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Rough draft for McGoram

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A rough draft for McGoram — 1972 (Summer)

This country is in trouble because people are in trouble — ^{and} not just the ~~poor~~ ^{unemployed,} ~~the black~~ ~~but~~ ~~blue collar workers~~ and ~~other middle income citizens, who must watch their dreams~~ ~~destroyed by economic decline and urban decay which is~~ ~~out of their control.~~

The crisis in our cities has been seen as a crisis of the unemployed and the minorities. Their plight is certainly tragic. ~~minimizing~~ ~~that is only partly true,~~ ^{But} for it is not that simple.

The employed accountant ^{in Columbus} and the machinist in ^{another} know ~~the~~ truth. Food ^{and housing} cost too much. Their taxes are too high. Overtime disappears. Their family cannot afford to get sick. And their sons go to Vietnam instead of Harvard.

They know the truth. The crisis is their crisis, ^{too} — a ^{great} crisis of that ^{majority} of our nation, the poor and moderate income families.

Forty percent of our labor force — millions of workers — are fighting to support their families on incomes of five to ten ~~thousand~~ ^{thousand} dollars a year. For them, a movie or a new suit or a night out are rare luxuries, carefully rationed. They are burdened by 20 or 30 year payments on a house and 3 year payments on a car — which will last only two years. to balance an austere budget.

They know the truth. They fought to make good and what they now make is not nearly good enough.

They wear blue collars or white collars. ~~na~~ They carry a lunchbox or eat out of a sandwich machine. They mow their own lawns and wax their own cars. And, at the end of the month, the little they have saved is worth less and less. They are not technically ~~in poverty~~ ^{poor} but they are pressed and discouraged.

They know the truth. ~~The American dream has become~~

~~a nightmare. 85% of American families~~ 80% of Americans

get $\frac{1}{2}$ of the national income, ~~the~~ the richest 20% split

up the other half.

On April 15 of every year the domestic workers, ~~the~~
mechanics, ~~the~~ sales clerks, and production line workers

voluntarily submit 14 to 20% of their income to the

federal government in income taxes while millionaires

and giant corporations ~~the~~ legally pay much less if

any at all. ~~Governor Reagan of California pays no~~

~~and US Steel pays no income taxes~~ Governor Reagan of

California pays no state taxes, U.S. Steel pays no

federal income tax. Preferential capital gains provisions

save millionaires \$12,000 a week in taxes, but only
40¢ for the average man.

They know the truth. The very rich and powerful
get richer and more powerful.