



PERSPECTIVES

By Professor McKinley Burt

New Wings Over Ethiopia; Isaiah 1:18,1

Moving right a long (not me, the human disease vectors), we find the varmints busy again in Africa. The world's news services are reporting that medical researchers are injecting citizens of Zaire (formerly the Congo) with LIVE AIDS VIRUS; "experimenting in an effort to develop a vaccine against the dread disease."

a definition and a reminder. First, some readers say they now appreciate the import of the term "VECTOR"-just from the context of my last two articles about the spread of European diseases to the Third World (Tuberculosis, Syphilis, AIDS, etc.). Basically, we refer to the CARRIER'S of those plagues, and these include not only such 'human' vectors as explorers, colonialists, soldiers and suitors, religionists and tourists, but rats, birds, insects and pets. It was the new man-explorer duo of "Stanley and Livingston" which early on cited this transmission of syphilis to Africa!

The "reminder" is that over the years I have written of the innovative methods developed to separate Africans and African Americans from their LAND. I have cited local applications of the "Urban Renewal" game of 'land-clearing' for freeways, civic centers, highrises and other "enhancements of the urban environment" (Coliseum Complex, Emanuel Hospital site, and that Portland School District caper where

land ostensibly acquired for a new administrative building by 'eminent domain', was instead sold to private interests to cover a budget overrun).

Reported that oil-rich lands owned by blacks in Louisiana were acquired by the state for "Drainage Districts", with the owners receiving only a pittance for properties worth millions. I have not neglected to report similar depredations in the "old country", Africa. These have included the lies of white South Africans who still claim, that the fabulously rich land was "VACANT" when they occupied it (after bitter battles with the inhabitants). It was only later, they say, that they "fortuitously" discovered the vast deposits of gold and diamonds. Also disclosed was that those pious American Sanctions against South Africa EXCLUDED the 10 most valuable minerals critical to modern warfare and space exploration.

But, has it not occurred to you that the barbaric rascals of this planet may have found even more efficient methods of "clearing land"? What about that which lies before our very eyes... 'CLEAR CUTTING' POPULATIONS WITH DISEASE VECTORS. This is proving a far speedier tactic for preparing the territory for occupation by European political dissidents, than by present attempts at conversion to nuclear waste dumps and as the terminal destinations of ocean-going barges of urban garbage and medical wastes. We tremble for Africa.

It is also here in the "Old Country" that we find African nations the target of massive American and European campaigns to place large tracts of their land ON HOLD; For use as "Wild

Life Refuges", safaris, and thousand mile-long routes set aside for performance-testing "Auto Rallies". You do remember my series, "Africa The Zoo"! Rampaging elephants trampling the crops of poor farmers-held back by armed "poacher patrols".

When all of these shenanigans are related in one comprehensive perspective, it is clearly seen that the companion piece of racist assaults and economic disabilities inflicted upon African Americans are an integral part of the overall scheme. The black population of the United States is to be rendered completely helpless and impotent as a possible rallying point or political voice capable of any protest or intervention in an obvious GENOCIDE. The current vicious attacks upon black elected officials is seen by many to be part and parcel of the process.

My term, "Travel Agency Anthropology" described the insidious method used to conceal from African Americans (all Americans) any knowledge of the African roots of those peoples scattered throughout the world from Hawaii and South Sea Island, to India and the more remote Japanese archipelago. new and exotic names are now applied to those whom W.E.B. Dubois properly characterized as NEGRO descendants of the African Diaspora. Remember my white student quoting his father who owned a travel agency, "Give 'em exotic names. Who is going to pay thousands of dollars to see a bunch of niggers (sic), when they can do that at home right down in the ghetto?"

Yes, there are "new wings over Ethiopia", and again the message is quite clear.

Vantage Point

By Ron Daniels

The War Ends but The Assault On The Poor Continues At Home

The obscene U.S. led war in the Persian Gulf is over. The Bush administration and the U.S. government expended 75-100 billion dollars for an unnecessary war against Iraq. Now the U.S. and its "coalition partners" consider the reconstruction of the feudal kingdom of Kuwait a major priority. The U.S. helped to rebuild Germany and Western Europe under the Marshall Plan after World War II. Japan was also reconstructed with massive U.S. assistance. The obvious question which African Americans, Latinos and poor and working people should raise is when will the United States rebuild the ghettos and barrios right here at home?

It is the height of contradiction, callousness and immorality that the U.S. can continue to ignore the desperate plight of millions of African Americans, minorities and poor and working people who are forced to live in poverty and misery in America's desolate and decaying urban inner city areas. In state after state and city after city, Governors, legislators, Mayors, council members and school board members are faced with huge budget deficits, cities on the verge of total collapse, schools systems which are under-funded and unworkable, health care systems which are faltering and infra-structures which are crumbling.

The U.S. flexed its awesome military muscle in the Persian Gulf, but does the government have the mind, muscle and morality to wage an effective

war on poverty on the domestic front. Years ago Whitney Young, the late President of the National Urban League, called upon this nation to enact a "Domestic Marshall Plan" to rebuild the cities and open up employment and educational opportunities for Blacks, minorities and the disadvantaged. Two years ago John E. Jacob, the current President of the National Urban League, reissued the call for a Domestic Marshall Plan and requested 50 billion dollars to fund the program. The renewed call for resources to rebuild the cities was an urgent appeal to end the blatant neglect of Blacks, poor people and minorities.

John E. Jacob received essentially the same response that Whitney Young received. The United States cannot afford to invest billions to rebuild the cities and wipe out poverty. The U.S. cannot bail-out the poor, but the government can consistently squander resources on rich corporations, banks and individuals who mis-mange resources. And the government continues to invest in a bloated military budget in order to bomb and batter "uppity" Third world nations into submission.

Billions of dollars were ripped off from H.U.D. by Reagan's political pals while affordable housing was on the decline and homelessness was in the increase. The 600 billion S & L scandal is the result of gross mis-management and reckless speculation by greedy financiers, developers and their compliant political pimps in congress.

Taxpayer dollars that could have gone to end human misery is now being allocated to bail out rich corporations, institutions and individuals. Now it appears that another 25 billion will be required to rescue the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., again because of the mismanagement and greed of wealthy bankers. Taxpayer dollars go to subsidize the wealthy, but no significant amount of money can be found to improve the quality of life for millions who live in poverty in the United States.

Indeed as states and cities attempt to cope with horrendous budget crises, the trend is to follow the example of former President Ronald Reagan - balance the budget on the backs of the Black poor, minorities and poor and working people. Confronting a huge deficit in New York State, Mario Cuomo, a potential Democratic candidate for President in 1992, is proposing major cuts in social programs while leaving the wealthy virtually untouched. In Ohio, Governor George Voinovich, a rising star within the Republican party is proposing the total elimination of General Welfare Relief and the cancellation of state supported medical benefits for more than 130,000 welfare recipients.

The war in the Persian Gulf may be over, but the deadly attack against the Black poor, minorities and the disadvantaged continues without let up here in the United States.

SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTION

MARCH 26, 1991

Letter To The Editor Anonymous Vet Speaks Out

"I first went into the service in 1970. I was 18 years of age. I chose the United States Navy because my father had served in the army. He had received an honorable discharge, but didn't want his sons too close to the front line. So I took his advice, because a lot of people didn't seem to make it back from the army.

I was first stationed in San Diego. It was called "boot camp." You trained for 18 weeks. The training involved rifle skills along with everyday discipline techniques that prepared you to fight a war. Once the training was completed, we were tested and given an M.O.S (Military Occupational Skill).

We had 92 people in our company. Only 65 made it through. The others were either rejected or given an assignment in an area that would be useful to the Navy.

After training I was sent to Westpac, the seventh fleet. We were assigned to an anti-sub-marine squad. A year later I was sent to the second fleet on the East Coast with the same duties.

During my four year tenure, I met racism head on. In 1974, I received an honorable discharge and I went out into the world to seek a job. This was in Georgia. The only job that I could get was that of a security guard. The pay would have been minimum wage. I couldn't understand it. I was a specialist. A trained aviation mechanic. While I was securing the country, all the jobs had been given to the draft dodgers that President Nixon had pardoned! The military answer was of course, the GI Bill. They would pay \$500 per month for me to go to school.

Now remember I told you I was in Georgia. I don't think it would have been so hard on me if I had been a white male. That's one of the reasons why I don't believe that African-Americans should put their lives on the front line. The war for us is here in America. Vietnam/Kuwait, its all economics for us. We need a way out. A way to survive. Sure, they give us an education through an honorable discharge, that is if you make it back. Once you achieve the education, you're still discriminated against. The system will hire an under-qualified European-American before they will hire an African-American male.

PGE Scholarship Deadline

For the fourth consecutive year, Portland General Electric Co. (PGE) and the Oregon Independent College Foundations (OICF) is offering to keep some of Oregon's most promising high school students from going away to college.

Through the PGE Scholarship Award, PGE presents eight of the state's top seniors with the opportunity to attend college in Oregon after they graduate.

The award pays up to \$9,000 (over

a four-year period) toward educational costs at each of Oregon's Eight independent colleges. Students interested in applying for the scholarship can obtain an entry form at their high school. The dead line for turning in applications is Friday, March 29, 1991.

Scholarships will be awarded to students on the basis of merit; applicants must demonstrate outstanding personal and academic leadership qualities. One scholarship will be awarded at each of the eight OICF colleges

including Linfield College, Lewis and Clark College, Pacific University, George Fox College, Willamette University, Reed College, Warner Pacific College, and the University of Portland.

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Reinvestments in the Community

Lower northeast sector declares all out war on illegal drugs in community

A number of irate individuals representing at least five African American organizations from the lower Northeast section of the community have expressed their intention to intervene directly into some of the nagging problems caused by illegal drugs. In their words they have put together a manifesto for recapturing their neighborhoods through targeted efforts.

This week Ron Herndon said, "Crime fueled by illegal drugs has seriously eroded the quality of life in certain neighborhoods of the lower Northeast sector of our community. Elderly citizens and young people have become virtual prisoners because they are afraid to go out of their homes at night. Because of the seriousness of these problems, all out war is hereby declared on all the perpetrators of these dastardly acts."

So stated, Mr. Herndon then outlined the full battle plan that was composed of two elements. The first part focused on law enforcement and community organizing. The main thrust of that section was a request to the Governor to declare an emergency and to call the National Guard to active duty. No matter how onerous such a suggestion might sound, Mr. Herndon and Charles Taylor insist that such a position represents a majority view of the affected community. The Guard would be used for special surveillance, perimeter security, transporting prisoners, foot

patrols, drug house raids and curfew enforcement.

In this regard, Mr. Herndon and his supporters are going to have a difficult time convincing Governor Neil Goldschmidt, of the need to utilize the National guard in such a manner. According to Robert Jackson, military advisor to the Governor, the National Guard will be provided only in an advisory and administrative support capacity. There is no precedent in American history for employing the local militia in such a manner. Critics of such an approach point out that the guard does not have adequate training to deal effectively in such matters. At the same time, experience the African American community has had with the National Guard during the civil right disturbances of the 1960's would suggest that their interaction in Black communities has had an egregious effect. The death of a single National Guardsman in such an endeavor could possibly foment real problems of civil disturbance.

Comparing this action to a forest fire, Mr. Herndon stated that it would be the intention of the attack force first to dislodge crime from the less active "brush fire" area in order to establish an effective fire wall before diverting the main thrust to the inferno, itself. These efforts would be coupled with the remedial input of the Gang Task Force.

Landlords would be given sup-

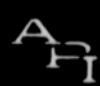
port in the screening of tenants, development of effective rental contracts and eviction procedures with a greater emphasis on property management and responsive neighborhood concerns.

The daily media would be encouraged to list target areas where drugs were sold.

The second part of the program would be devoted to youth diversion and treatment. A county residential program was proposed in which a mandatory 30-day minimum de-programming protocol would be established for youths who exhibit assaultive, disruptive behavior or have been identified as active members of a gang.

It also calls for the development of a professional foster care provider network. Currently, no such program exists. A specific gang-oriented service package would be created in which evidence would be accumulated and after three years an analysis would be made of the root causes of gang activity in the targeted area. Service providers would then use this specific information to develop policies and tailored programs for dealing with the problem.

A final recommendation is made that adequate funds be made available to support a House of Umoja concept which would then serve as a diversionary and rehabilitation program for youths susceptible to or directly active in deleterious gang activity.



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