whomever they wish. This might mean the exclusion of persons with poor reputations in the community; persons who could not be counted upon to support the club financially or otherwise; persons with interests dissimilar from the group; or persons who are simply not regarded, for whatever reason, as "one of us."

But, the critics go on to argue, the problem is that the membership policies of private clubs are selective for "unacceptable" reasons. Thus, attacks are launched on membership policies that are alleged to be based on some socially popular litany of objectionable criteria, such as "race, color, sex, religion or national origin." Unfortunately, it is forgotten that to regulate our freedoms is to risk destroying them. No portion of the right to select one's private associates can be abridged without violating the entire right. For a club to exercise only a socially or politically acceptable membership policy would mean relinquishing membership control to those outside the group. What would remain of the private club heritage?

The National Club Association (NCA) takes no position on who should be admitted as members to any private clubs, or who should be denied membership. NCA takes no position on what membership criteria a club should adopt. There is no "Model NCA Club Membership Policy." NCA believes instead that such decisions, procedures, policies and practices are and should be solely the right of clubs and their members. NCA is fully committed to affirming and defending that right. Towards this end, NCA adamantly opposes governmental intervention in the exercise of that right.

Sadly, it has been a right under bitter and sustained attack in recent years. Adversaries of clubs have ranged from individual litigants and activist groups to agencies of the federal government. Arenas of conflict have included various state and local governments, the United States Congress and even the American Bar Association. Although frequently supported by allies such as the Conference of Private Organizations, and the Club Manager's Association of America, a substantial investment of NCA's time and resources has been necessary to repel these recurring attacks. NCA's record in defense of the rights of private clubs is a proud and successful one. All private clubs, as well as all other private

membership organizations, can be heartened by what the NCA record proves — *the fundamental arguments in support of selective membership policies will prevail when properly presented.*

Too often, the case for private club selective membership policies is not fully understood even by its proponents. Club interests can be undermined by an ineffective defense. In this publication, NCA intends to help remedy this problem by providing a "primer" of arguments to be used in defense of the rights of club members to practice whatever selective membership policies they choose.

In the next section, the nature of the attacks typically made on selective membership policies will be reviewed. Six different arguments or strategies often employed by club adversaries will be identified. The balance of the text will explain six major rebuttal arguments which NCA has found to be effective in many different settings.

II. The Arguments Against Selective Membership Policies

1. Selective membership policies of private clubs violate established public policy pertaining to civil rights.

Club antagonists cite the many federal, state and local laws banning discrimination in such areas as education, employment and public accommodations. Then it is alleged that selective membership policies violate the "public policy" embodied in those laws. As subsequent analysis will demonstrate, this argument fails to recognize the extensive protections afforded selective membership policies by the United States Constitution, numerous court decisions and the Congress. It is firmly established that members of private clubs have a constitutionally guaranteed right to determine with whom they do or do not wish to associate in their clubs. Furthermore, private club membership policies do not involve a question of civil rights, but rather one of social rights. In the latter context they receive Constitutional protections recognized by the Congress of the United States, the Supreme Court and other governmental agencies.

2. Selective membership policies violate Sections 1981 and 1982 of Title 42 of the United States Code, originally enacted as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1866.

Club adversaries resort to Section 1 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, now codified as 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1981 and 1982, to claim support for their objections to selective membership policies. These sections give all citizens of the United States an equal right to inherit, purchase, lease, sell, hold and convey real and personal property, and to make and enforce contracts. Private clubs are alleged to be subject to these

sections on the ground that membership in a club is both a form of property and a contractual relationship. However, as will be shown later in more detail, in the Civil Rights Cases of 1883 the Supreme Court held unanimously that in the Civil Rights Act of 1866, Congress did not assume to adjust the social rights of those in the community, but only those fundamental rights which pertain to the essence of citizenship.

Even if Congress had planned to make Sections 1981 and 1982 applicable to private clubs, these sections would be unconstitutional in this regard, because they would violate the club members' First Amendment right to freedom of association. And lastly, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, recognizing the Constitutional distinction between civil rights and social rights, expressly exempts private clubs from its provisions. In so doing it limits and restricts any broader reading of Sections 1981 and 1982.

3. Government services or benefits must be denied to private clubs with selective membership policies.

This is one of the most common lines of attack, particularly at the state and local levels. Attempts frequently have been made to deny such "benefits" as liquor licenses and differential tax treatment, especially in states where golf and country clubs and other recreation groups receive differential property tax assessments because of their use as "green belt" or "open space" areas. Attempts also have been made to deny federal and state tax deductions to individuals who claim private club dues and other costs as legitimate business expenses, if those clubs have selective membership policies. The tax exempt status granted private clubs also has been a target. In the subsequent analysis it will be explained why such attempts to deny government benefits are blatantly unconstitutional.

4. Membership in private clubs provides such an indispensable advantage to one's career advancement that those denied such membership suffer an insurmountable employment handicap, so government must secure membership for them.

On the basis of this argument, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs of the United States Department of Labor tried, for five and a half years, to enact a regulation to prohibit federal contractors (nearly everyone doing business with the government) from paying or reimbursing the fees or expenses of their members in selective membership clubs. In one of NCA's most celebrated triumphs this bureaucratic assault was repelled, but not before the city of Philadelphia emulated the federal attempt and adopted a similar prohibition for city contractors. In these cases NCA raised many objections to the proposed prohibitions. One of the most compelling rebuttal points was simply that there is no evidence in support of this proposition.

5. Public officials must resign any memberships in private clubs which have selective membership policies.

After all, it is contended, how can a judge preside over a discrimination case in the morning and eat lunch at a private club in the afternoon?

As a result of such an argument, federal judiciary nominees, United States Attorney General nominees, FBI Director nominees and others have been pilloried because of their club memberships. As a result, some have resigned those memberships. In a corollary action the United States Judicial Conference tried to discourage sitting federal judges from holding such memberships. It was proposed that the American Bar Association similarly discourage all judges everywhere.

Both the U.S. Civil Service Commission (now the Office of Personnel Management) and the state of New York have restricted attendance of government employees at meetings held in private clubs. The city of Philadelphia, at the same time it adopted its ordinance pertaining to city contractors, also prohibited municipal payment or reimbursement of any city employee expenses incurred at private clubs. Again, this is a charge without substance, an accusation without proof and an attack on constitutional rights.

6. Selective membership policies are permissible for "truly private" clubs. This term has been defined by court decisions. But, it should be defined even more narrowly by imposing new tests to determine what constitutes a "truly private" club.

Several courts, including the United States Supreme Court, have carefully examined whether a challenged organization is "truly private" and therefore protected by the Constitution. As a result of these decisions, a set of criteria has developed for identifying the bona fide private organization.

Some critics, apparently unhappy with the judicial criteria, have attempted to impose new statutory standards. The most noteworthy attempts have occurred in the cities of Pittsburgh and New York. Nearly identical bills would have redefined a private club as a public accommodation unless it could prove that over 80% of its income came directly from its members' pockets, i.e., that the members neither claimed tax deductions for such payments nor received employer reimbursements.

In the summer of 1981, a similar proposal (eventually withdrawn) was before the American Bar Association. It would have denied the critical protection of the private club exemption in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to those clubs deriving a "substantial portion" of their income from business sources.

Some criteria certainly are essential to distinguish legitimate private clubs from the sham. Towards this end, the criteria developed by the courts are known, respected and sufficient for the purpose. The flagrant attempts to override these well established criteria

through statutory changes, however, are inappropriate and must be repulsed.

III. The Arguments in Defense of Selective Membership Policies

Although the preceding arguments attacking selective membership policies may have only superficial plausibility, and although they are often couched in tones of moral outrage, defenders of private clubs and their selective membership policies need be neither dismayed nor apologetic. While it may be tactically necessary for clubs to respond to attacks from a defensive posture, the ultimate defense is a positive affirmation of fundamental principles. In the matter of selective membership policies, club members truly are defending the Constitution.

It should be noted that these rebuttal arguments do not precisely parallel the preceding arguments of the opposition. Some of the opposition points frequently should be rebutted with more than one counter argument. And, all the rebuttal points, and particularly the first two, frequently are applicable to more than one opposition argument. On page 11, a chart displays the relationship between the various arguments for and against selective membership policies.

In brief, the six arguments in support of selective membership policies are:

- 1. Members of private clubs and other organizations have a constitutionally protected right to decide with whom they may or may not wish to associate in their clubs or organizations.**
- 2. Selective membership policies are social rights as distinguished from civil rights. Social rights cannot be overridden or abridged under the guise of protecting civil rights.**
- 3. The provision of government services or benefits cannot be made contingent on an agreement not to exercise constitutional rights.**
- 4. The legal criteria defining private clubs are well established. There is no basis for supplanting or radically altering those criteria.**
- 5. Attempts to regulate selective membership policies invariably fail to define adequately the membership policies being targeted.**
- 6. Adversaries of private clubs typically fail to provide empirical confirmation for their arguments.**

Before developing these more thoroughly, two cautionary notes are advisable. First, this publication is devoted to challenges confronting *private clubs*. While most, if not all of the points discussed here are applicable to all private membership organizations, challenges to other organizations may involve additional legal considerations beyond the scope of this publication.

Second, it must be emphasized that this review should not be cited or construed as a comprehensive compendium of the law. Because of the nature of the issues and arguments, substantial reference is made to legal principles and precedents. But, this publication only can serve as an introduction to the subject and an initial reference source of arguments and tactics. Clubs under specific attack should consult further with NCA. They definitely should engage the services of an attorney familiar with the law concerning private membership organizations.

1. Members of private clubs and other organizations have a constitutionally protected right to decide with whom they may or may not wish to associate in their clubs or organizations.

This right has its constitutional roots in the rights of association, privacy and speech as derived from the First and Ninth Amendments to the Constitution.

Indeed, the individual's right of privacy, what has been termed "the right to be let alone," has been hailed by Justice Brandeis as "the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men," *Olmstead v. United States* 227 U.S. 438, 478 (1927) and by Justice Douglas as "the beginning of all freedoms." *Public Utilities Commission v. Pollack* 343 U.S. 451, 467 (1957). The U.S. Supreme Court has expressly recognized that this individual right of privacy extends to groups as the right of association. As the Court declared in *Griswold v. Connecticut*:

The right of "association," like the right of belief . . . is more than the right to attend a meeting; it includes the right to express one's attitudes or philosophies by membership in a group or by affiliation with it or by other lawful means. Association in that context is a form of expression or opinion; and while it is not expressly included in the First Amendment its existence is necessary in making the express guarantees fully meaningful. 381 U.S. 479, 485 (1964).

The Supreme Court often has reaffirmed the crucial importance of the right of association. Thus in *Healy v. James*, Justice Powell, speaking for the Court, said:

Among the rights protected by the First Amendment is the right of individuals to associate to further their personal beliefs. While the freedom of association is not explicitly set out in the Amendment, it has long been held to be implicit in the freedoms of speech, assembly and petition. 408 U.S. 169, 181 (1972).

And in *Buckley v. Valeo* the Court stated:

The court's decisions involving associational freedoms establish that the right of association is a "basic

constitutional freedom," *Kusper v. Pontikes*, 414 U.S., at 57 . . . that is "closely allied to freedom of speech and a right which, like free speech, lies at the foundation of a free society." *Shelton v. Tucker*, 364 U.S. 479, 486 (1960). 424 U.S. 1, 25, (1976).

The right of association is protected against either federal or state encroachment. Thus in *Williams v. Rhodes* Justice Black declared, in delivering the opinion of the Court:

We have repeatedly held that freedom of association is protected by the First Amendment. And of course this freedom protected against federal encroachment by the First Amendment is entitled under the Fourteenth Amendment to the same protection from infringement by the States. 393 U.S. 23, 30-31 (1968).

The right of association has been recognized to have as its logical corollary the right to exclude from association. This was acknowledged by Justice Goldberg, in *Bell v. Maryland*:

Prejudice and bigotry in any form are regrettable, but it is the constitutional right of every person to close his home or club to any person or choose his social intimates or business partners solely on the basis of personal prejudices, including race. These and other rights pertaining to privacy and private association are themselves constitutionally protected liberties. 378 U.S. 226, 313 (1964).

While dissenting on other grounds, Justice Douglas emphasized the same principle in *Moose Lodge No. 107 v. Irvis*:

My view of the First Amendment and the related guarantees of the Bill of Rights is that they create a zone of privacy which precludes government from interfering with private clubs or groups. The associational rights which our system honors permit all white, all black, all brown, and all yellow clubs to be formed. They also permit all Catholic, all Jewish, all agnostic clubs to be established. Government may not tell a man or woman who his or her associates must be. The individual can be as selective as he desires. 407 U.S. 163, 179-180 (1972).

There is no doubt that the membership policies and practices of private organizations are firmly anchored in constitutional principles. Individuals have rights of privacy and association which guarantee that those individuals, as members of private organizations, are free to decide entirely for themselves who their fellow members will be. Government is constitutionally prohibited from dictating or controlling such decisions.

With regard to the opposition's contention that the law and public policy are violated by selective membership policies, the preceding cases concerning the rights of association and privacy are all precisely on point. The fact is that selective membership policies are protected by the Constitution.

2. Selective membership policies are social rights as distinguished from civil rights.

Social rights cannot be overridden or abridged under the guise of protecting civil rights.

The line of decisions delineating the right of those in private organizations to admit or exclude whom-ever they wish is simply a logical extension of the historic distinction between "civil rights" and "social rights." This has been recognized by both Congress and the Supreme Court since the close of the Civil War. The consistent finding has been that civil rights neither supplant nor diminish social rights. The historical and constitutional validity of this argument directly rebuts those attacks on selective membership policies based on U.S.C.A. Sections 1981 and 1982 as enacted by the Civil Rights Act of 1866.

Thus, in *The Civil Rights Cases* that dealt with the Civil Rights Act of 1875, the court said of the Thirteenth Amendment and the 1866 Civil Rights Act.:

... at that time (in 1866) Congress did not assume, under the authority given by the Thirteenth Amendment (abolishing slavery), to adjust what may be called the social rights of men and races in the community; but only to declare and vindicate those fundamental rights which appertain to the essence of citizenship ... 109 U.S. 3, 22 (1883).

In his famous dissent, Justice Harlan agreed with this distinction, and extended it to the Civil Rights Act of 1875, saying:

I agree that government has nothing to do with social, as distinguished from technically legal, rights of individuals. No government ever has brought, or ever can bring, its people into social intercourse against their wishes. Whether one person will permit or maintain social relations with another is a matter with which government has no concern. I agree that if one citizen chooses not to hold social intercourse with another, he is not and cannot be made amenable to the law for his conduct in that regard; for even upon grounds of race, no legal right of a citizen is violated by the refusal of others to maintain merely social relations with him ... The rights which Congress, by the Act of 1875, endeavored to secure and protect are legal, not social rights.

Ibid., p. 59

In *Bell v. Maryland*, Justice Goldberg said of the Fourteenth Amendment and the civil rights bills of that earlier era:

A review of the relevant congressional debates reveals that the concept of civil rights which lay at the heart both of the contemporary legislative proposals and of the Fourteenth Amendment encompassed the right to equal treatment in public places — a right explicitly recognized to be a 'civil' rather than a 'social' right.

In the debates that culminated in the acceptance of the Fourteenth Amendment, the theme of granting 'civil,' as distinguished from 'social,' rights constantly recurred (*Supra*, pp. 293-294) ... Indeed, the constitutional protection extended to privacy and private association assures against the imposition of social equality. As noted before, the Congress that enacted the Fourteenth Amendment was particularly conscious

that the 'civil' rights of man should be distinguished from his 'social' rights. *Supra*, pp. 312-313.

Significant confirmation of this crucial distinction clearly was supplied by Congress when it expressly exempted private clubs from the 1964 Civil Rights Act — certainly the most significant civil rights legislation in this century. Title II of that comprehensive 1964 statute prohibits racial discrimination in public accommodations, but specifically provides that:

The provision of this subchapter shall not apply to a private club or other establishment not in fact open to the public ... 42 U.S.C.A. 2000a(e).

Concerning the application of Sections 1981 and 1982 of the Civil Rights Act of 1866 to clubs, a further point is appropriate. The private club exemption contained in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies equally to the 1866 Act.

Although Title II is silent concerning the 1866 Act, this is because in 1964 that earlier statute was dormant. Use of the 1866 Act did not become popular until 1968 when the Supreme Court issued its first ruling on that statute in more than a century, *Jones v. Mayer Co.*, 392 U.S. 409 (1968). Congressional floor debate over the 1964 Act clearly suggests, however, that it was intended to supersede all prior civil rights legislation in the event of conflicting provisions. Thus, Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, one of the floor managers of the bill, declared:

I wish to make it clear that I do not believe there should be a federal law which provides that a private club should be managed this way, or managed that way. 110 Cong. Reg. 6008 (1964)

Although the Supreme Court has not rendered a decision on the issue, other courts have. Their decisions uniformly have been that the private club exemption contained in Section 2000a(e) of the 1964 Act operates as a limitation on sections 1981 and 1982. In *Tillman v. Wheaton-Haven Recreation Association* the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit squarely faced the question and found that coverage of the 1866 Act was restricted by the 1964 private club exemption. 451 F.2d 1211, 1215 (4th Cir. 1971). *Rev.* on other grounds, 410 U.S. 431 (1973). Three federal district courts have addressed this issue, and all three have held that the 1964 exemption limits sections 1981 and 1982. *Solomon v. Miami Women's Club*, 359 F. Supp. 41 (S.D. Fla 1973); *Cornelius v. Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks*, 382 F. Supp. 1182 (D. Conn. 1974); *Perkins v. New Orleans Athletic Club*, 429 F. Supp. 661 (E.D. La., 1976).

Without denying the importance of civil rights, it is nonetheless essential to bear in mind the significance of our social rights. The preceding citations clearly demonstrate that there are certain rights that are manifested only in a social context. To protect such rights as association and privacy, it is necessary to protect from government intrusion the social setting in which they can be exercised, such as private clubs.

It can be seen that the only "public policy" applicable to the selective membership issue is resoundingly

in support of the rights of private clubs and their members.

3. The provision of government services or benefits cannot be made contingent on an agreement not to exercise constitutional rights.

The Supreme Court repeatedly has held that it is unconstitutional to confront individuals with the dilemma of choosing between the exercise of their constitutionally protected rights and the receipt of government benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled.

In *United States v. Chicago, Etc., R. Co.*, Justice Sutherland, writing for the court, said:

Broadly stated, the rule is that the right to continue the exercise of a privilege granted by the state cannot be made to depend upon the grantee's submission to a condition prescribed by the state which is hostile to the provisions of the federal constitution. *Western Union Tel. Co. v. Kansas*, 216 U.S. 1, 47-48; *Western Union Tel. Co., v. Foster*, 247 U.S. 105, 114. 282 U.S. 311, 328-329 (1931).

In *Perry v. Sindermann*, Justice Stewart said for the Court:

For at least a quarter-century, this Court has made clear that even though a person has no 'right' to a valuable governmental benefit and even though the government may deny him the benefit for any number of reasons, there are some reasons upon which the government may not rely. It may not deny a benefit to a person on a basis that infringes his interest in freedom of speech. For if the government could deny a benefit to a person because of his constitutionally protected speech or associations, his exercise of those freedoms would in effect be penalized and inhibited. This would allow the government to "produce a result which [it] could not command directly." *Speiser v. Randall*, 357 U.S. 513, 526. Such interference with constitutional rights is impermissible. 408 U.S. 593, 597 (1972).

In *Speiser v. Randall*, veterans were granted a partial property tax exemption by the California Constitution. A California statute required the filing of a "loyalty oath" as a prerequisite to obtaining the exemption. Holding the statute unconstitutional as a denial of procedural due process, the Court said through Justice Brennan:

It cannot be gainsaid that a discriminatory denial of a tax exemption for engaging in speech is a limitation on free speech . . . To deny an exemption to claimants who engage in certain forms of speech is in effect to penalize them for such speech. Its deterrent effect is the same as if the State were to fine them for this speech. The appellees are plainly mistaken in their argument that, because a tax exemption is a 'privilege' or 'bounty,' its denial may not infringe speech. 357 U.S. 513, 518 (1958).

In *Healy v. James*, the Court further said:

[The] Court has consistently disapproved governmental action imposing criminal sanctions or denying rights and privileges solely because of a citizen's association with an unpopular organization. See, e.g.,

United States v. Robel, 389 U.S. 258 (1967); *Keyishian v. Board of Regents*, 385 U.S., at 605-610; *Elbrandt v. Russell*, 384 U.S. 11 (1966); *Scales v. United States*, 367 U.S. 203 (1961). 408 U.S. 169, 185-186 (1972).

In *Sherbert v. Verner*, a state denied unemployment benefits to a woman who refused a job requiring her to work Saturdays because she was a Seventh Day Adventist. In holding that this imposed an unconstitutional condition on her First Amendment right of freedom of religion, the Court said in 1963:

The ruling forces her to choose between following the precepts of her religion and forfeiting benefits, on the one hand, and abandoning one of the precepts of her religion in order to accept work, on the other hand. Governmental imposition of such a choice puts the same kind of burden upon the free exercise of religion as would a fine imposed against appellant for her Saturday worship.

Nor may the South Carolina court's construction of the statute be saved from constitutional infirmity on the ground that unemployment compensation benefits are not appellant's 'right' but merely a 'privilege.' It is too late in the day to doubt that the liberties of religion and expression may be infringed by the denial of or placing of conditions upon a benefit or privilege. *American Communications Assn. v. Douds*, 339 U.S. 382, 390; *Wieman v. Updegraff*, 344 U.S. 183, 191-192; *Hannegan v. Esquire, Inc.*, 327 U.S. 146, 155-156. 374 U.S. 169, 404-405 (1963).

Most recently, in 1981 the Supreme Court reaffirmed the constitutional principles at stake. In *Thomas v. Review Board of the Indiana Employment Security Division*, the Court declared:

More than 30 years ago, the Court held that a person may not be compelled to choose between the exercise of a First Amendment right and participation in an otherwise available public program. 49 LW 4341 (April 6, 1981).

The preceding cases have proved most valuable in rebutting legislative and regulatory attempts to change club membership policies by withholding government benefits. Further supporting the position that private clubs cannot be so blackmailed have been favorable decisions for private organizations when individual litigants have sought to convince courts to revoke their federal tax exempt status because of their selective membership policies. *McGlotten v. Connally*, 338 F. Supp. 748 (D.D.C., 1972); *McCoy v. Schultz*, 73-1 USTC Para. 9233 (D.D.C., 1973). Also see *Cornelius v. B.P.O. Elks*, supra. (It should be noted, however, that as a result of the "Rangel Amendment" to P.L. 94-568, codified as Section 501(h) of the Internal Revenue Code, the Internal Revenue Service will deny tax exempt status to private clubs:

" . . . for any taxable year if, at any time during such taxable year, the charter, bylaws, or other governing instrument, of such organization contains a provision which provides for discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, or religion."

The Rangel Amendment does not apply to such written membership exclusions based on sex.)

4. The legal criteria defining private clubs are well established. There is no basis for supplanting or radically altering those criteria.

As we have seen, members of private organizations have the right to exercise their freedoms of privacy, association and speech by controlling the membership policies and practices of their organizations. Because the issues and principles are so fundamental, considerable attention has been directed to determining the nature of bona fide private organizations. As a result, Congress and the courts have developed an extensive set of standards to define such private organizations.

As noted above, when this issue was before Congress during consideration of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, it defined private clubs as "not in fact open to the public." This distinction was reiterated by Senator Warren G. Magnuson during floor debate:

Let us take a closer look at the provisions of the bill concerning private clubs and other establishments not open to the public generally. Local fraternal organizations, private country clubs, and the like are outside the reach of Title II by reason of the bona fide private club exemption. 110 Cong. Rec. 7404 (1964). [Emphasis added.]

During the same floor debate, Senator Humphrey offered further clarification:

A private club is a fraternal, civic body. It has a purpose for existing. It has a charter. It has by-laws, and its members agree to live up to those by-laws. 110 Cong. Rec. 5822 (1964).

When the question of whether a particular organization is private has come before the Supreme Court, it too has focused on the issue of its openness to the public, or the extent to which it follows a "plan or purpose of exclusiveness." *Sullivan v. Little Hunting Park, Inc.*, 396 U.S. 229, 236 (1969). See also *Tillman v. Wheaton-Haven Recreation Association* 410 U.S. 431 (1973), and *Daniel v. Paul*, 395 U.S. 298 (1969).

Various lower courts have developed more specific standards in response to litigation. In *Cornelius v. B.P.O. Elks*, supra, for example, the lodge was found to be private on the basis of eight criteria:

- 1) The selectiveness of the group in admission of members.
- 2) The existence of formal membership procedures.
- 3) The degree of membership control over internal governance, particularly with regard to new members.
- 4) The history of the organization: was it created or did it make substantial changes in its prior operation in order to avoid the impact of civil rights legislation?
- 5) The use of club facilities by nonmembers.
- 6) The substantiality of dues.

- 7) Whether the organization advertises.
- 8) The predominance of profit motive.

See also *Perkins v. New Orleans Athletic Club*, 429 F. Supp. 661 (E.D. La., 1976), and *Wright v. Cork Club*, 315 F. Supp. 1143 (S.D., Tex., 1970).

There are those who would convert an otherwise private club into a place of public accommodation if a substantial part of its revenue is derived, directly or indirectly, through its members, from business sources. Or, if a substantial part of its members' payments to it are deducted by those members for income tax purposes as business expense. Or, if its premises are ever used for business discussions by its members or others. Or, even if its members ever entertain a nonmember as a guest at the club.

The first three of these suggestions are based on a complete misconception, i.e., that private clubs are often in fact "extensions of the market place." There is no evidence to support this contention. In fact, most private clubs have rules forbidding business papers and brief cases in any of the common rooms and ensuring that any event at the club is hosted and paid for by a member. Members may, of course, discuss whatever they wish in private conversations within the club, or rent private rooms for discussions of whatever kinds they wish, as if they were at home.

None of the criteria suggested for defining a place of public accommodation has anything to do with whether a given club is, in fact, open to the public, and not a "truly private club." Each of the suggestions referred to above is, in reality, an attempt to abridge the First Amendment right of freedom of association of the members of private clubs. And, insofar as they attack business discussions within a club, they also infringe on the members' First Amendment right of freedom of speech.

The Supreme Court clearly has established that the right of association is not dependent upon the truth, popularity or social utility of the ideas, beliefs or activities of the protected association, or upon public intolerance or animosity to these ideas or beliefs. Thus in *N.A.A.C.P. v. Button*, Justice Brennan said for the Court:

The Constitution protects expression and association without regard to the race, creed, or political or religious affiliation of the members of the group which invokes its shield, or to the truth, popularity, or social utility of the ideas and beliefs which are offered The course of our decisions in the First Amendment area makes plain that its protection would apply as fully to those who would arouse any society against the objections of the petitioner. 371 U.S. 415, 444-445 (1963).

The right of association is not extended only for the advancement of political or intellectual purposes. Its protection embraces social, recreational, economic and other purposes. In his opinion for the majority in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, Justice Douglas noted:

In like context, we have protected forms of association that are not political in the customary sense but pertain to the social, legal, and economic benefit of the members. *Supra*, p. 483.

It should be noted further that the Internal Revenue Service, in granting tax exempt status to private, nonprofit organizations makes no attempt whatsoever to inquire whether their income is derived directly or indirectly from business sources. Indeed, a Congressional Conference Committee in 1978 expressly reaffirmed the right to deduct from federal taxes business expenses incurred at private organizations not open to the public. Revenue Act of 1978, Sec. 361, Pub. L. 95-600, 92 Stat. 2763 (Nov. 6, 1978); as amended by Technical Corrections Act of 1979, Sec. 103(a)(10)(A), Pub. L. 96-222, 94 Stat. 194 (April 1, 1978).

There is, in short, no case of which we are now aware where a court, legislative body or other government agency has defined a private organization in terms of how or why its members utilize its facilities (i.e., whether for social or business reasons), or the ultimate source of its revenue.

For any jurisdiction to hold otherwise would have the anomalous result of abruptly transforming private clubs and other organizations, which would be private under federal law and the standards used by courts and other agencies in every other location in this country, into public accommodations in that single jurisdiction. Clubs which for years had complied with the established standards of privateness would suddenly find their legal status abolished. Club members who have chosen to exercise their freedom of association through membership in a recognized private organization would suddenly find that freedom meaningless.

5. Attempts to regulate selective membership policies invariably fail to define adequately the membership policies being targeted.

A recurrent shortcoming of such proposals is their failure to explain how they will identify the exact selective membership policies being condemned. Thus, when the U.S. Judicial Conference in 1981 decided it was "inappropriate" for federal judges to belong to selective membership organizations, it simultaneously acknowledged that the identification of such membership policies was "often complex and not capable of being determined from a mere examination of its membership roll."

It must be recognized that *all* clubs and other private organizations have selective membership policies — that is what makes them private. The exact procedures for making membership decisions vary widely. In nearly every case the decisions are made by a vote of the membership or their representatives, and the decisions are made confidentially to protect those applying for membership. In addition, most private organizations have several different types of membership, including family memberships, memberships for widows and limited memberships that allow restricted use of certain facilities.

The reasons for a specific membership decision are as complex and diverse as the individuals making it. Salient factors might include such characteristics of

the applicant as social compatibility, personality, income level, common athletic and recreational pursuits, professional business interests, family background, even ethnic or religious ties. The limited nature of available physical facilities also may influence the decision. To presume that analyses of such specific decisions would support a valid judgment of an organization's membership policy is, at best, unrealistic.

Just as unrealistic and invalid would be a judgment based on the membership of an organization over a period of time. Assuming that no one from a particular group has been admitted: how many applicants came from that group? What percentage were they of the total applicants? Is there a "threshold" number or percentage of members that an organization would have to reach in order to avoid the stigma of being labelled "exclusionary"? Are there attributes other than the applicants' group identity that may have explained their rejection?

Some attacks on selective membership clubs condemn policies that "restrict or limit membership." It always should be questioned whether this means that in order to prove that members from a given group are not "limited" to a certain proportion of total membership, private clubs would have to meet some membership "quota" requirements. Would private clubs have to adopt "affirmative action" membership programs? Where would it end?

6. Adversaries of private clubs invariably fail to provide empirical confirmation of their arguments.

The outstanding example of such failure is provided by the allegation that an individual who is denied membership in a private club suffers insurmountable business or career disadvantages. The implication seems to be that such membership is the *sine qua non* of career success, that without membership in the club or organization of one's choice, future advancement is severely retarded, if not totally blocked.

To state this premise is to reveal its fallaciousness. Private club membership is not the prerequisite of career success, but may instead be regarded as one of the rewards of such success. Individuals who join private clubs are already successful in their careers. Furthermore, it can hardly be argued seriously that the only successful people are those with the "right club connections."

The weakness of the premise that club memberships are indispensable to career success is indicated by the lack of any empirical support. We are not aware of any court decisions or administrative findings that support the notion that club members acquire, as a result of their memberships, indispensable career advantages over nonmembers. Some have alleged a lack of minority advancement in certain industries, and then have separately claimed a high incidence of employer support of expenses incurred in private organizations by employees in those

industries. But no one has ever produced any data demonstrating a causal relationship connecting the two allegations.

The lack of evidence is not for lack of effort. The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) of the U.S. Department of Labor tried unsuccessfully for five and a half years to document such a connection between club memberships and career advancement in order to justify a regulation it proposed to prohibit federal contractors from paying their employees' private organization expenses. From its 1976 origins, OFCCP and other Labor officials admitted to NCA that no complaints had ever even alleged the connection. In 1980, the Secretary of Labor, Ray Marshall, confirmed that his Department could not identify a single such complaint. Finally, just before withdrawing the regulation in 1982, OFCCP Director Ellen M. Shong acknowledged to NCA that the agency still had never received a single complaint alleging employment discrimination on the basis of such contractor payments.

A similar dearth of evidence characterizes the allegation that public officials are somehow contaminated with bias as a result of their memberships in private clubs with selective membership policies. The most prominent example is probably the charge that the public conception of a judge's impartiality is weakened by any private club memberships. Yet no one has ever demonstrated a connection between a judge's private club memberships and attitude or conduct on the bench. No empirical data indicates that the public thinks any less of a judge who belongs to a private club. NCA is not aware of any case where a judge's decision has been reversed because of such membership.

Surely, with regard to judges as well as other public officials, no matter how substantial their public trust and responsibilities, individual rights and liberties are retained and should be abridged only for the most compelling reasons.

Fortunately, the merits of these arguments concerning public officials seem to be increasingly accepted as witnessed by recent incidents in which Attorney General William French Smith, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and the American Bar Association have rejected attempts to refute their official roles because of their private organization memberships.

IV. Conclusion

The chart on page 11 summarizes the arguments developed in the preceding text. It shows which points in defense of selective membership policies are most relevant to particular opposition allegations. NCA reiterates that these rebuttal arguments have proved to be effective in responding to various selective membership challenges.

It must be emphasized, however, that quite often these challenges are not responsive to rational rebuttals. Selective membership attacks are frequently based more on emotion than on rational analysis. Those with such an attitude seek to level society to some sort of common denominator. These new egalitarians obviously cannot tolerate the existence of institutions not accessible to all, whose members are usually the prime achievers in the community.

These people are not likely to be persuaded by rational debate and constitutionally based arguments. They are marching to a drummer whose tempo will not be found in the United States Constitution. "The law aside," they will argue, "we demand what is fair." As a result, often it is critical that those defending selective membership policies supplement rational arguments with astute political strategies.

A review of appropriate political strategies is beyond the scope of this publication, but several brief points may provide helpful illustrations. First, in political maneuverings, communication and organization are critical. This means that club leaders should inform one another about impending threats. Second, coalitions are more influential than individual organizations. Usually, attacks on clubs equally threaten other private organizations such as fraternal and service groups. Third, it is always wise to become acquainted with your political representatives before threats arise. There are enormous misconceptions among some public officials about private clubs, that even a minimum familiarity with the reality of club life would dispel.

Finally, when political challenges do arise, club leaders should monitor events closely and intervene as early and as often as possible in the political decision-making process — from the legislative committee hearing stage to the chief executive's office if necessary. NCA's counsel and support always will be at your call.

CASES

- American Communications Assn. v. Douds* 339 U.S. 382 (1950), p.6
- Bell v. Maryland* 378 U.S. 226 (1964), pp.4,5
- Buckley v. Valeo* 424 U.S. 1 (1976), p.4
- Cornelius v. Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks*, 382 F. Supp. 1182 (D. Conn. 1974), pp.5,7
- Daniel v. Paul* 395 U.S. 298 (1969), p.7
- Elbrandt v. Russell* 385 U.S. 11 (1966), p.6
- Griswold v. Connecticut* 381 U.S. (1964), pp.4,7
- Hannegan v. Esquire, Inc.* 327 U.S. 146 (1946), p.6
- Healy v. James* 408 U.S. 169 (1972), pp.4,6
- Jones v. Mayer Co.* 392 U.S. 409 (1968), p.5
- Keyishian v. Board of Regents* 385 U.S. (1967), p.6
- Kusper v. Pontikes* 414 U.S. 51 (1973), p.4
- McCoy v. Schultz* 73-1 USTC Para. 9233 (D.D.C. 1972), p.6
- McGlotten v. Connally* 338 F. Supp. 748 (D.D.C. 1972), p.6
- Moose Lodge No. 107 v. Irvis* 407 U.S. 163 (1972), p.4
- N.A.A.C.P. v. Button* 371 U.S. 415 (1963), p.7
- Olmstead v. U.S.* 227 U.S. 438 (1927), p.4
- Perkins v. New Orleans Athletic Club* 429 F. Supp. 661 (E.D. La. 1976), pp.5,7
- Perry v. Sindermann* 408 U.S. 593 (1972), p.6
- Public Utilities Commission v. Pollack* 343 U.S. 451 (1957), p.4
- Scales v. United States* 367 U.S. 203 (1961), p.6
- Shelton v. Tucker* 364 U.S. 479 (1960), p.4
- Sherbert v. Verner* 374 U.S. 169 (1963), p.6
- Solomon v. Miami Women's Club* 359 F. Supp. 41 (S.D. Fla. 1973), p.5
- Speiser v. Randall* 357 U.S. 513 (1958), p.6
- Sullivan v. Little Hunting Park, Inc.* 396 U.S. 229 (1969), p.7
- The Civil Rights Cases* 109 U.S. 3 (1883), p.5
- Thomas v. Review Board of the Indiana Employment Security Division* 49 LW 4341 (April 6, 1981), p.6
- Tillman v. Wheaton-Haven Recreation Association* 410 U.S. 431 (1973), p.7
- Tillman v. Wheaton-Haven Recreation Association* 451 F. 2d 1211, (4th Cir. 1971), rev. on other grounds, 410 U.S. 431 (1973), p.5
- United States v. Chicago, Etc., R. Co.* 282 U.S. 311, (1931), p.6
- United States v. Robel* 389 U.S. 258 (1967), p.6
- Western Union Telegraph Co. v. Foster* 247 U.S. 105 (1918), p.6
- Western Union Telegraph Co. v. Kansas* 216 U.S. 1 (1910), p.6
- Wieman v. Updegraff* 344 U.S. 183 (1952), p.6
- William v. Rhodes* 393 U.S. 23 (1968), p.4
- Wright v. Cork Club* 315 F. Supp. 1143 (S.D. Tex. 1970), p.7

STATUTES

- Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(h) (originally enacted as the "Rangel Amendment" to P.L. 94-568), p.6
- Revenue Act of 1978, Sec. 361, Pub. L. 95-600, 92 Stat. 2763 (Nov. 6, 1978); as amended by Technical Corrections Act of 1979, Sec. 103(a)(10)(A), Pub. L. 96-222, 94 Stat. 194 (April 1, 1978), p.7
- 42 U.S.C.A.2000a(e) (originally enacted as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1964), p.5
- 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1981 and 1982 (originally enacted as part of the Civil Rights Act of 1866), p.5

LEGISLATIVE MATERIALS

- 110 Cong. Rec. 5822 (1964), p.7
- 110 Cong. Rec. 6008 (1964), p.5
- 110 Cong. Rec. 7404 (1964), p.7

In Defense of Selective Membership Policies: A Summary Comparison of the Arguments

Arguments AGAINST Selective Membership Policies

Arguments FOR Selective Membership Policies rebutted by

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Such policies violate public policy concerning civil rights. | <p>1.(a) Club members have a constitutionally protected right to decide with whom they may or may not wish to associate in their clubs. This constitutional protection is derived from the rights of association, privacy and speech.</p> <p>(b) Selective membership policies are protected as social rights which cannot be overridden or abridged under the guise of protecting civil rights.</p> <p>(c) Selective membership policies cannot be validly defined or identified.</p> |
| 2. Such policies violate Sections 1981 and 1982 of the U.S. Code. | <p>2.(a) The Civil Rights Act of 1866, which enacted these sections, was never intended by Congress to regulate or diminish social rights.</p> <p>(b) Such an application of Sections 1981 and 1982 would violate the constitutional rights of club members.</p> <p>(c) The express exemption of private clubs from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies equally to the 1866 Act.</p> <p>(d) Selective membership policies cannot be validly defined or identified.</p> |
| 3. Government services and benefits must be denied selective membership clubs. | <p>3.(a) It cannot be overemphasized that selective membership policies are constitutionally protected.</p> <p>(b) Provision of government services and benefits cannot be made contingent on a nonexercise of constitutional rights.</p> <p>(c) Selective membership policies cannot be validly defined or identified.</p> |
| 4. Club memberships provide indispensable career advantages and so must be available to all. | <p>4.(a) Again, the opposing argument is an attack on constitutionally protected rights.</p> <p>(b) It is simply not true that those denied club memberships suffer insuperable career disadvantages and no evidence or complaints have ever been provided to support this allegation.</p> |
| 5. Public officials must resign from selective membership clubs. | <p>5.(a) The constitutional defense is again of paramount importance.</p> <p>(b) This is another example of an unproven allegation; there is no evidence that their performance of public duties, or the public's perception of that performance, has ever been affected by the private club memberships of public officials.</p> <p>(c) The question remains of how to define and identify a selective membership policy.</p> |
| 6. "Private clubs" must be more narrowly defined. | <p>6.(a) The constitutional defense remains impregnable.</p> <p>(b) There is no justification for radically altering the established legal criteria defining private clubs.</p> <p>(c) The lack of valid definitions and criteria is particularly applicable as a rebuttal to this point. The proposals this argument is intended to support typically call for the use of criteria quite irrelevant to the functions and purposes of private clubs.</p> |



National Club Association

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CONPOR

Pending file

CONFERENCE OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS
1625 Eye Street, N.W.
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October 8, 1981

Mr. Red Caveney
Deputy Assistant to the
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for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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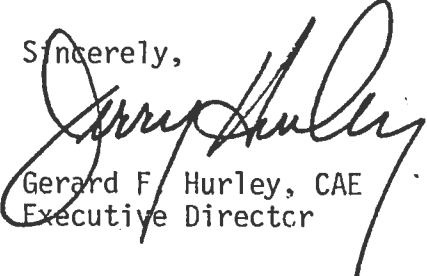
Dear Mr. Caveney:

Thanks to you, Diana Lozano and Morton Blackwell for taking time out to show us what's possible and how to get there.

I have reported our meeting to our officers. Our Chairman, Clarence Ruddy wants to assure you we will vigorously pursue this question. However, the nature of our organizations dictates a slower than normal pace, as I mentioned, so it will be a few weeks before we can get back to Ms. Lozano.

We applaud President Reagan's establishment of the Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives. We agree the American people have great strengths and capacities that can be tapped and focused on private sector needs. Our people form a major component of that private sector, and we stand ready to support your efforts in every possible way.

Sincerely,


Gerard F. Hurley, CAE
Executive Director

GFH/kld

cc: D. Lozano
M. Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 14, 1981

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for sending me your list of private organizations. The Administration wants to work closely with you on the problems facing private organizations.

Again, thank you for your help. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call me.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Morton". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'M' and a trailing flourish.

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President

Gerald F. Hurley
Executive Director
National Club Association
1625 Eye St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20006



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Gerard F. Hurley, CAE
Executive Director

November 25, 1981

Honorable Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Room 191
Old Executive Office Building
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

We're pleased to tell you that our constituent groups are very interested in the Administration's offer to work with us on the concerns facing private organizations. We are developing our materials now and should be back to you, Mr. Coveney, and Ms. Lozano soon.

In the meantime, we are enclosing a more complete list of private organizations for your information. Certainly there are more groups, but these are the significant ones.

Sincerely,

Gerard F. Hurley, CAE
Executive Director

GFH:bch

Enclosure

*write
strong
note
of
thanks
then file
Fraternal
Service
Orig
Schedule
proposal*

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Supreme Knight

Mr. Virgil Dechant

Fraternal

June 28, 1982

Nancy and I take great pleasure in sending our warm greetings to all those gathered for the Sixty-Fourth Annual Convention of the National Exchange Club.

This event provides me with a welcome opportunity to express my continuing high regard for the work of your organization. You have repeatedly demonstrated your deep concern for the welfare of your fellow citizens through your sponsorship of civic projects combating crime and child abuse and your promotion of knowledgeable American citizenship.

In communities across this nation, the Exchange Club is a vibrant force for strengthening American ideals and furthering the humanitarian goals that give substance to our way of life. From your community programs to your "Covenant of Service," you reflect the best in the spirit of voluntarism that is the hallmark of our nation's achievements.

You have my best wishes for an enjoyable convention and your continued success in the future.

Morton

RONALD REAGAN

Sent Special Delivery to:

Mr. James A. Schnoering
Assistant Executive Secretary
National Exchange Club
3050 Central Avenue
Toledo, Ohio 43606

RR:Wells:-

cc: K.Osborne/D.Livingston/E.Dole/CF
EVENT: July 11 (Seattle)



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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
J. WILLIAM KLEINDORFER
101 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

May 19, 1982

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Mr. Morton Blackwell
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

If possible, I would like to request that you send me a guest list for The President's Task Force on Private Sector Initiatives briefing session for National and Service Organization Leaders held on April 27. Although I had attended the briefing session on March 24, I was unable to attend the April 27 meeting. *mailed 4/21*

Kiwanis has appointed a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Voluntarism and will be exploring the appropriate role for Kiwanis in this effort. I am most appreciative of the material which you have sent to us and will see that our task force receives this information.

Sincerely yours,

J. William Kleindorfer
J. William Kleindorfer
International Secretary

JWK:gt

Fraternalism Is A Family Affair





WHY THIS BOOKLET?

The family has, since the dawn of human history, been a hallowed and sacred institution.

The family is the basic social unit in all of civilization.

The family has survived periods of stresses—social, economic, even political. There have been—and are—at the present time, numerous assaults mounted on our basic social structure to such an extent that the family unit is being threatened and disrupted.

It is time to rededicate ourselves, as members of fraternal benefit societies, and as importantly, the general public, to the time-honored principles that foster, preserve and strengthen the FAMILY UNIT.

This booklet contains ideas for programs which will strengthen communications among members of families. It is intended and dedicated to that end.

*Have I thought about what is important
for me and my family?*

In my heart . . .

In my home . . .

I want good things.

FRATERNALISM 
is a family affair

(NOTE: The heart over the "i" illustrates that the family is the heart of fraternalism.)



It All Depends On You . . .

This booklet is primarily for persons with program responsibilities for organizations. Such responsibilities should never be taken lightly.

These pages provide a wealth of information and suggestions on how you can make your programming more effective. As you use these ideas, remember that you and your group will be serving families as well as your organization. In the process, you will be contributing to human welfare in a significant way.

Why Me?

What can ONE PERSON
in ONE FAMILY
in ONE COMMUNITY
do?

An individual person is THE MOST VITAL OF ALL.
No movement can begin, nor can it go forward without one
dedicated and motivated person to lead off!

You Can

... RECOGNIZE YOUR IMPORTANCE as an individual in
your family.

... INSPIRE AND LEAD your own family into action

... ENCOURAGE AND HELP your own family grow in its
own wholesome internal relationships; (See section entitled
"Just for the Family")

... JOIN WITH YOUR FAMILY and other families to do
wholesome and pleasurable things together. (See section
entitled "Projects and Programs")

Family importance is a key element in many organizations. Here are excerpts from constitutions of some member societies of the National Fraternal Congress of America.

...To provide beneficial and fraternal benefits to its members by the payment of death benefits, endowments, benefits for disability, accident, old age, sickness and other benefits.

... To promote the general welfare of its members and their families.

...The promotion of true fraternalism and charity among its members.

... To aid and assist its members and their families in case of sickness, death or old age.

...To encourage and foster acts of fraternity, loyalty, justice, charity, benevolence and patriotism, to provide education, instruction, proper entertainments and amusements ... to give aid in case of poverty, sickness, accident, or other misfortunes.

...To further the economic security and prosperity of the ... family ... give special emphasis to the spiritual and temporal development of ... family life ...

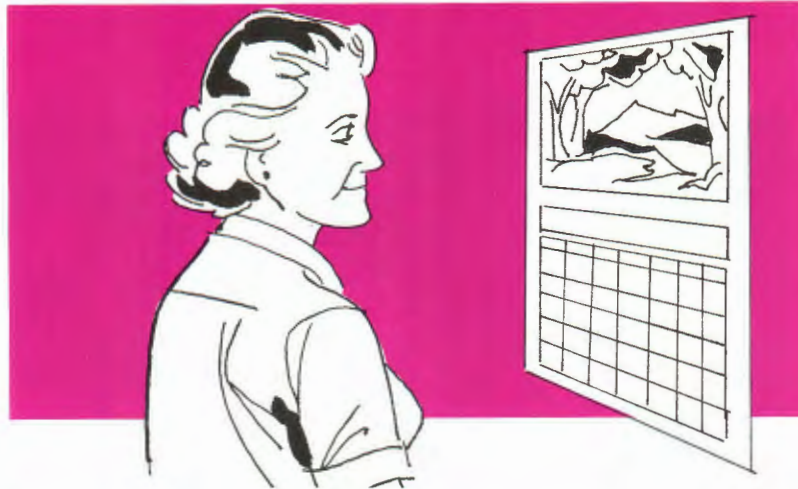


What Can We Do?

- ... **Be sensitive** to our family needs
- ... **Be willing to listen** to family concerns
- ... **Be constructive in response** to family members
- ... **Be understanding** in our actions

Projects and Programs
Action Steps
“Just for the Family” tips
Helpful Ideas





Looking Ahead Suggestions

January

New Year Party
Ethnic Potluck

February

Valentine Party
Presidents' Day

March

St. Patrick's Day
Group Forum (nutrition)

April

Arbor Day (Tree Planting)
April Foolishness

May

Mother's Day
Memorial Day

June*

Flag Day
Father of the Year

July

Independence Day
Old-fashioned Picnic

August

Theme Park Outing
Camp-out

September

Labor Day
Group Forum (personal hygiene)

October

Columbus Day
Halloween (Goblin Games)

November

Veterans Day
Thanksgiving Day

December

Christmas Customs
Caroling Party

*Fraternal Week (June 8-14) is an opportunity to call attention, in patriotic and other special ways, to the importance in our society of fraternalism, individuals and families.

Alternates (For Local Choice)

Group Forum (home safety or subject to be selected)
Cultural Awareness
Rodeo, Texas Style
Historical Adventure
Bridging the Musical Gap
Community Tour

Ring in the New Year

The gay mood for this occasion is reflected first of all in the room decorations, featuring colorful balloons, streamers and lights. Music and games suitable for people of all ages, prizes for winners in competitive events, cheerful leaders and a continuous supply of refreshments will keep the fervor at a high level. An imaginative planning committee will schedule successively more exciting activities, leading to the crucial hour, when resolutions and toasts for the New Year will be in order. A supply of hand bells of varying size and tone supplied to all just before the zero hour will be a pleasant variance from the usual raucous sounding noise-makers.

Ethnic Potluck

A typical potluck picnic supper in most communities will offer a sampling of traditional dishes from many countries, but the interesting stories represented on the table are lost for lack of identification and explanation. Only the people who prepared the food are privileged to know and understand.

With a bit of additional planning, such an event can help to unlock the secrets. Step one, attach labels to the Italian spaghetti, the Swedish meatballs, the German Bratwurst, the English muffins, Scotch shortbread, Cornish meat pie, Chinese chow mein, Mexican chili con carne and a dozen others that are offered.

Next, arrange for costumes to represent the various backgrounds. Usually, the children present are delighted to serve as models. Appropriate music, with dancing to follow, can result in a memorable event.

Some in each community will likely have photographs from abroad and could provide a travelogue.



Valentine Party

Call it "Cupid's Carnival", and bring to the youngsters of today the memories of Valentine Day celebrations of the past. Select an artistically talented committee for decorations and the planning of romantic themes. Have someone research the origin of this festival, and the legends that have become associated with it. An interesting dramatization of some phase of this story (available in any encyclopedia) will be educational as well as entertaining. Be sure that Charlie Brown gets a valentine at your party.

Presidents' Day

The practice of recent years in the United States of observing the birthdays of both President Washington and President Lincoln together, although it has caused some confusion, has had the effect of calling attention to both. Groups which call attention to historically significant dates are enriching themselves, planting wholesome seeds of good citizenship in a future generation, and bringing the inspiration of the past into today's world.

Because some states have taken different actions from that recommended in past federal actions, it is appropriate for those planning to observe Presidents' Day to check with local authorities about dates and public events.

St. Patrick's Day Party

On March 17 everyone can claim to be Irish. The annual celebration of St. Patrick's Day in America began nearly 40 years before the U.S. War of Independence. It is marked in communities throughout the nation by civic parades, church services and banquets involving prominent citizens of all nationalistic and ethnic backgrounds.

Customs involving "the wearin' o' the green", the shamrocks for decoration and the distinctive music will make it easy for any community group to relate to this much heralded observance. An educational element can be added by digging into the stories and legends that are easily accessible.

Group Forum—Nutrition

Problems related to nutrition have become more complex and perhaps at the same time more important in recent years. There is a vastly greater variety of prepared foods available. Advertising inducements may sometimes result in preferences which produce imbalance in dietary needs. There has been increased emphasis in recent years on the need for training in nutritional matters.

University extension offices, schools, libraries and other public agencies, as well as businesses and/or institutions which have home economists or dietitians, can be helpful.

Informal discussions, led by informed persons, are useful in bringing to light useful information which can be more beneficial than a pattern of "do's and don'ts" for which no reasons are apparent.

Arbor Day

Renewed emphasis on ecology and conservation makes the widespread observance of Arbor Day as a "tree planting festival" especially appropriate. Established more than a century ago in Nebraska, the idea grew rapidly to be adopted in almost every state, although without a fixed date. Most observances are in April. A committee planning for a festive participation will want to check with naturalist groups, with state agricultural or park sources and other agencies.

It is especially meaningful for children to be able to plant a tree which each can claim as a personal possession for years to come.

April Foolishness

When an organizational event can be scheduled on the first day of April, the mood for hilarity is ready-made. A resourceful committee will find plenty of ways to assure a good time for all. Mirrors that play tricks, games with surprising twists, drawing pictures in the dark (with phony pencils), spell-downs (words being spelled backwards), clothing worn backwards, salt in sugar bowls, and a score of other funny-time activities will help a lot of tension-ridden people to relax.

Important will be great care to avoid embarrassment or recklessness which could turn frolic into offense, or worse. A strong committee will be able to avoid such hazards.



Mother's Day

The popularity of Mother's Day needs no stimulus, but ingenuity in planning can add a meaningful dimension. The typical "mother-daughter" events frequently point to outstanding human interest situations which call for wider recognition.

Some community organizations have begun a plan for special recognition to a designated "mother of the year," selected by a carefully formulated plan. Attractive certificates presented at an appropriate time and place gives dignity and status to the proceedings. Often there is publicity value. Contact with media units, radio, television or newspaper offices will sometimes bring surprising results.

Memorial Day

One of the more traditional holidays in the United States is Memorial Day, set aside primarily to honor Americans who lost their lives in the nation's wars. The import has grown to include tributes to all who have contributed to the nation's military endeavors.

Various organized groups are involved annually in public rituals and parades appropriate for the occasion. Families who have occasion to memorialize particular individuals of their own kinship will likely appreciate the support and assistance of groups such as units of fraternal societies in broadening the participation in such an observance. Youth at varying age levels can serve as members of marching units in parades, and color guards at ceremonies.

Flag Day

New impetus has been given to the annual observance of Flag Day on June 14. There has been widespread participation by fraternal societies, particularly in the bicentennial year, 1976. Origin of the event is traced to June 14, 1885 when Bernard J. Cigrand, teacher in a country school near Fredonia, Wis., observed the anniversary of the adoption of the nation's flag, which took place on that date in 1777 by an act of the Continental Congress.

A local committee, following in this tradition, can arrange an impressive, yet simple ceremony, which will include the presentation of colors, the pledge of allegiance, a patriotic address, band music and other features which may be arranged.

Father of the Year

Always in order, but too seldom carried out, is the recognition of people for career accomplishments. Particularly in family relationships there is room for new planning and new ideas.

One national organization has proposed to its local units a plan for designating annually a "Father of the Year" event at which a person would be honored and presented with an appropriately designed certificate. The plan includes careful work by a nominating committee which solicits nominations and researches available data prior to announcing its nominee. Criteria for judging are established and carefully evaluated.

The annual Father's Day observance in June is a logical time for such an activity to be carried out.

Independence Day

Experiences of the U.S. bicentennial in 1976 will likely reverberate for years to come in the annual observance of July 4 as the nation's birthday. Fallout from that celebration can be useful to local units of fraternal societies as they consider how families together can bring benefits to themselves and to their communities.

Civic organizations will welcome participation in parades, in promoting attendance at major events and fireworks displays, and in other ways recognizing the privileges of citizenship in the "land of the free and the home of the brave." Efforts to promote safety on the highways, in playgrounds, at resorts, and in the face of other hazards will be a concern of planning groups.

Old Fashioned Picnic

Every participating family brings one main dish, a family favorite, in quantity for the number of servings represented in that family. In addition, every family is expected to bring sufficient dishes, glasses, cups and "silverware" (of whatever material). A general chairperson and planning committee arrange for soft drinks and ice cream for all.

Main dishes are placed together so that "chow line" passes with each individual choosing without regard to which family brought which dish. Games, races, contests and similar events, planned for fun by people in every age level, precede the picnic meal. There will need to be committees for site selection, table reservation (if public park), serving arrangements, games and entertainment and cleanup. (By making everyone present a member of the latter committee, the job will be done without burden to any.)

Theme Park Outing

The growth of "theme parks" in cities throughout the country has brought advantages of new style amusement facilities within the range of many. One common feature of theme parks currently is that the decor often is related to a period of history, such as early American or turn-of-the-century. A single admission charge usually covers all (or almost all) attractions.

A planning committee can make contact with the theme park's public relations department. Usually, charts and plan-sheets are available in advance, making it possible to organize groups to proceed with a minimum of time loss.

Committee planning will include transportation, shared rides, schedules, parking in clusters and possibly advance purchase of admission tickets. There should be a "home base" point within the park, and arrangements to have it "covered" continuously for help in locating first aid facilities, restaurants, rest rooms, etc.

Camp Out

A conveniently located site, possibly a state park, is selected for an overnight camping event in which all members of a group agree to participate, even those who are not experienced campers. (Usually there are enough veterans with equipment to loan who will enjoy the "neighborliness" of advising and assisting. Basic equipment can be rented in most communities.)

By scheduling well in advance, a Friday night is found ideal in most instances. Thus those with Saturday afternoon or Sunday obligations can leave after Saturday breakfast while those with more time can continue on for the remainder of the weekend. Available facilities such as swimming or fishing possibilities, or playground equipment will govern the planning committee's scheduling of activities.

Labor Day

The first Monday of September is designated by law in the United States as the date for the observance of Labor Day. While members of trade unions in many communities, traditional sponsors of this designation, plan programs and parades, there is also a growing recognition of the diligence and hard work of pioneers which has gone into the building of contemporary society.

Since the date comes near the end of summer, and usually represents a turning to a new season in education and other enterprises, the occasion can properly be used by organized fraternal groups for a variety of wholesome events.



Group Forum (Personal Hygiene)

Bringing members of an entire family into an organized discussion, or forum, of a specific topic can be a unique and effective way to communicate useful and important insights between individuals with varying experiences and needs.

Personal hygiene is suggested as a topic. The importance in terms of benefits and the consequences of neglect will be measured in lessons well learned. Excellent resources are available in films from public libraries and in printed material. Health care organizations also are often anxious to assist in such programs.

Columbus Day

The birthday of Christopher Columbus, Oct. 12, has taken on a growing importance in many communities. Most states have adopted legislation to designate the second Monday of October for this observance. The drama of that early crossing of the Atlantic by the three small sailing ships in 1492 has become legendary. The elements of mystery and adventure which are portrayed are particularly appropriate in building ties of understanding and appreciation for our historical moorings.

Fraternal units planning "togetherness" events will find many ways for utilizing this opportunity.

Goblin Games (Halloween)

Radical reform in the observance of Halloween, from the destructive pranksterism of a few decades ago to the contemporary emphasis on "trick or treating" by small children, is an example of effective influence by organizational work. Further good can be achieved by continuing the festivities of the evening, when the children return with their loot, with appropriate entertainment interspersed with a few historical gems. The day has a rich historical base. (Consult your library.)

Veterans Day

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of the year has become a meaningful moment for many families extending beyond the historical point of origin. The more youthful generations need to be reminded that Nov. 11, 1918 marked the armistice which brought an end to fighting in World War I.

Known for many years as Armistice Day, the event in more recent years has become known as Veterans Day. Proposals to alter the date to create an automatic "long weekend" annually for this occasion did not meet with general approval. Most observances continue on Nov. 11. Participation in public programs can be useful in strengthening modern ties with this point of American history and relating it to a general appreciation for our military needs.

Thanksgiving Day

The most family oriented holiday on the calendar having a national origin is Thanksgiving Day, observed the fourth Thursday of November in the United States and the second Monday in October in Canada.

A positive aspect of the traditional family "feast-day" gathering is that in a large number of situations the "circle" is extended to include those for whom circumstances have changed over the years. Those who live independently for any of a variety of reasons, may be of any age. Among the elderly some reside in retirement centers or small apartments. Bringing them into the associations of yesteryear can be rewarding for all.

As a bonus to the intra-family events, community organizations may find the prolonged weekend a good time for bringing families together in "tradition sharing" events.

Christmas Customs

The character of this gathering will depend upon the date. Since Christmas Eve and Christmas Day itself are generally family celebrations, the organizational party will likely be held earlier in the Christmas season. The festive decor could have an ethnic character related to a prevailing tradition. This could change from year to year, with the traditional foods being supplied in line with suggestions in the item in this section entitled "**Ethnic Potluck**".

Caroling Party

The rapidly increasing number of elderly citizens in most communities is creating a situation which makes traditional Christmas caroling parties especially appropriate, and more widely appreciated. Careful planning by an organized group can bring moments of cheer to lonely individuals and at the same time be a pleasurable experience for those who participate.

Organized choirs of varying age levels, as well as mixed choruses involving whole families, can arrange such experiences. Scheduling is important if the plans include visits to institutions. A gathering of the singers at a convenient place for fellowship and warm refreshments at the conclusion of such a tour will be both memorable and beneficial.

Group Forum (Home Safety)

There are many incentives to practice common sense safety measures in the home, and in the home environment. But one way to bring the subject to the level of alertness it deserves in the minds of all is to make it the subject of a regular unit forum—a scheduled time when all family members, old and young, have an opportunity to express their own concerns, contribute to constructive thinking, and feel the importance of their own participation.

Cultural Awareness

Any community can be enriched by organized efforts undertaken on behalf of talented people in the world of arts. Recognition of achievements can take many forms. Often the specialized interests in various phases of art expression exist in isolation. Planners for a "cultural awareness day" on a community basis would bring together the products of painters, poets, sculptors, photography, puppetry, handicrafts, music and other fields. Performing arts also could be recognized in programs arranged for that purpose.

"Rodeo," Texas Style

Participants are "branded" as they arrive (four styles of brands used alternately) dividing the group into four teams of equal size, indicating four ranches. Brands can be ink pad impressions on wrist or arm.

Features include a grand march, supervised by ranch foremen. The four ranch teams compete in such events as: flag shuttle relay, sharp shooter (with water pistols and lighted candles), calf roping (three-legged race), lariat race (rope

jumping), livestock judging (women choosing the best calves of bare legged men), selection of Rodeo Queen and various other events (imaginings of the arrangers functioning freely).

Final event, of course, is an outdoor supper with all the "trimmin's".

Historical Adventure

A community-minded organization can perform a useful service by researching the facts about the place where you live. What you find may surprise you. Every inherited land mass on earth has more history than its present occupants can possibly know. To accumulate knowledge not previously available can be an exciting project. Who lived a hundred, or a thousand years ago where you live now? What kind of bedrock is beneath you? What battles were fought in this place and what unsung heroes died here?

Some answers may be found in official records in real estate abstracts and in historical files, uncovered by excavations, in geological records or in "land borings" for new construction. Old tombstones reveal pioneers.

There are likely to be historical sites for your community already marked. Some may need only to be tidied up, publicized and promoted. Much knowledge of the past is stored in the memories of senior citizens and will be lost when they die. Interview them while there's time. Efforts to preserve the recollections of historical personalities, through what is known as "oral history" projects are mushrooming. Inquire about what your public library is doing in this area.

Bridging the Musical Generation Gap

An interesting program can be arranged if a number of families, all having interest and competence in various styles of music, will plan separate presentations of their preferred musical modes—whether it be religious, popular, hard rock, country western, classical or modern pop.

Advance commitment is necessary that all participants will give honest attention to all modes, will attempt to learn positive aspects, and to overcome negative attitudes. Advocates of each of the styles should plan their presentations within established time limits; allowing time for discussion.

Community Tour

A surprising impact can be achieved by planning a tour of your home community. Many people are totally unqualified for introducing visitors or new residents to the points of interest within their own environment. Suggestions likely will be available from the local public library or with historical society buffs, often actively engaged in campaigns for preserving historical sites.



Plan of Action— How To Begin

A special emphasis on strengthening communications in family life being advanced by the NFCA may be exactly what some local fraternal units need to spark new interest and enthusiasm in organizational activity. Where that happens to be true the suggestions which follow may be useful. In situations where programs are readily accepted and generally supported, there may be no need for these guidelines. If a new stimulus is desirable in any local situation, leadership there may regard as helpful a return to basics as outlined below.

Planning Session

1. Bring unit officers and leaders into a serious discussion of how to stimulate and strengthen a family togetherness program among members.
2. At this level of local leadership explain the objectives of the NFCA's Family Life program, its national scope and the important contribution it can make in preserving the cherished ideas of the free society which we enjoy.
3. Discuss the possibilities for implementing this program among the members of your unit. You may use this emphasis to achieve broader participation by including non-active members, potential members or others in your

community who may be interested.

4. Review the variety of suggestions contained in this booklet, looking carefully both at the **"Projects and Programs"** section, and the **"Just for the Family"** ideas. If this review leads you to decide that a special effort leading to a membership meeting would be helpful, you may want to consider some of the following suggestions.

Membership Meeting

1. Set a date for a membership meeting, giving consideration to the time needed to do a thorough job. This will include:
 - arranging an interesting program;
 - drumming up enthusiasm which can produce broad participation; and
 - laying the ground work for effective follow-through.
2. Give consideration to bringing in an outside speaker who has strong credentials in matters pertaining to family life issues. This could be a family court judge, an attorney, a community agency official, a political figure, a social worker, a clergyman, or any person whom your group feels would command wide respect.
3. Select a convenient and desirable meeting place. Even a change in the normal meeting site may add to expectations, and thus increase probable attendance. Use every possible way to stimulate interest. This will include direct mail, public notices in local newspapers, radio news programs, bulletin boards in public places and a telephone committee to call members directly. A contact with your national office may be useful in bringing your membership list up-to-date.
4. Plan carefully the meeting agenda, even to the point of having written recommendations for action. Such proposed action may be:
 - General endorsement by the local unit of the NFCA's Family Life program,
 - Authority for officers to appoint working committees
 - A resolution urging members to engage both in "intra-family" activities aimed at building "togetherness" within the home, and in unit-wide social and service centered projects looking to a wider community.

5. Keep to a time schedule, and plan to serve refreshments when the meeting ends.
6. A prepared program, with time schedule indicated, will help to move an agenda along without waste of time. For example:
 - Start on time.
 - Opening ceremony, five minutes
 - Chairperson introduces Family Life program, five minutes
 - Address by Guest Speaker, 20 minutes
 - Considerations of recommended actions (which can be included in resolution form on program sheet) 30 minutes.

Follow-up Work

If you find that you are off to a good beginning, you will also find that your work is just beginning. You will need responsible committees to see that things keep moving.

A proposed "calendar of events" should be considered on the basis of what your unit feels it can handle. The schedule proposed (see Page 8) may or may not fit your needs. Select and adapt as you see fit.

Assignments to committees must be clear. Care should be taken to avoid overburdening those who show particular willingness.

Cost factors must be carefully watched.

When committee assignments tend to overlap, coordinate.

Communication is a never-ending task. Keep it moving.

A proposed News Release (Page 22) may or may not fit your situation. Modify it, replace it with appropriate information. A "fact sheet" given to media people can do just as well as a carefully written article. A telephone call in some situations can be even more effective.

Local situations differ, but these, and perhaps other factors will come to mind as you plan events, whether they be outdoor picnics, campouts, banquets, or patriotic observances.

News Release (form)

To be completed and sent to
local news media after leaders
first planning meeting

FROM: Local Chairperson
Address
Telephone

An intensive program to strengthen family life is being launched in the (identify community) area by (name of local unit) and the National Fraternal Congress of America (NFCA).

The objective of the national program, according to (name and title of local leader), is "to nourish wholesome home life through the sponsorship of activities involving entire families on a scheduled and continuing basis."

The plan is seen as a positive effort to counteract what is being called a "breakdown in communications among family members which is causing a growing disaster of broken homes."

Materials being distributed by national affiliates of the NFCA have proposed numerous activities designed to encourage and motivate local units throughout the nation to plan programs in which family members of all ages can participate.

Recommended activities are designed to encourage communications and routines which involve family members within their own homes as well as bringing families together in social and recreational events in the community.

Members of the local leadership group include:

(list names of those directly involved in planning)

Just For The Family

In the section following, entitled **"Just for the Family"** a need to stimulate togetherness within family units is recognized. There are many ways in which families can enjoy time together in a scheduled, organized way, even when the age range of members of the family vary widely. Only a few ideas are offered here to supplement, or inject variety, into such routines.



Disaster Preparedness

The second power failure in the New York metropolitan area in July 1977 (following by 12 years a similar blackout) can be a useful example in stimulating precautions of all kinds. Every member of a family can take part in planning and implementing a thorough-going preparedness plan. Here is a suggested outline:

Arrange a place, possibly in the bathroom, where a medium size candle can be kept at all times.

Place the candle in a substantial candle-holder that will not tip or break easily if it falls to the floor.

Tape a pad of safety matches to the holder in a way to be always accessible.

Keep handy additional candles, flashlights and other items which may be needed.

Make sure there is at least one battery radio in working order and easily available.

Have an occasional "test" of the system by arranging for the master switch in the home to be turned off without warning.

Such a plan gives every member of the family a sense of responsibility, provides an example of mutual concerns and builds an awareness of how dependent our modern society has become upon factors beyond our own control. Coordination of such efforts with community agencies with similar concerns would be mutually helpful.



Managing Television At Home

Four young mothers in Boston became alarmed a decade ago about the impact on their children of Saturday morning TV programming. They resolved to act. Their work has brought major changes on the networks. The group which they organized, "Action for Children's Television", (ACT) is widely credited with the rise in popularity of such wholesome TV fare as "Sesame Street".

Many organized efforts now are exerting positive pressure on the kinds of entertainment which mold the lives of millions of young children. Research data say that pre-schoolers spend more waking hours watching television than in any other activity.

Small children are unable to distinguish between drama or narrative and the commercials which surround the programmed material. They assume, naturally, that the product advertised is essential to their participation. To buy the product becomes a matter of loyalty to their heroes.

Set aside regular family viewing times for worthwhile programs. Discussion of the story line and the characters, at a level which enables children to be heard, can turn confused disorientation into a useful learning experience.

The Sky's Spectacular Show

Montana proclaims itself to be "Big Sky Country". Other points in the United States can claim the same vast panoramic resource.

The "Sky's Spectacular Show" is a subject of continuing interest to at least one family in Montana. They have their own telescope. They chart the movement of celestial bodies that come into their view as the seasons pass. Winter night skies

are particularly magnificent. Occasionally, earth-orbiting satellites of human origin come into view.

The wonders of the cosmic universe have projected their amazing secrets earthward for the excitement of people throughout the centuries. A study of the stars can be interesting for an entire family.

There are books to help beginners as well as the more sophisticated. The annual publication "World Almanac and Book of Facts" gives detailed information about the movement of stars and planets, specific dates for eclipses and other phenomena.

Round Robin Letter Plan

There's a family in Toledo, Ohio where a college-age brother and sister feel themselves to be well acquainted and closely involved with relatives whom they have never met. It's all because of a "round robin" letter exchange which their mother established with her own widely scattered family members.

A neatly designed, easily recognized mailing package is used. It is sent on a predetermined route to the mailing list of kinfolk in various parts of the United States and Canada. When the package arrives at the home of "Uncle Joe" in Kansas, he and members of his family read the letters written by each of the nine other families on the circuit and remove No. 10, which is their own. Then they write their own new letter, mark it No. 10, place it on top of the stack and send it on to the next addressee, which is No. 1. There were six members of the "round robin" when it was started about two years ago. It has since grown to ten. The first round completed the circle in less than two months. Some letter writers attach recent photographs.

Family Service Project

Families motivated for kindly services to the lonely ill in their community will reap rich benefits in self-gratification, character building and wholesome citizenship. There are varieties of "people helping people" programs in many localities. Social service agencies are good sources of information about such programs.

Many health care institutions have organized programs utilizing volunteers. Such openings for service are available for both men and women, and often also for youth. When several members of a family are involved in this kind of activity, the sharing of experience with each other is particularly meaningful.

For many families there are near relatives, possibly grandparents or neighbors, who can become the objects of such services. A fact to be noted is the rapidly increasing proportion of aged people in the general population. More than ten percent of the nation's citizens are above the age of sixty-five, and the percentage is growing.

Influencing Television

Although large, influential organizations are at work to bring positive influence on television programming, the fact remains that the most influential force is the mail received by those responsible for programming from the ordinary listening and viewing audience "out there."

Concerned families, encouraging each other, and taking action to express their judgments, favorable and unfavorable, can have a strong bearing on what kind of programming will be offered as time marches on.

Whether people **like** or **dislike** particular programs, their opinions should be sent to local stations, to networks, and to advertisers, in short, simple, logical and expressive letters. The individual, personal letter is far more persuasive than form letters which are sponsored through organized campaigns.

My Thoughts About Family Life

To sort out our own convictions about family life as we experience and observe it, day to day, is a good introspective discipline. The following outline may be worth your concentration:

1. My thoughts about "Family Life" include:
2. My impression is that "Family Life" in general is:
____ very good ____ good ____ O.K. ____ fair ____ poor
3. My feeling is that "Family Life" for me is:
____ very good ____ good ____ O.K. ____ fair ____ poor
4. My thinking is that "Family Life" **in general and for me** could be improved by:

5. My concept of "Family Life" includes:

6. My ranking of "Family Life" in my personal priorities on a scale of one to ten, with one being highest, and ten being lowest:
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (circle your opinion)

Helpful Ideas

General Resources

1. The public library in almost every community in America is a rich treasure house of resources for groups planning activities in a program for strengthening family life. The library's card index is the place to begin.
2. Standard encyclopedia sets offer topically indexed data.
3. The "World Almanac and Book of Facts" is issued annually and available at bookstores and on major newsstands.
4. Often there are councils of social agencies which have abundant information about public services available.
5. Film rental libraries can be a source of programming material. Major industries and trade associations often have films that are available without rental charge.
6. Religious denominational headquarters and publishing concerns can provide useful materials and advice.
7. Yellow-page sections of telephone directories are available everywhere.
8. National offices of fraternal benefit societies affiliated with the National Fraternal Congress of America.

Specific Resources (Bibliography)

1. "Family Time, A Revolutionary Old Idea," an artfully designed 86-page booklet, authored by Grady Nutt, published by the Family Communication Committee of the Million Dollar Round Table, 1976, \$2.00. Order from Family Time, P.O. Box 1000, Des Plaines, Ill. 60018.
2. "All in the Family" program with Chairman's Guide and Family Study Guide, both published by U.S. Jaycees, Marketing Division, P.O. Box 7, Tulsa, Okla. 74012. 50¢ each.
3. Family Service Association of America. Supplies bibliographies on family life, has available "Plays for Living," invites inquiries. 44 East 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010.
4. Public Affairs Pamphlets. Dozens of titles available on lists which can be requested. 381 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10016.
5. "Toward a National Policy for Children and Families," a book issued by the Printing and Publishing Office, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20418.

Television Awareness Training (TAT)

An extensive effort to study the impact of television on the general population has been undertaken by several nationwide organizations, including major religious denominations. Participation is encouraged by citizens throughout the country. Special training workshops have been arranged, thus equipping qualified individuals in hundreds of communities to give information and assistance.

The movement assumes that "television is here to stay" and that the general public has both the opportunity and responsibility to affect programming in a positive way. The first step is seen to be analysis of impact in such issues as violence, immorality, racism, sexism and other stereotypes.

A major resource is a manual-type book entitled "Television Awareness Training" published by Media Action Research Center, Inc., 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York, 10027.

Ten Questions

There are many ways that professional counselors find helpful in discovering problem areas in individual and family living. One simple test which people can use individually or collectively is represented by the following list of questions:

1. Are you more comfortable at home than any other place you can think of?
2. Can you think of something that you enjoy doing individually with each member of the family?
3. Do you feel that members of your family understand your ethical, political, religious, economic and social values?
4. Does your family show you appreciation and affection as much as you think they should?
5. Is it easy for you to talk openly and directly with every member of your family?
6. Is your home situation satisfying?
7. Do you have close ties with individuals in generations other than your own?
8. Can you usually count on family members to do what they've agreed to do?
9. Are you fairly well satisfied with the way your family uses money?
10. Do you think that you will be happy as you plan for the years ahead?
 - If all the answers are "yes", you are a happy and thankful person.
 - Eight or nine affirmatives indicate substantial strength.
 - Five or more keep you on the positive side.

Each of the questions has varying levels of application. By facing squarely the negatives that are found, family members together will find ways of changing them to the positive side.

Can the Family Be Saved?

There are good prospects that the family will survive as the basic unit of human society. Threats there have been; and fears that alien ideologies or other enemies might undermine and destroy the family as it has been known in all of the past.

But theories and samples of "new life styles" which have surfaced in recent decades also have subsided from public attention and settled for a quieter existence at the periphery of society.

Meanwhile, forces and movements which are more subtle, and therefore possibly more ominous, continue to dilute and pollute the environment in which wholesome family relationships can thrive. Life-enriching moments associated with home and family can have a profound impact upon future living conditions on this planet. It is the recognition and enhancement of these joys that offer the best defenses against those forces which raise havoc with our ideals and inject tragedy.

The popular Lebanese-American poet-philosopher, Kahlil Gibran, writes as follows about joy and sorrow in his classic "The Prophet":

*Your joy is your sorrow unmasked.
And the selfsame well from which laughter rises was
oftentimes filled with tears.
And how else can it be?
The deeper that sorrow carves into your being, the more
joy you can contain.
Is not the cup that holds your wine the very cup
that was burned in the potter's oven?
And is not the lute that soothes your spirit, the very wood
that was hallowed with knives?
When you are joyous, look deep into your heart and you
shall find it is only that which has given you sorrow
that is giving you joy.
When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and
you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that
which has been your delight.*

Gibran's insights help anguished mourners to understand the close relationship between joy and the inevitable sorrows which come with illness, suffering and separation caused by death. These experiences in fact can be seen to deepen the roots of family ties, adding cherished memories to rainbows seen through tears.

But there are overt and insidious forces at work which can cause needless deteriorations and alienations. These can be balanced by intelligent, energetic efforts at solidifying family

relations. Enemies that can be recognized can be dealt with more effectively than those which hide.

The purpose of this program by the National Fraternal Congress of America is to provide ideas and suggestions to its member units for "strengthening communications among members of families". The vast network represented by the NFCA, reaching into millions of homes, permeates a significant cross-section of American life.

What Future for the American Family?

(The following are excerpts from Changing Times magazine —12/76)

Evidence of strain (on the family) isn't hard to find:

- Husbands and wives, once secure in the understanding of their separate roles and duties, now grope through confusion and emotional pain for a satisfactory way of accommodating current concepts of men's and women's places in the world.
- Children, who look to the family for love, security and a sense of direction, too often don't seem to find it. Many are aimless and alienated; alarming numbers of them turn to drugs, alcohol, vandalism and violence.
- The institution of marriage itself seems to be withering. Marriages end in divorce more often in the United States than anywhere else in the world, and the record has been getting worse each year.

Three major trends have converged to challenge our traditional family structure: the demand on parents' time outside the home, the demise of the extended family due to frequent uprooting of its parts and the liberation of women.

When the smoke clears, most authorities expect that the family will still occupy the central position in most people's lives. Following are some things that have been recommended to help:

- Better education and training of future parents
- Day-care facilities that encourage the participation of parents and other family members
- Improved status for women
- More flexible working hours for full-time workers, plus more opportunities for outside work
- Revamped family income and health care programs to replace the current systems of welfare payments

A Tree Has Roots and Branches

Helpful Ideas-31

Everyone has an answer to the question "What is a family?"

Almost anyone can produce a series of definitions of "family". But pressed to be precise, any of us is likely to find that we have feelings on the subject which do not easily lend themselves to clear expression.

Our concepts of "family" grow out of our own experiences and memories. We nourish fantasies of "what might have been"—fantasies which tend to bury tragedies. Our idyllic dreams are overwhelmed and destroyed. It's difficult now to sort it all out. But some such sorting can be wholesome.

Sorting out essential elements of family relationships can be a way of stimulating wholesome inclinations. By taking deliberate action to discover and to map out procedures to achieve happiness at home, some people may recover lost treasures.

Any enumeration of elements contributing to the essence of "family" will demonstrate quickly that no sharp lines can enclose the circle. Every family has extensions; they cross generations and they bridge clans, tribes, nationalities, creeds and races. Susie is not likely to accept an invitation to be "home for Christmas" without her beloved David, and quite probably they'll be bringing with them their entry into another generation. Nor is the family circle complete without bringing "Mother" in from Denver. Four or even five generations are common at family reunions.

The impact of television's widely heralded presentation of "Roots" (the Alex Haley novel) seems to be that the American public suddenly has become "heritage conscious" again. It is the "in thing" now to trace your ancestry.

Recovery of "heritage lore" can be one wholesome exercise in the NFCA's program to improve family relationships. Maybe some of us have shunned the past out of apprehension. (Old jokes about horse thieves and rustlers showing up in our genealogies may have been taken too seriously). Such hesitancy could just as likely prevent our finding brilliance, wisdom, renown and possibly even maps leading to buried treasure. Researching your family tree can be both fascinating and rewarding.

When the dimensions of "family" are considered seriously several facts emerge as obvious. Blood-bound kinship extends beyond what we normally know; beyond what we care to acknowledge, in fact. Anthropologists have things to teach us from their work in Papua New Guinea, the nearest frontier still facing the Stone Age. A family there is acknowledged to include every living relative, extending to cousins far removed. Celebrations of family events in the jungle bring together great numbers of people. All share in everything. A person making

a cultural leap, like accepting employment for a wage, has dependents in numbers to boggle our minds.

Advancing civilization has taken us far from the primitive pattern; maybe just a mite too far. Family ties should not be clipped so sharply that loneliness and alienation are caused one step away. Your aunt who lives alone deserves to be included in your family gatherings. And Bernice, the lonely widow of Brother Barney, lost in an Air Force training mission, is not as comfortably self-assured as she pretends. She needs and deserves active family relationships.

Family exists both in extension and in intimate contraction. Both forms are important. They intermingle naturally and freely, but there also exists a fine line between them. To eliminate the distinction would be wrong. There is need for privacy, where all inhibitions evaporate. Intimacy is a delicate treasure from which sturdy and meaningful relationships can grow. But if privacy becomes an obsession, selfishly sealed off and defended, it can foster alienation and turn people into unhappy introverts.

Family life in this nation's third century faces complex issues which are different, if not more difficult than were known a half-dozen decades ago. But elements of wholesome living in natural conjugal settings seem not likely to change. What are these root elements? Groups taking part in this family life emphasis can produce significant discoveries on the subject.

Local units may want to brainstorm the question and by their own means find consensus on "the Ten Most Important Qualities in an Ideal Family Life Situation".

For starters, the following list of such qualities is offered. Add your own, and extracting the best judgment of your members, rank those qualities as to their importance on a one-to-ten scale.

Togetherness	Recreation
Understanding	Awareness
Serenity	Love
Dependency	Honesty
Security	Sincerity
Communications	Reliability
Discipline	Adaptability
Generosity	Inter-dependence
Dedication	Trust
Happiness	Reliance
Devotion	Intimacy
Openness	Steadfastness
Dialog	Deep-rootedness
Patriotism	Indomitability
Determination	Warmth

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FRATERNALISM
is a family affair