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The New Immigration, Part II: Will There Be Room At The Inn?

by Professor McKinley Burt

Two thousand years ago a young couple in the town of Bethlehem was turned away from a number of inns before finding abode in a manger. Here, the expectant mother gave birth to a baby boy with "hair like lamb's wool," an event that changed the course of human events.

Today, the question of a sanctuary arises anew, though from a different perspective. You will see on this page a reproduction of the Statue of Liberty, a colossus of hope, herself an emigrant to these shores in 1886 (A gift from the people of France). An inscription reveals the poignant words of Emma Lazarus; "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free . . . send these, the homeless, the tempest-tossed to me . . ."

That invitation was hardly unbiased, considering that it has been underwritten by a century and a half of the most racially discriminatory immigration laws and quotas ever conceived by a democracy, not excluding South Africa. It all began with the Immigration Act of 1819, and from the start exhibited vicious prejudice against whites with the wrong roots as well as against people of color. Early references or statistics given in this series are taken in most part from that comprehensive document published in 1966, "The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science: The New Immigration." Hereinafter it will be referred to as "The Annals."

What we need here most immediately is an easily visualized model, one that will clearly reveal the main economic problems facing African-Americans—like those so succinctly examined by John E. Jacob,



What is your quota man?
(No room at the inn)

National Director of the Urban League in last week's article. In taking issue with the statement that the success of immigrants demonstrated that Blacks needed no government help, he detailed the special and obvious disabilities of our "home grown poor . . . that make such comparisons odious"

with half the increase stemming from immigration and the other half from high birth rates. Concurrently, the nation's Asian population grew by 70 percent, with about two-thirds of the increase due to immigration. Given this increased pressure, primarily upon the very lowest rooms of the pyramid, and add to it the Bush administration's approval last month of a plan to raise visa quotas for immigrants—and given the pressure of whites disemployed by aging industries that cannot compete against imports—how is it that there is not in place (or even contemplated) any serious program of sufficient economic scope and depth to arrest the further destruction of African-American Youth? We may be speaking of genocide!

As things and, it may well be that there will be no more "room at the inn"; not for those that Mr. Jacob describes as follows, "Finally, too many of our kids are ground down by discrimination and grow up in crime and drug-ridden ghettos, racially isolated, consigned to schools that don't educate them." What good will a reservation be for them—and will it be confirmed if the kid shows up? But exactly how much room will there be available on the higher floors of our hotel for African-Americans with better credentials. We were recently witness to a "Tony Brown's Journal" television program where

the audience and narrators were exclusively from the ranks of Black corporate executives—at least many of them had been. They recited a litany of layoffs, nonpromotable dead ends and discrimination in middle management, and of job slots being filled by super-driven immigrants drawn from the educated middle class of their countries (Political refugees or simply ambitious?)

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Mayor Steps Up Efforts to Recruit and Hire Minority Police

Mayor J. E. Bud Clark recently directed City staff to review the City's recruitment and hiring procedures for the position of Police Officer. Representatives from City Personnel, the Police Bureau, the City Attorney's Office, Affirmative Action, the Office of Finance and Administration and the Mayor's Office met several times over the intervening weeks to conduct careful analysis of the current process.

As a result, the Mayor has stated that: "We now have an even better opportunity to hire the additional police officers more quickly and to develop a police force that reflects the diversity of our community."

The City has been successful in attracting a large number of candidates for the Police Officer exam. Since September, approximately 1,900 individuals have applied to take the exam. The City has not attracted as many females and minorities as it had hoped. Although the number of females and minorities applying to take this year's exam was more than double that from the previous exam in 1988, the total number of all applicants tripled.

Although the City staff found that the examination process shows a distribution of females and minorities throughout the list, there were not as many as the City would like. More minority and female applicants are needed to assure an adequate pool.

After receiving the staff briefing, Mayor Clark took the following actions:

1. Letters will go to community agencies and contacts working with minorities, to all Police Bureau employees and to the Police union asking them to assist in the City's search for qualified female and minority applicants.

2. He directed the Police Bureau to proceed with offering a pre-examination orientation to all applicants, which will assist in preparing persons to take the civil service examination.

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It's Official! Oregon Supreme Court Up Holds M.L.K. Blvd.

The Oregon Supreme Court has issued its opinion affirming the judgment of Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Hari Haas, who had ruled that the ballot measure seeking to rename Martin Luther King Blvd. as Union Avenue did not qualify for placement on the ballot.

After reviewing the opinion and conferring with the City Attorney's Office, Mayor J.E. Bud Clark stated: "There is no further action for the City Council to take. The measure will not be on the ballot. Martin Luther King Blvd. will remain the name of the street and will serve as an inspiration for the ongoing renewal of the community. It is now time for our community to heal the wounds which developed during the course of this contest and to move forward."

Mayor Clark was also pleased that the Supreme Court acknowledged that the City has a valid City Code process for renaming streets and that actions taken under it are administrative.

Labor Commissioner Awards Damages in Discrimination Case

In a race discrimination case involving the renting or leasing of real property, Labor and Industries Commissioner, Mary Wendy Roberts issued a final order today awarding \$5,000 in mental distress damages and \$325 plus interest for expenses incurred to Donna Colona, who was evicted from the Spruce Tree Apartments in Salem because her boyfriend and co-tenant is Black.

Witnesses described several instances in which Colona and her co-tenant were treated differently than other tenants. Strategic Investments of Oregon, Inc., Jerald Fox, Earle and Vangie Grieg, and Patrick and Edith Malone were named as owners or managers of the property. They will be held liable for the damages.

"Blatant discrimination like this will not be tolerated in Oregon," said Commissioner Roberts. "This case vividly illustrates the injustice - and the pitfalls - of stereotyping."

Colona was evicted from the Spruce Tree apartments because of the high volume of visitors to the apartment. Apartment managers assumed Colona's boyfriend was dealing drugs and evicted Colona. A white tenant, who also had a high volume of visitors, and actually was dealing drugs from his apartment, was not evicted.

Nero and Associates Holds Annual Region X Outreach Screening and Placement Conference

The Office of Job Corps, U.S. Department of Labor, held its annual Region X outreach, screening, and placement (OS&P) conference at the Red Lion Inn/Lloyd Center March 11-14.

Each year, the organizations providing OS&P services to disadvantaged youth entering and exiting the Job Corps Program in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska meet with government and Job Corps Center staff. The Job Corps Regional Office hosts several panel discussions and group meetings with organization representatives to enhance the ability of the program to meet the varied educational, vocational, social, and personal needs of young men and women eligible for Job Corps training.

Topics at these meetings included: "Recruiting Young Women," "Multi-Cultural Awareness," "Medical Issues of Applicants," and "Time Management."

The annual conference is also a time for celebrating success on a regional basis. Nero and Associates, Inc. (NAI), a Black-owned



Mr. David Nero, Chairman & C.E.O., Nero & Associates, Inc., Portland, Oregon, presents Job Corps Representative of the Year Award to Salem recruiter Darlene Wright. Ms. Wright, who won the award for the second straight year, was given the NAI's Excellence in Leadership Award.

Portland-based firm with a decade of Job Corps experience, proudly announced that Salem recruiter Darlene Wright was named the region's Job Corps representative of the Year for the second straight year. Ms. Wright also won the NAI's Recruiter of the Year Award.

Sheila Barker, NAI's Grants Pass representative, won a regional award for her success in recruiting young women for Job Corps. She was also given NAI's Excellence in Leadership Award.

Several of the Job Corps Centers throughout the Pacific Northwest also gave special awards of achievement to NAI staff, including Armando Bravo of Eugene; Lynda Brown of Anchorage, Alaska; Elva Villarreal of Boise, Idaho; Violet Campbell of Prineville; Ms. Wright; and Ms. Barker.

NAI also honored its own staff at a special awards dinner, including Portland representatives Dale Pierce and Kelly Ure, who received awards for their efforts in recruiting young women for Job Corps.

How Census Facts Benefit The Black Community

When Blacks answer questions on the 1990 census form by filling in the little circles with a pencil, the process of putting census information to work in our community begins.

Each dark dot becomes a bit of information that—when electronically combined with all other census answers from our community—will produce a valuable statistical people and housing profile.

Just how are these census numbers used when they are published for our block, neighborhood, city, county, and state?

Here are the major ways census numbers are used, two of which are required by law:

* **POLITICAL POWER**—The Black community's representation in the U.S. House of Representatives is determined by census numbers. Equal political representation for our community means that everyone must be counted in the 1990 census. Missed people in the census could mean underrepresentation for African-American areas in these legislatures and a loss of political power.

* **GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FUNDS**—Billions of dollars in federal and state government assistance to communities for a variety of locally-administered programs are distributed each year. By law, these funds usually are allocated based on census population, age, housing, income, poverty, and other statistics. These projects include educational, health, human services, and community development programs that help everyone.

Each person not counted in the census means a potential dollar amount lost to our local government for those programs in which it takes part. Census figures are used for 10 years—until the next census—as the statistical foundation for sending these program funds to local governments, so there is a lot more money at stake in the census than just a one-year allocation.

By making sure that everyone is counted, an African-American community will receive all the funds to which it is entitled.

* **PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT**—Local government planners and economic developers depend on accurate census statistics to plan for the future. Expensive public and private developments—such as schools, health clinics, factories and shopping centers—are linked to the study of census population and housing totals.

If the census is not complete, the success of these developments—which so often involve millions of dollars, hundreds of jobs, and years of effort—could be put in jeopardy from decisions based on inaccurate or incomplete information during the planning stages.

And you don't have to be a government official or an officer in a big company to put census numbers to work. Census information about our area often is as close as our neighborhood library. Just look at these ways civic and neighborhood leaders used census statistics to help meet the needs of their communities:

* The high number of working mothers with small children in low-income neighborhoods—revealed by a study of census statistics—prompted community leaders in a Midwest city to seek and win approval for a daycare center.

* Elderly residents in an urban neighborhood in the south had no recreation facilities. By using census numbers to bolster their request for a community center, the senior citizens' organization was able to argue successfully before the county commissioners for a new center.

* Minority organizations in a western city were upset with their lack of adequate representation on the city council. Using census facts and figures, they were able to win a redistricting that allowed voters to choose additional minority council members in the next election.

Census numbers aren't meant to sit on a shelf in a big volume gathering dust. They are meant to be put to work in the African-American community.

PGE Gives Opportunity to Students to Attend College in Oregon

Portland General Electric Co. (PGE) is keeping some of Oregon's brightest students from going away to college.

For the third straight year, PGE and the Oregon Independent College Foundation (OICF) is offering top high school seniors an opportunity to attend college in Oregon. Through the PGE Scholarship Award, PGE will pay up to \$9,000 toward educational expenses at one of Oregon's eight independent colleges.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on scholastic performance, community involvement, extracurricular activities, and response to an essay question. One scholarship will be awarded at each OICF college including Linfield College, Lewis & Clark College, Reed College, Willamette University, Warner Pacific College, Pacific University, George Fox College, and University of Portland.

"This scholarship fund represents our commitment to Oregon's outstanding youth and support of Oregon's independent colleges," says Ken Harrison, Portland General Corp. President and Chief Executive Officer.

Application forms have been sent to high schools across the state. The deadline for entries is Friday, Mar. 30. Scholarship recipients will be notified on Monday, May 14.

Last year, more than 400 students statewide competed for the PGE Scholarship. Currently, 16 students are participating in the program.

Black United Front to Hold Tenth Annual March Against Racism

On Saturday, April 7, the Black United Front will have its Tenth Annual March Against Racism. The march, (followed immediately by a rally), is to begin at noon and will assemble in the parking lot behind NIKE's shoe store on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. NIKE is located at 3044 N.E. M.L.K. Blvd., and the rally will be held in Alberta Park on N.E. Killingsworth, between 19th and 22nd Avenues.

This year's event will feature three primary concerns: racist attacks and the attraction of avowed racists to the Portland area; the struggle in South Africa; and the controversy about the naming of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., which was known as Union Ave. We are anticipating a large number of people, and we welcome all

organizations that have banners to be prepared to display them in the march and at the rally.

To name a few, some of the featured speakers will include Ron Herndon, Co-Chair, Portland BUF; Conrad W. Worrill, Chairperson of the National Black United Front; Cipriano Ferrel, representing the Treeplanters & Farm Workers United; Rev. Alcona Boozer; Betre Melles; Zeebab Johnson, High School Student; Darryl Tufuku, Executive Director, Portland Urban League; and Waleed Sadrudin, Brothers Gaining Equality through Excellence.

For further information contact: Venita Myrick - 282-5447 (evenings); Ben Priestley - 282-1830 (evenings) and 230-9427 (days).