

PORTLAND OBSERVER

VOLUME XX NUMBER 14

"The Eyes and Ears of the Community"

April 4, 1990

The New Immigration, Part IV: Quotas Begin With The Mayflower

by Prof. McKinley Burt



The results of this 200th anniversary-count by the U.S. Census Bureau (began in 1790) are sure to provoke a range of emotions--from a chorus of I told-you-sos to absolute consternation. Before that happens, let me pull together the principal points I have made in respect to the real or fancied threats to African Americans posed by a rapidly accelerating immigration to these shores. As said last week, we must examine that "loaded deck" of racial "quotas" (de facto or de jure) that began with the first Immigration Count of 1820. The first "official" Quota Act was enacted May 19, 1921.

It is easily determined from the chart I provided to show from the geographical origin of these new citizens that a very racially-biased quota system was at work (White Europeans were not spared). For the total influx of 32,557,418 immigrants between the years 1820 and 1920, the averages were, A. Northern and Western Europe 76.6%, Southern and Eastern Europe 10.4%, Western Hemisphere 6.4%, and all other parts of the world, 6.6%. Clearly revealed is the "pecking order" imposed upon the world by American racism--a caste system antedating that of South Africa and which early structure presaged today's social and economic traumas. All of the tongue-in-cheek euphemisms a biased establishment can muster cannot disguise the reality of the quotas it claims to abhor: "preference, allocations, assignment, in ratio to, needed skills, family priority, etc."

We see that America's immigration laws reserved the largest quota for Region A; Great Britain, Ireland and Germany. Obviously, neither the founding fathers or their successors ranked the populations of Region B very highly on their scale of evolution (Eastern Europe in particular), since its allocation of "huddled masses, yearning to be free" was barely one seventh of that for the "superior" Anglo Saxon, Celtic and Germanic contingent. Polish jokes may have begun quite early on. The literature, textbooks, and even the "scien-

tific" annals of this hundred-year period reflected the virulent assessments of the intelligence and cultural level of peoples from Poland, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Russia and elsewhere in this region.

The first generations of these immigrants suffered from many social prejudices and employment discrimination, but of course, nothing like that inflicted upon African Americans after their "emancipation". These people, in turn, became as a group the most racist and violent of those who fought against Black union membership and desegregation in housing and schools. By the turn of this century they had succeeded in ousting Blacks from most of the craft and skilled trade unions--and had instituted the "For White Males Only" clauses. All along, they were nurtured and buttressed in their prejudices by the same type of canards, lies and denigrations earlier used against themselves.

The assaults upon the intelligence and capabilities of nonwhites in this country has in no way subsided. "The justification for ranking groups by in-born worth has varied with the tides of Western History . . . biological determinism." That quote is from a book by Stephen J. Gould, "The Mismeasure of Man, 1981." It is a must reading for those who fight against the pseudo-scientific diatribes of racists like William Shockley (the physicist turned geneticist), or against the flawed assumptions predicated upon the techniques for "intelligence" assessment developed by Lewis Termin (the putative inventor of the I.Q. Test). Mr. Gould discloses the entire scope of the 18th and 19th century dogmas of hate and intolerance that pervaded (and shaped) science, philosophy, literature and most of academia. Did you know that the full title of Charles Darwin's famous work was "The Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection or The Preservation of the Favored Races in the Struggle for Life"? The world took this literally.

So we have it--and it needs to be

understood by all--that quotas employment discrimination, intelligence concepts, educational disabilities, poverty, urban decay, and just plain garden variety racism are all inextricably intertwined in the fabric that has cloaked this republic from day one. These are dangerous times when even the courts of last resort fail to recognize this fact, and yield to the pressures of a strident majority who were once the victims. The pressures of a strident majority who were once the victims. The government itself is often suspect, as witness the mindset of the U.S. Public Health Service which performed the infamous Nazi-type experiment on African Americans at the facility of Tuskegee University. Their physicians permitted people of color with syphilis to go untreated (and unwarned) for twenty years while they wrote papers and tracked the progress of the disease--until death intervened.

If the U.S. Public Health Service had no morality, certainly the U.S. Army has shown no sense of history--nor does it read its own records. In the U.S. Army Intelligence Tests of World War I, the African Americans of Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois and Ohio led the whites of Mississippi, Kentucky, Arkansas and Georgia by one to seven percent. Correspondingly the rates of illiteracy for these same whites were much higher--though not as high as for their region of origin in Europe (American Journal of Sociology, vol. 33, pg 256, September, 1927). Now, here we are working on a correlation that even Ray Charles could see, as we futher proceed to relate the consequences of failures to educate at home or abroad.

The same study also determines: "The Negroes of California, Minnesota, New York, Nevada, South Dakota, Oregon and Washington are less illiterate than the Native whites of white parentage in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico. New York, Minnesota, Oregon and South
(Continued on page 5)

President Bush Praises Hometown Heroes In Their War Against Drugs

Washington, D.C., April 3, 1990--President Bush recently honored 28 Americans whose personal initiatives have provided hope and inspiration for communities ravaged by the drug problem. This luncheon event, hosted by William J. Bennett, National Drug Control Policy Director, was held on March 7th, in the Indian Treaty Room in the old Executive Office Building, adjacent to The White House.

The occasion offered the President a rare opportunity to recognize people on the front lines, whose heroic, unheralded work is making a difference.

"I think you are America's hometown heroes--unconventional warriors," commented President Bush. "You are the stars in America's war on drugs. You shine through the dark, you give hope in the night. And we're here today really to say that someone noticed."

Pictured in the left photograph is Portland, Oregon's E. Ray Leary, co-director of the Self-Enhancement Program. Self-Enhancement is a comprehensive support program which operates within the school curriculum to instill a sense of purpose and belonging into the lives of elementary and high school youths. Listening to Mr. Leary (photo on right) are Drug Policy Control Director William J. Bennett and President George Bush.

The luncheon was underwritten by a generous grant from ADT Security Systems, in conjunction with the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC).

In 1985, ADT Security Systems, the world's leading provider of electronic security systems, joined the crusade against crime by providing financial support for the NCPC.

BPN's Second Anniversary Reception

Black Professional Network will hold its second anniversary Reception this Sunday, April 8th, between 2:30 and 4:00 p.m., in the Community Service Room of Pacific Power & Light's District Office, 3535 N.E. 15th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

As special guest, Black Professional Network will be welcoming the new CEO of the Portland Urban League, Mr. Darryl S. Tukufu.

The whole community is welcome to come out and meet the Urban League's new president and celebrate the 2nd Anniversary of Black Professional Network.



Photo Courtesy of White House
President Bush and William Bennett



Photo Courtesy of White House
Ray Leary, Co-Director of the Self-Enhancement Program

New Board Members At Garlington Center



LaVerne Hampton and Theresa Williams-Stoudamire



The Garlington Center for North/Northeast Community Mental Health has selected two new members for its Board of Directors.

LaVerne Hampton is branch manager of the First Interstate Bank of Northeast Martin Luther King Blvd. She has 25 years of experience in banking.

Theresa Williams-Stoudamire is a health plan coordinator for Multnomah

County She is a member of the African American Health Coalition.

The Garlington Center, 4950 N.E. King Blvd., with an annual budget of more than \$2.2 million, serves nearly 2000 clients each year. Its facility in North and Northeast Portland provide residential and day treatment for children and for chronically mentally ill adults.

CREED OF THE BLACK PRESS

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from social and national antagonisms when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color, or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

COMING SOON!!!

On April 11th, 1990, the Portland Observer newspaper will publish a special section featuring hair care products and hair styles. Watch for this fascinating issue.

B.P. Oil: Returning An Investment To The Community



Sam Pierce of MYCAP Chats With Ray Sutton (left) and Lute Reiprich (center)

has so far helped to send a group of teenage girls to Seattle, Washington for participation in Big Sister/Little Sister

activities and provided funds for the United African Americans Organization to continue its youth gang diver-

sion project.

The project has gained so much popularity that the Portland Urban League Youth Program, churches and other youth organizations are investigating the possibility of possible involvement.

"We are building a business out of neighborhood involvement," states Sutton. This is a project that should be addressed not just by B.P. Oil but by any concern centrally located in communities that seeks employment outlets for its youth. Once this project is completely set-up, we (B.P.) hope to encourage independent B.P. operators to get involved as well," he added.

Mostly a weekend project, youth are required to have a work permit and must be referred by an organization and be pre-screened.

The project is wholeheartedly endorsed by District Manager Lute Reiprich, who is seeking community input on other meaningful projects.

When B.P. Oil Company assumed operations from Mobil Oil in May, 1989, it brought with it a commitment to do more than to just sell gas and oil. As the "new kid" on the block, B.P. decided to return some of its investments to the communities in which some of its stations were located. And they have done so through neighborhood involvement, mainly its (communities) most valuable resource--youth.

One such B.P. station has undertaken a project involving youth that has some families and organizations excited about its prospects.

The B.P. station at N.E. Broadway and Union/Grand has availed its facility to pre-screened teenage groups, offering space and equipment to hold carwashes for fundraising, as well as part time and full time employment opportunities.

The brainchild of station manager Ray Sutton, this fundraising activity