



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Ol' Jimmy ... the trials of being First Daddy

For po' Billy, being First Brother doesn't pay; it's a matter of nepotism

The corrupt spoils system which pervades the White House these days has all but destroyed respect for that sacred American institution, the First Family.

Latest dismaying example of the results is Billy Carter, who told *U.S. News & World Report* that the IRS was persecuting him, that his heart belonged to George

married First Sons, Chip and Jeff, immediately moved into the third floor of the White House and promptly became eligible for unemployment benefits and food stamps. And as for Miss Amy's handling of the demanding position of First Kid, let it simply be said that she's no Shirley Temple.

The all-important First Lady, Rosalynn Carter, may be a wonderful woman but, compared to her predecessor, Betty Ford, she has proved a grave disappointment. It is not merely that she lacks the pizzazz that caused America to take Mrs. Ford to its heart. It is that, no matter what the occasion, she invariably appears to be suffering from an Excedrin headache.

While a First Lady who suffers from a permanent Excedrin headache may evoke our sympathy, she will not lift up our hearts - that being the primary function of First Ladies.

Cry for Reform

Because of the rampant nepotism practiced in this area by the Carter Administration, the outcry for reform has become deafening.

Remedies abound. Some political scientists urge placing the jobs under civil service. Others would make the offices elective. Still a third group would allow the President to appoint whomever he chose - subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Whatever the solution, the need is desperate. The fact that the hereditary position of Presidential Brother pays \$200,000 a year means that our forefathers who envisioned a republic on these shores may well have fought in vain.

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arthur hoppe innocent bystander

Wallace, that he was smarter than Jimmy and that the job of Presidential Brother paid only a measly \$200,000 a year in personal appearances.

Initially, the nation had high hopes for Billy Carter. He was viewed as a lovable, beer-guzzling, gas-pumping, homespun philosopher. This shows how difficult it is to tell a homespun philosopher from a clod.

And how did Billy Carter gain the sinecure of Presidential Brother? Was it his ability, experience, intelligence or charm? No, it was because of nepotism pure and simple. Talk about the excess of Tammany Hall!

Miz Lillian

To be fair, nepotism can and does occasionally produce capable public servants. Miz Lillian has lived up to our expectations as First Mother and Miz Allie, who is seldom seen or heard, has set an excellent example as First Mother-in-Law.

On the other side of the coin, however, the two

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