

Black Employment promise

by David M. Nero, Jr., President NERO Industries, Inc. and NERO Associates

THE PROMISE

The promises of the great gains to be made by minorities in America exist in Equal Opportunity (Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII). The practice exists in massive discrimination, unemployment, underemployment, low pay rates and no advancement, according to a report by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc.

By the third quarter of 1970, unemployment for Black men rose to 7.9%, a jobless rate more than 50% higher than for whites. For young Black men 16 to 19, unemployment jumped to 34.9% - 1 out of 3 found no work. This rate is for all Black male workers 16 to 19 years of age. For disadvantaged youth in poor ghetto neighborhoods, employment opportunity is almost nonexistent according to the report.



David M. Nero, Jr., President of NERO Industries, Inc. and NERO Associates, Inc., a Model Cities businessman and recognized authority on manpower development

UNDEREMPLOYED

Blacks with jobs when compared with whites, generally have jobs with lower skills and lower pay (ironically, they are often required to deliver a higher skill while remaining on the pay scale for a lower one). They have a disproportionate number of dirty jobs, blind alley jobs, and seasonal, insecure work, the report states and is backed by our personal experience. More than five years after the employment guarantees of the Civil Rights Act became "effective", personnel offices and union hiring halls in all parts of the United States

are still discriminating: Black workers with long years of services find the doors of advancement tight - shut against them.

THE RESULT

The median Black family, nationwide, gets \$0.63 for every dollar of income received by the median white family. In the current inflation - recession, Black family income in the South is little more than half the white average.

WHERE IS THE PLAN?

There obviously is a broad and deep gap between the promise of Equal Opportunity and the practice. Equally obvious is the need for serious dialogue among leaders in both the public and private sectors regarding employment for the disadvantaged. We would be quite interested in knowing where the newly formed Human Resources Commission stands in regard to formulating a plan to actualizing the goals of Equal Opportunity.

Professor notes population gain

Recent studies which seem to imply that the United States is approaching a zero population growth rate are highly misleading, according to Professor Philip M. Hauser of the University of Chicago.

"It would be a grave mistake to assume that the population growth problems of the United States are now resolved. Such complacency could be followed by drastic and irremediable consequences," declared Hauser, testifying recently before the Senate Committee on Labor and Welfare, which has been holding hearings on S.J. Resolution 108 - the "Population Stabilization Resolution."

Hauser said he believed that the current slump in fertility rates is probably due more to the economic recession and unemployment than to any widespread desire not to have children. "The reproductive life of the female is some 30 years, from 15 to 45 years of age," Hauser said. "Over this 30-year period... babies may be postponed during hard times and produced later in better times." In fact, he added, we may be on the verge of the "second baby-boom" as the children produced in the first baby-boom of the 1940's and '50's reach child-bearing age.

Speculation that the population of the U.S. may rise to only 260 million by the year 2,000 are unrealistic, he asserted. "In my judgement, it is possible that the population of the United States, despite the present slump in the birth rate, may well reach a number between 280 and 300 million by the year 2,000. Projections below that number are based on extreme assumption that the natality declines between 1957 and 1968 and for part of 1971 represent secular (long run) rather than cyclical declines. This may conceivably turn out to be the case but it is premature to reach such a conclusion and on the basis of past experience the odds are against it."

The monthly "Vital Statistics Report" of November 29 showed the rate of natural increase in this country as 5.4 persons per 1,000; over a 12-month period ending with September.

Hauser concluded his testimony: "To assume that there is no longer need to work to control our population growth is to incur the risk of disaster. To continue on the assumption that much yet remains to be done to bring our excessive population growth under control is certainly the course of wisdom."

1971 was a good year

The Portland Observer takes this method to thank you and wish you a Happy New Year.

by Dorothy Spencer

The fall of seventy
We started on our way
It was so very much work
Just too much work for
a twenty-four hour day
But our course was set
We're here to stay, you bet
It was a very hard year

On Union Avenue -
We were so cramped, you see
So we packed our gear
and we moved to get out of
misery
to a larger place
Where we could have more
space
It was a very good year.

Our advertisers are great
You really came through
We're so appreciative
And we want to say, thanks
to you

You made it come true
You've kept us here
It was a very good year.

We had a tab so small
We outgrew it last fall
Then Metro was a must
It was the only way out for
us

We expanded you see
And we had no fear
It was a very good year.

Then more blessings came
We purchased our press
And we were overjoyed
Just full to the brim with
happiness

We are on our way
A hearty - Thanks - to you
It was a very good year

Very good
Very good
It was a very good year.

**A Happy and
prosperous
New Year**

PCC assist area High Schools

The Portland Community College District encompasses 35 high schools located in five different counties. PCC, in cooperation with district superintendents and high school officials, has developed programs to answer specific educational needs of the students enrolled in these high schools.

This fall a new program of advanced placement for high school achievement was started in PCC's Drafting Technology program. After more than a year of working with superintendents and industrial arts teachers in the community college district, a plan was established to give competent and experienced high school graduates advanced standing in the PCC drafting program.

After review of the drafting program course outlines, syllabi, and tests, the high school instructor is responsible for evaluating his student's progress and then helping to place him in the most appropriate skill level of the PCC program. If the student successfully completes the course into which he has been placed, he receives credit for all prerequisite courses.

Glen Fors, Department Chairman for Engineering and Drafting, says the new pro-

gram provides two incentives: "first to the high school instructor to prepare his students for advanced placement, and secondly to the student himself." Fors says the only unexpected result of the program is that high school instructors are underestimating the quality of their instruction and are reluctant to place students as high as they should be placed. Advanced placement programs will be started soon in machine shop, electronics, and construction technology.

Included in the more than 20,000 students attending Portland Community College this fall term are 310 students who are involved in PCC's high school articulation program. This program provides learning experiences for adults who are returning to earn a high school diploma and high school age students who are simultaneously enrolled at PCC and at one of the high schools in the district.

In 1969 the Oregon Board of Education granted to community colleges the authority to issue adult high school diplomas to persons 21 years of age and older. If a student is under 21 years of age, he must receive permission from his district high school to enroll

at PCC for an Adult High School Diploma. At the completion of 19 credit units a high school diploma is awarded.

Students who attend PCC under "simultaneous enrollment" spend one-half day at their high school and one-half day at PCC. The program is specially designed for students needing courses that their high schools do not offer. Students receive both high school and college credit for satisfactorily completed work at PCC. As an example, each college term approximately 10 students from Tigard High School are also enrolled at PCC, taking courses which will prepare them for careers in machine technology, welding, drafting, airframe and powerplant, and automotive technology at the same time they complete the requirements for their Tigard High School diploma.

Winter driving means slick, wet streets and more rear-end accidents. If somebody's crowding you from behind... slow down, pull over, and let them pass as soon as possible.

Figurine Shaping Studio

Figurine Shaping Studio is opening its reducing & health building program to men. Now Men, you too can enjoy this simple, easy way to lose those unwanted pounds and inches! Starting January 11, men's hours at the studio will be 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday and Friday evenings.

Your program will be designed especially to suit your needs.

Expert counselors will suggest suitable diets and a program of active and passive exercises especially suited to your needs.

Enroll now in this 3 month pilot program for the low cost of only \$45.00 per month!

Figurine
SHAPING STUDIO
285-0495 4940 N. Lombard

Oregonians still have one of the country's most livable and enjoyable environments. Now is the time to guard it most zealously...

...to keep our rivers running clear and clean.

...to allow Mt. Hood to stand free and unshrouded by man-made fog and smog.

...to get rid of the rubble, trash, garbage, and junk.

In other words, it's clean-up time in Oregon - now - and electric energy is the best - in some cases - the only way to accomplish this!

We are entering the era of the three "R's" - reclaim, recycle and reuse: To re-use bottles and cans; to pulverize non-biodegradable trash and garbage; to dry it for high temperature burning under controlled conditions; to melt and re-cycle salvageable materials. Already in Portland, giant, electrically-driven machines shred, bale or compress old auto bodies and other junk for use again.

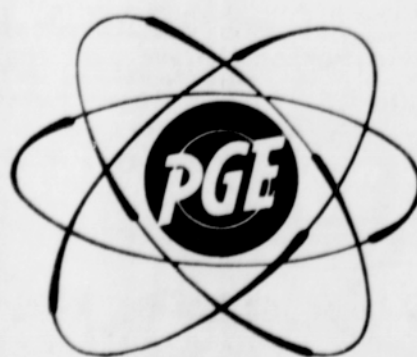
All forms of pollution abatement will require massive amounts of electric energy in the immediate future to meet governmental standards. For example, one Oregon industry alone will require a 20 per cent increase in energy consumption annually to meet clean-up requirements of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Oregon's need for more electricity to enable its residents to live better and to work better in our beautifully scenic state can best be met now and in the future by using electricity produced by nuclear plants which is clean to make, clean to use.

Nuclear energy opens the door to a bright, clean future of abundant, low-cost electricity that we need to help preserve Oregon's matchless environment.

...while we still have time.

a plug for a better environment



Free Booklet

For an inside look at the role of electricity in Oregon's environment, just fill out and mail this coupon for your free copy of PGE's booklet, *Why Oregon Needs More Power*. Mail today to:
PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC CO.
621 S. W. Alder Street
Portland, Oregon 97205

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Providing clean energy for a better life