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*file Democratic
Nat'l
Committee*

CLYDE G. HURST, PE

July 29, 1983

Morton:-

Could this be routed to someone who could check on the validity of this case. It seems to me to be full of misstatements. For example, the father might have left the son a house with a mortgage, but a grandfather? How many years is the mortgage? How old the grandfather?

Further, from cousins there, I understand there is a shortage of good qualified truck drivers in that area since trucking is the principal means of transportation locally in the central states. But the truck driver does have to be good since he has charge of an expensive piece of equipment - the truck.

Item: For 20 years Larry reportedly poured his life into a dream - how old is he now. His wife is 20 years old. Frankly, I think this tale is made of whole cloth.

Item: He worked until a year ago when he was dismissed and within a few months, he lost his house because his unemployment compensation expired. If he had worked well and steadily for 20 years how could his unemployment benefits terminate so rapidly.

With no success I tried to find a Larry Barnes in Lincoln, Nebraska - that is my home turf - who was receiving food stamps. They have cleverly masqueraded the story by making it Becky's family they lived with. Though I should have been successful in tracking this, I could find no leads.

In any event, it is vicious propaganda and probably a completely untrue example that is cited.

Janet Cooke

Morton, before we draw any hard and fast conclusions, this should be thoroughly checked. My efforts were cursory. Suspect this is another Janet Cooke type story.

DEMOCRATIC
NATIONAL COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 1800, Washington, DC 20013

Charles T. Manatt
Chairman

Every time I hear about someone like Larry Barnes, my blood starts to boil! That's why I'm especially glad for your pledge to help.

Charles T. Manatt

Wednesday, P.M.

Dear Member,

Like more than ten million of his fellow Americans, Larry Barnes is a victim of the plunder of American working men and women by the self-serving interest of a cold and unfeeling Republican administration.

For 20 years, Larry poured his life into a dream of health, happiness and security for his family. But almost overnight, unemployment changed that dream to a nightmare of despair. His story is worth telling:

Up until about a year ago, Larry had worked steadily as a truck driver and mechanic in Missouri. Then he lost his \$16,000-a-year job -- the result of what the Republican administration calls "an improving economic climate."

A few months later, his unemployment insurance ran out. Without money, Larry could no longer make the \$290-a-month mortgage payments on the two-bedroom house left to him by his grandfather. So the bank foreclosed.

Larry and his wife sold their couch, chairs, and refrigerator, and gave their stove to a friend. Then they packed what little they had left into one of their two cars. They ate and slept and "lived" in the other one.

It was pure misery. Larry's 20-year-old wife Becky can tell you: "It was bad! We'd get so cold at night we'd have to wake up and start the car so the heater would keep us warm. But we didn't get much sleep anyway, because there was just no way to roll over and get comfortable."

Every day Larry looked for work -- as a truck driver, mechanic, construction worker, factory worker -- anything! But it was always the same response: "Sorry, no openings."

Shortly before their baby was born, the Barneses traded one of their cars for an old camper. But it was without

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electricity or plumbing, so they still had to walk half a mile to a gas station to use the bathroom and fill up their five-gallon water jug. They had no place to bathe.

And while President Reagan was busy using his power and influence to block a jobs bill that might have put Larry to work, Larry was struggling just to survive.

Because of the unfair budget cutbacks in social services, there was no help available for the Barnes family. And they couldn't even afford the few dollars a week it took for propane to heat their camper.

By spring, all they had to live on was \$128 a month in food stamps, plus the fish Larry could catch from a nearby river, and the rabbits he could hunt illegally at night. It was a matter of survival, and Larry rationalized: "But when you're hungry, you do what you have to do."

Last fall, Becky's folks in Nebraska suggested she and Larry and the baby move to Lincoln where Larry could look for work. They did, and stayed with Becky's sister's family.

But cramped living quarters and limited financial resources took a mounting toll in frustration and tension. Finally, after a family quarrel, the Barneses had to leave.

Other than their clothes, the only personal possessions they had left were a Bible and their baby's pictures. They even had to borrow \$3 from the police for gas to drive to an emergency shelter.

Today they live in an old house trailer and exist on \$297 a month in assistance and a reduced amount of food stamps.

The baby's formula never lasts a full month, so Becky has to borrow money from her dad to feed the baby. Larry still looks for work almost every day, but the response is always the same: "We'll call you when we get something." But they never do.

It's been a humiliating and demoralizing experience. Larry Barnes' dream of security, health and happiness for his family is shattered, and he can't understand why.

"I've always believed that if a man wanted to make anything of his life, he had to go out and work for it. And that's what I've done nearly all my life. But now I'm right back where I started -- with nothing."

The thing that really angers me about Larry Barnes' story is that while this man -- and millions more like him

-- are struggling to survive, we've got an administration in the White House that seems insensitive to the pain and anguish so many Americans are suffering.

All Larry really wants is a job and a chance to live his dream. What he has is a lot of Reaganomics political palaver about "trickle down" and "gradual recovery."

((At no time during the past 42 years -- under any Democratic or Republican administration -- has unemployment been as high as it has been under Ronald Reagan. An astounding national average of 10.1 percent in April of this year!))

So you see, I have good reason to be angry. The staggering problem of unemployment is literally tearing our country apart at the seams! These are the facts:

- Today, more and more people are being treated for mental health problems and severe depression.
- Severe family quarrels are on the increase, along with instances of wife beating and child abuse.
- The suicide rate is up.
- Excessive use of alcohol and drugs is on the increase.

And the experts tell us that most of this is directly related to the despair and hopelessness of being unemployed. The unemployed feel that Ronald Reagan and his administration are not very concerned about their plight. What makes me angry is that they are right.

An uncaring Reagan administration is sacrificing the health, welfare and dignity of millions of Americans in order to achieve its selfish economic goals.

I think it's time to put a stop to this and let the millions of unemployed know that their friends and neighbors are concerned and are willing to do something about it.

That's why I'm writing you today.

There is something we can do! And you've already started by joining AMERICANS TOGETHER NOW and sending in your first monthly pledge gift.

Now, by working together, we can help make sure that Ronald Reagan's political song-and-dance act is retired permanently to his ranch in Santa Barbara. And by putting Ronald Reagan out of work, we can put Larry Barnes and millions of other Americans back to work.

In order to do that, we need to be sure that every think-

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ing American knows what's happening and has the opportunity to give America back to the people in November, 1984.

That's why your membership in AMERICANS TOGETHER NOW, and your continued monthly support, is so vitally important. We must begin right now to let the American people know there are those who care about the pain and anguish and despair that grip so many lives today. We must begin right now to make sure that Democratic candidates have a chance next year against the big-spending Republican machine.

There's just no way the Democratic Party can match the campaign spending power of the special-interest-backed Republicans without the monthly support of Americans like you.

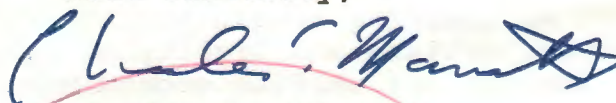
In the next few months, we need to recruit over one million Americans who will join together with their voices and their contributions to stop the well-oiled Republican machine. I know, that seems impossible.

But I believe in the ability of Americans to act as one for a cause they believe in. And if ever there was a cause, this is it! If ever there was a time, it's now!

That's why I'm asking you to send a check today for your monthly pledge gift (and even an extra gift, if possible), so we can elect a Democratic administration in 1984.

Thank you for having the courage to stand with us!

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Charles T. Manatt", is written over a red circular stamp.

Charles T. Manatt
Chairman

P.S. Please make your check out to the "Democratic National Committee," and enclose it with the reply form in the postage-paid envelope provided.

96% Jobless Rate Grinds West Virginia

By WILLIAM ROSSIGNOL
Special to The New York Times

GARY, W.Va. — The street lights here have been turned off here since last summer, but even earlier a deep gloom brooded over the narrow valleys that enclose the town of 1,500 people.



Out of Benefits
Joblessness Can Mean
Hunting for Your Food
And Living in the Car
If You Keep the House,
You May Fear Life Style
Can Never Be Recaptured
The Stories of Two Families

Despair Among Jobless
Is on Rise, Studies Find

By RYAN NELSON
Special to The New York Times

More Jobless
Workers Watch
Benefits Dry Up

Long unemployment benefits. Many of the 1 million were never eligible for benefits, but were told they were. The federal state program, that large numbers also have through the program, and now come out of pocket.

4,000 — more than all their benefits a week before Christmas. In Ohio, some 14,000 of the unemployed were in the verge of losing the subsidies. In Michigan, 140,000 have run out.

Joblessness Causing Stress
And Gloom About Nation

By ADAM CLYMER
Persistent high unemployment is causing the more than 10 million of Americans instead of work and evenings of television instead of a night of the movies. It is contributing as well to family stress and sometimes violence, and to increasing panic about the nation among the jobless and their families.

YES, I want to help give America back to the people.

Please use my gift to help elect a Democratic administration in 1984.

- () Enclosed is my promised pledge gift of \$25.
() Enclosed is an extra gift of \$

Thank you for your gift and for playing such a vital role in AMERICANS TOGETHER NOW.

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A J Hurf
301 N Washington St
Falls Church Va 22046

Enclose this form with your gift and mail today to:

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE • Box 1800 • Washington, DC 20013