

Economic Development-Criminal Justice Style, Part I

BY PROF. MCKINLEY BURT

The conservative and widely-read "Harpers" magazine reports the following "fascinating, kaleidoscopic view of our paradoxical world." We presume an ethnic pertinence to an interesting aside which precedes the four "fascinating" views cited.

"Date on which the state of Mississippi ratified the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, abolishing slavery: 3/21/95"

1. *Mandatory minimum jail sentence, in years, for possession of five grams of crack: 5 years.*

2. *Chances that an American sentenced for crack-related offenses is white: 1 in 25 years.*

3. *Mandatory minimum sentence for possession of five grams of cocaine: 0 years.*

4. *Chances that an American sentenced for cocaine possession is white: 1 in 3 years.*

So it is not surprising at all that last Monday's headlines saw the Justice Department predicting that the number of inmates in America's jails and prisons would double in ten years. Nor should it be surprising, given the

four factoids cited above and the racist nature of that "structured unemployment we've been describing, that it is expected that 40% of these prisoners will be black men, women and children (Blacks are 12% of total population).

Incredibly, one in 167 Americans were in prison or jail at the end of 1995 and the total number has risen a shocking 113 percent since 1985. In an international race to see who will incarcerate the most of its citizens, the lead seesaws between the United States and Russia with both nations far outdistancing the rest of the world. As of the end of 1995, 'Justice' reports there were 1,078,357 men and women in federal and state prisons. They don't give the cost.

Wouldn't you think that would throw our unemployment statistics off--doesn't it strike you that there is quite a lot of room for mischief here in the allocation and application of resources needed to ameliorate the economic condition of large sections of the population? Exactly how many are there who are "available and looking for work?" Just here in the state

of Oregon, 8000 are said to be behind bars, and Oregon Public Radio cites the recent increases as the biggest in the nation, percentage-wise.

Is it any wonder then that many of America's most inspired and imaginative entrepreneurs are cashing in on America's biggest new cash cow in decades. Those climbing aboard for the 21st-century "Yukon Gold Rush" range from construction engineering firms to respected social and academic institutions, from manufacturers of corrections hardware ranging all the way from cell blocks and holding pens to handcuffs and other restraining devices. And then, of course there are the gun and ammunition makers who see a golden opportunity to compensate for lost Pentagon orders.

New "Contract Confinement" firms are springing up all over the country and in inspired competition, prison and jails temporarily under-capacity are in bidding wars to house the overflow of over-crowded facilities in other parts of the nation--for very lucrative fees. As equally inspired as the 'confinement entrepre-

neurs' are the writers of advertising copy for the big bold display ads for these goods and services appearing in the law enforcement journals.

And it seems that there will be no lack of employment opportunities in the area of criminal justice if one looks at many California, midwestern, eastern and southern classified advertising sections of the big daily newspapers; often entire pages relevant in some way to law enforcement.

And the fall offerings of the universities and community colleges require expanded sections to list the plethora of courses related to the justice system.

It's indicated that there will be a need for hordes of new lawyers.

But some are asking questions that may not be as facetious as they might sound at first blush; for instance, has America enough black people to support all this economic development? And if so, on which side of the bars? And the fateful query, "is this what 'America-the-beautiful' has come to after just a brief two centuries?"

Continued next week.

Highway 217 Subarea Transportation Plan

Continued from front

portation system to work as designed, and meet transportation needs through the year 2015.

These transportation solutions are currently proceeding through many of the adoption processes of the regional and local jurisdictions. After adoption, specific projects will be identified and prioritized in local capital improvement programs.

It is estimated that the combination of improvements may cost more than \$78 million.

The solutions include intersection improvements, road capacity increas-

es and other projects to improve connectivity and traffic flow throughout the entire Plan area.

This may eventually include improvement projects on 72nd Avenue, Kruse Way, Highway 99W, Carman Drive, Bonita Road, and a Dartmouth Street to Hunziker Street over crossing of Highway 217.

Pedestrian, bicycle, and public transportation improvements were also included in the Plan recommendations.

ODOT does not have full funding for the new interchange at this time.

The estimated cost of the proposed interchange alone is more than

\$47 million.

It is possible to phase the interchange construction, but the first phase of improvements will cost \$35 million.

ODOT has \$22 million designated and set aside for the new interchange. That's less than half the amount of funding needed to construct the interchange improvements.

However, ODOT is now moving forward with the final interchange design and right of way purchase as shown in the schedule to the right.

Methods to fully fund the proposed interchange are being considered at the present time.

Funding for transportation projects statewide has been dwindling in recent years. In response to the decreasing number of dollars, Governor Kitzhaber has convened the Governor's Transportation Initiative Task Force to identify statewide transportation needs and funding opportunities to be presented to the 1997 legislature.

Target Project Schedule:

- Final Interchange Design, 1996-1999.
- Right of Way Purchase, 1996-1998.
- Construction Begins, 1998.
- Completion, 2000/2001.

The Future of Portland: Central City 2000

Continued from front

combination of floating trails and dirt trails, with an island feature near OMSI," he said.

"The east side has 20,000 jobs today," Siegel said, "that's supposed to double over the next 20 years. Transportation will be a central issue."

In addition to the infrastructure improvement there is a recommendation to extend SE Water Avenue from OMSI to SE Caruthers/SE Grand Avenue.

Also on the table are plans to fix up the Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Grand Avenue facades;

enhancing the general look of those streets with additional lighting and street improvements.

In the University District, which encompasses Portland State University, the issue is "expanding housing and job capacity," Siegel said.

The task force recommends building 1,500 new housing units, constructing an Urban Center for PSU's department of urban and public affairs, building a University Plaza, acquiring the old US West building to house PSU's school of engineering, extending the transit mall south to University Plaza and building an elementary school.

"We're trying to be more than just a university with this additional housing," PSU director of facilities Brian Chase said.

"Most cities are dead after 5 p.m. Portland's made a commitment to change that by incorporating all types of housing into the downtown area," he said.

Other major improvements to Portland's infrastructure recommended in the plan include constructing a Central City Street Car that would connect Northwest Portland, the River District and University District.

Thoughts on the likelihood of the overall success of the recommenda-

tions vary.

"These are good solid recommendations," Siegel said. "It's likely most of them will succeed as long as there's a good serious attempt made to do it."

PSU professor of economics Tom Potiowsky had a different opinion. He was skeptical of the city's ability to incorporate 75,000 new jobs. "There's not a lot of land available for businesses to locate," Potiowsky said, "it's hard for me to imagine they're going to have that kind of employment here."

Call For Singers

Choral auditions for the St. Joseph Chorale and the 1996-97 "Music at St. Joseph" Concert Series will take place on Friday and Saturday, September 13th and 14th at St. Joseph's Church in Vancouver. Some paid positions are available. To schedule and audition time or for more information, call Dr. Maria Manzo at 360-696-4407.

Auditions For Soloists

Professional singers are sought for paid solo positions with the Vancouver "Music At St. Joseph Concert Series". Fax a one-page concert performance resume to Dr. Maria Manzo at 360-696-3959 and call 360-696-4407 to set up an audition time.

Observing Vancouver

Net Users Find Council Agenda

Computer users with an internet connection can now access the Vancouver City Council agenda for upcoming meetings.

The agenda address is: <http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/>

This connects a user to the city's home page. Single-click on *Agenda for Vancouver City Council Meeting*, or *About Vancouver's Government*.

The agenda is updated every Friday for the next Monday meeting.

Vancouver City Council meets each Monday except fifth Mondays. Regular meetings are the first and third Monday of the month starting at 7 p.m. Regular meetings include a public comment period.

Consent meetings are conducted the second and fourth Monday starting at 6 p.m. Consent meetings in-

clude routine consent items such as payment of bills and award of contracts. Consent meetings are open to the public but no public comment is taken.

Meetings are in Council Chambers at City Hall at 210 E. 13th St.

Call the city manager's office at 696-8121 for copies of staff reports and attachments.

Laotian Royalty To Visit Vancouver

His Royal Highness Prince Sourivong Savang of Laos and members of the Royal Lao (Lane Xang White Parasol) family will visit Vancouver on Aug. 22. They will be guests at a private reception hosted

by the city's International Affairs Commission and Vancouver Mayor Royce E. Pollard.

Prince Sourivong is heir to the ancient dynasty of Laos. The royal family is currently living in exile in

France.

His visit coincides with a local commemoration honoring the prince's grandparents and father who died in re-education camps after the Pathet Lao took over Laos in 1975.

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Human Resources

31224 E. Historic Columbia River Hwy.
Troutdale, OR 97060
Responses Must Be Received No Later Than Friday, Aug. 23, 1996

As an affirmative action employer, we are seeking qualified minority, female, veteran and disabled applicants; however, all qualified applicants will be considered.

Position Open:

Driver for Head Start program in NE Portland serving pregnant moms and families with children 0-3 years old. Responsible for transportation services to and from center and for program transportation for special events. Must be 21 years or older, have a valid Oregon Drivers License and have an insurable driving record. PT 16-20 hrs, variable. 10 month work year. \$550 a month plus full benefits. Call 236-9389 x 108 to have application sent to you. Please call 8:30 - 4:00 Monday through Friday. After August 25 applications may be picked up at 909 NE 52nd Avenue. Position open until September 6th or until filled.

Radio Station KGON seeking **Full-Time Traffic Director**. Must have at least 3 yrs. Traffic, programming and continuity experience computer skills, good verbal and written communications skills. Detail oriented. Send resume/references to Traffic Manager-KGON Radio, 4614 S.W. Kelly Portland, OR 97201. EEO

Banking

Residential Loan Officer

Albina Community Bank is seeking an experienced loan officer, with demonstrated track record. Individual must be motivated and enjoys working with people. Strong comprehension of FNMA/FHLMC guidelines. Send resumes to Lynn Rogers, 1130 NE Alberta Street, Portland, OR 97211 or call (503) 288-7288.

Brand New Sofa/ Only Had For 5 Months Cream w/Pillows ONLY \$150.00 Please Call 239-9680

Internet Center Coordinator

City of Eugene--Library Services

Temporary Position--September 1996-June 30, 1997

\$11.30-\$14.95/hr.

Part-time position to coordinate the operation of the Public Access Internet Center at the City of Eugene Public Library. Publicizes the Center to the community and promotes Internet use at the Library; recruits, trains, schedules, and supervises volunteers of varying ages and skill levels; interprets and enforces policies regarding operation and user conduct. Requires professional knowledge and skills, usually acquired with a college degree, preferably with course work or formal training in Internet software. **Closing Date:** August 30, 1996. Obtain application and supplemental questionnaire from City of Eugene Human Resource and Risk Services, 777 Pearl Street, Eugene OR 97401. (541) 687-5061. AA/EOE

Administrative Aide II

City of Eugene
3 Part-time Positions
Amazon, Sheldon, and Westmoreland Community Centers

Part-time positions performing clerical work of moderate difficulty and variety at one of three Community Centers. Greets and assists the public and customers in person and by phone, registers customers for classes and events using a computer-based registration system; performs cash transactions; handles rentals at a Community Center; prepares reports, correspondence; maintains records; operates standard office equipment. Requires one year of general office experience and high school equivalency. **Closing Date:** August 30, 1996. Obtain application and supplemental questionnaire from City of Eugene Human Resource and Risk Services, 777 Pearl Street, Eugene OR 97401. (541) 687-5061. AA/EOE

Folk Art Center recruits volunteers

Volunteers with a love for folk art, an interest in local history and good people skills are needed by the Grant House Folk Art Center. The Folk Art Center Board of Directors and City of Vancouver Office of Heritage Services invite folk art lovers to come to a volunteer orientation on Thursday, Aug. 22 from 4-5 pm. The volunteer orientation will be conducted at Grant House, 1101 Officers Row, Vancouver.

Volunteer are needed to help with folk art programming to help organize and hang exhibits, work with artists to set up workshops and demonstrations and work in the Folk Art Shop. Volunteers may also give tours of the Grant house to visitors and school groups.

To RSVP call Jane Morrison at the Office of Heritage Services, 699-5288.

Sub Bids Requested

Inverness Jail Expansion & Remodel

Portland, Oregon

BP#1 - Site Utilities, Dormitory Foundation, Piling and Underslab Utilities
Concrete Work - Bids Due: 2pm, September 10, 1996
at Multnomah County Purchasing
All Work Except Concrete - Bids Due 2pm, September 11, 1996

10 Day advance Prequalification with Multnomah County required forbids in excess of \$50,000



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