

EDITORIAL

Editorial Articles Do Not Necessarily
Reflect Or Represent The Views Of
The Portland Observer

This JaxFax was adapted from the 6/1/96 media statement by Reverend Jackson. We have witnessed the return of the white sheet crowd, sneaking by night to burn the churches of our people.

We have watched the mean-spirited maneuvers of the blue suite crowd, the Gingrich Congress and many of our state legislatures, as they try day after day to wipe out a half-century of social progress.

Last week, we saw the return of the black robes crowd, who with each decision roll back a little more of Dr. King's Reconstruction.

This time, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down majority-minority Congressional districts in North Carolina and Texas, in their continuing effort to eliminate Black and Brown leadership from the diverse, most representative U.S. Congress in the history of this nation.

We have criticized the Supreme Court's attack on majority-minority districts many times in the past. This latest decision is just one more blow to the very idea of equal opportunity in American politics.

NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

White Sheets, Blue Suits, Black Robes

One of the cornerstones of Dr. King's legacy is the Voting Rights Act of 1965, won by marchers on the bridge at Selma. However, the Supreme Court removed much of the meaning from the Voting Rights Act.

With its 5-4 vote, the Black robes crowd threatens to reduce the Black and Hispanic Caucuses in Congress by half, while greatly limiting the opportunities for African Americans and Latinos to win state legislative, city council, and county commission seats in the future.

The Supreme Court had already acted to alter the districts--and injure the careers--of African American U.S. Representa-

tives Cynthia McKinney (GA), Sanford Bishop (GA), Cleo Fields (LA), and Corrine Brown (FL). The Court's latest decision adds Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX), Eva Clayton (NC), and Mel Watt (NC) to the endangered list. Other African Americans and Hispanics in Congress may yet be jeopardized in the near future by the Court's redistricting rulings. These leaders need our help.

Ironically, these African Americans now threatened by redistricting represent more diverse districts than all but a handful of their colleagues in Congress--yet they are the ones the Court singled out in their drive

to limit equal opportunity.

The Supreme Court is willing to accept incumbency, geographic boundaries, industry, and political party registration as legitimate factors in redistricting.

However, despite legislative and judicial fundings of long-term practices of racial exclusion--and by not fully considering the devastating historical legacies of slavery and segregation--the court has now decided to remove race as a critical factor in redistricting.

This strikes at the heart of the Voting Rights Act. This strikes at the heart of political equality in America.

In 1996, the white sheets, the blue suits, and the black robes are all acting in concert to roll back Dr. King's Reconstruction. History shows a similar pattern from 1896, when lynchings and cross burnings, Jim Crow laws, and the "separate but equal" decision of Plessy v. Ferguson ended America's First Reconstruction.

Unless we act now to stop it, 1996 will repeat the mistakes of 1896. We must not allow history to repeat itself. We must not allow the 21st century to begin on the same sad note of institutional racism which crippled this century.

The Case Against Immigration

BY HARVEY C. ROBERTS

This spring, when the U.S. Congress voted against reducing the level of immigration, it was continuing a policy that is devastating the opportunities for American Blacks to fully participate in the life of this country.

The effects of high immigration on American Blacks were ignored in the debate. But the radically increased level of immigration since 1965 is believed by many to be one of the most important factors in why black poverty has been growing for 25 years, and in the erosion of our social, economic and political gains.

I make that statement based in part on observations from my vantage point of living and working in various financial positions in New York City during that period. Few American Blacks here have not been aware of the harmful way immigration disproportionately floods our labor pools, our neighborhoods and our schools.

Now I know that what I have seen locally has been occurring nationwide, because of a remarkable new book from the respected publisher W.W. Norton & Company.

The Case Against Immigration by Roy Beck is one of the most profoundly informative and insightful books I have read. It has given me a totally new perspective on what immigration has been doing to our country and to our people.

Beck reveals the answer to one of

the most perplexing questions for American Blacks: Why did economic progress begin to stop for most American Blacks at the very time when civil rights laws were enacted and affirmative action programs were begun?

There are crowds of commentators--including some Blacks and some immigrants--who have concluded that the cause was a lack of character among us. Even worse, some have gained great publicity for their theories about how our economic decline is an indication of the innate inferiority of our intelligence. They often--sometimes gleefully--bolster their arguments by pointing out how much better recent immigrants have done than we, the descendants of slaves.

But "what the critics of black Americans fail to realize," Beck writes, "is that black workers have been systematically blocked from the economic base that made possible the celebrated achievements of immigrant communities. And often, it has been the immigrants themselves who blocked the black Americans."

In The Case Against Immigration, Roy Beck uses studies from top scholars, lots of newspaper accounts and his own on-the-ground reporting to

paint a vivid and tragic picture of how immigration since 1965:

- has depressed the wages for most black Americans;
- has actually taken jobs from many of them;
- has allowed immigrants to largely displace American Blacks in many affirmative action programs; by allowing immigrants special preferences to obtain contracts, admissions to college and specific employment opportunities, the federal government has totally distorted the original intent of these programs originally set up for the benefit of us, the descendants of slavery, American Blacks;
- has blocked American Blacks from thousands of jobs as ethnic-networking among immigrants has been allowed to shut American Blacks from many workplaces;
- has further eroded the quality of already inferior inner urban educational systems where black children disproportionately attend;
- has denied skilled level employment to qualified Black men, and to less-educated young Black men at the entry-level jobs, while denying both groups decent wages at their level that would allow them to support a family.

The result of these events has been to reduce the economic and social well-being of American Blacks, to contribute to the prevention of and to the breakup of stable Black families, and to cause increased poverty, crime, and violence among immigrants and American Blacks alike.

Apparently, in recent decades, our Black leaders and other prominent Black public speakers have been most timid in speaking up for our own interests on this issue. In part, we seem to believe that for a black person to oppose immigration publicly is to break with our religious tradition of helping all, and with an assumed solidarity with other non-white groups.

Well, our religious doctrines clearly instruct us that charity begins at home. "If any provide not for his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (1 Timothy 5:8)

While timidity in speaking up for our own poor in the face of immigration seems to be the order of the day for present Black leaders and public speakers, Beck's book shows that timidity never occurred until recently.

To be continued next week.

Letter To The Editor

Send your letters to the Editor to:
Editor, PO Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208

Lorraine Johnson
heard from her daughter
in Detroit EVERY DAY
this week, but they
haven't SPOKEN in days.



AT&T True Reach® Savings
Save 25% on fax calls and more.

It's a simple fact...
Families just don't TALK
the way they used to.
That's why there's
AT&T True Reach Savings

Save 25% on every type of call on your AT&T phone bill to anyone, anywhere in the U.S., any way your family communicates long distance, when you just spend \$25.00 a month.* That includes operator assisted, AT&T Calling Card, and direct dialed long distance calls. Sign up today, Call.

1-800-TRUE-ATT®

* Refers to long distance calls billed to AT&T home or Calling Card accounts. Discounts off AT&T base rates. \$25.00 spending minimum applies per residential line. Certain exclusions apply. Subject to billing availability.



Your True Choice®

perspectives

Top Educators Finally Catch Up With Me

Twenty nations report an average 25 point rise in IQ scores since 1918 and, worldwide, the academic community is forced to regroup, rethink and rewrite.

Those who deplored the racist and pejorative conclusions of "The Bell Curve", are now strongly supported in their thesis that "intelligence must be determined more by nurture than by nature."

What is so neat about it is that many readers were alerted quite early on, and right here in the pages of the Portland Observer. Not once, but time and again over the years, I have used models from my own childhood from parenting and from teaching experiences, to illustrate this "nurturing" determinant or component.

I described the stimulating communication process that went on in my home and those of my black playmates, the current magazines on the cocktail table, my own subscriptions to children's magazines and the "supper table" input where little ears took in wondrous description of an exciting world yet to be explored. And several times I have made the precise statement now being attributed to "experts" like Dr. John Boli of Emory University: "Nature, in the form of 'smart' genes in apopulation, does not change at anything like the speed with which IQ has risen."

The world's scholars are alternately "puzzled or astounded at last month's international 'intelligence conference' by those reports of an unprecedented rise in IQ scores in the Western World "since 1918." That date is extremely important for it marks the end of World War I and the first opportunity for educationists to examine a really massive data bank of so-called "intelligence test" information e.g. examination of military recruits.

In a 1994 article here (Nov. 9, "The Attack Continues"), I pointed out that even before Stephen Jay Gould's valuable, book

(The Mismeasure of Man, 1981), I furnished documentation from U.S. Military Records that both white immigrants from the southern half of Europe and American blacks have had their IQs and other cognitive abilities deliberately disparaged by manipulative techniques.

The "Nurture vs Nature" thesis is strongly supported again; On 1918 army IQ tests, northern blacks usually outsourced southern white--a fact conveniently ignored by 99% of educationists, sociologists and psychologists. As in the case of that nurturing incubator of my childhood, this regional phenomenon saw many of us at our ghetto school scoring above 150 on the Binet tests.

And not all such high scorers had professionals in the family as in my case (mother and aunt were teachers).

Performances like

this by black kids

piqued the curiosity of the white power structure. When I was older my mother told me that officials from "downtown" would come out to investigate how some segregated black schools could be scoring higher than those in nearby neighborhoods of Irish, German, Polish and Italian extraction. It was probably on their minds, too, that; "hey, wait a minute! these black kids have older hand-me-down books and equipment from the white schools--and their teachers and administrators are paid a lot less" (St. Louis, Mo. On the Mason-Dixon border line).

These matters came up in heated discussions I had with in 1990 other participants who testified before the Committee On Teacher Standards, chaired then by Oregon legislator; now Portland Mayor, Vera Katz. This after-the-session debate took place in the hallway and at a nearby restaurant. What you read here is what they got and I emphasized my testimony that "the blind cannot lead the blind -- any modification in teacher standards would only make a bad situation worst." That side did not win a resounding victory (The "un-nurtured", cannot nurture).

I did get to have an interesting talk with a white principal from eastern Oregon who was a subscriber to the Portland Observer. The both of us were avid readers and researchers; and both familiar with the 1987 revelation of George Rawcliffe, Senior Lecturer in Further Education, Blackpool, England, "For a century, social engineering in England saw to it that IQ tests were rigged to send boys to highly academic schools and girls where ever". We wondered about "America's plan for black."

Cont's next week.

The Portland Observer

(USPS 959-680)
OREGON'S OLDEST AFRICAN AMERICAN PUBLICATION
Established in 1970

Charles Washington--Publisher
The PORTLAND OBSERVER is located at
4747 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97211
503-288-0033 * Fax 503-288-0015

Deadline for all submitted materials:
Articles: Friday, 5:00 pm Ads: Monday Noon

POSTMASTER: Send Address Changes to: Portland Observer,
P.O. Box 3137, Portland, OR 97208.

Second Class postage paid at Portland, Oregon.

The Portland Observer welcomes freelance submissions. Manuscripts and photographs should be clearly labeled and will be returned. If accompanied by a self addressed envelope. All created design display ads become the sole property of the newspaper and can not be used in other publications or personal usage, without the written consent of the general manager, unless the client has purchased the composition of such ad. © 1996 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED.

Subscriptions: \$30.00 per year.

The Portland Observer--Oregon's Oldest African-American Publication--is a member of the National Newspaper Association--Founded in 1885, and The National Advertising Representative Amalgamated Publishers, Inc, New York, NY, and The West Coast Black Publishers Association • Serving Portland and Vancouver.

SUBSCRIBE TO The Portland Observer

The Portland Observer Can Be Sent Directly To Your Home For Only \$30.00 Per Year. Please Fill Out, Enclose Check Or Money Order, And Mail To:

SUBSCRIPTIONS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER; PO Box 3137
PORTLAND, OREGON 97208

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip-Code: _____

THANK YOU FOR READING THE PORTLAND OBSERVER