

# Oregon Racial Situation Said Better Than in Most Areas

Editor's Note: What is the shape of the nation's social revolution within the borders of Oregon? The state has strong civil rights laws, yet discrimination exists despite a small Negro population. How do events elsewhere touch the Oregon Negro, and what progress is being made toward equal opportunity? The following dispatch, first of two, explores Negro attitudes and measures the size of the problem.

By GORDON RICE  
United Press International  
In the 1920s the Ku Klux Klan was burning crosses in Southern Oregon and electing public officials to represent it at Salem. Today, Oregon has one of the strongest sets of civil rights laws in the nation — stronger than the federal laws proposed by the late President Kennedy. Some of its people have made the transition in attitude, and some have not. That, highly simplified, is the condition Oregon finds itself in the civil rights field in 1963.

"Today I'm proud to say I'm from Oregon at any national meeting or convention," says E. Shelton Hill, executive secretary for the Portland Urban League. "Our situation in Oregon is ages better than most areas of the nation, and improvements have been rapid and I believe are accelerating," adds Gov. Mark Hatfield.

But discrimination does exist, in spite of strong laws, a small Negro population and Oregon's generally enlightened attitude toward civil liberties. It exists "on a very quiet basis," says Dr. Wesley G. Nicholson, pastor of Eugene's First Congregational Church. "What is the racial situation in Oregon? How are its laws working? What do the Negroes want, and what progress are they making?"

It is true that the lack of Negroes means there is no problem, then most of Oregon does not have a serious problem. But this does not make the anguish of one Negro refused service in a small town Eastern Oregon restaurant any less than that of a victim of discrimination in Portland.

Portland Has Most  
Negroes comprise less than one percent of the state's population. About 16,500 of the state's approximately 16,500 Negroes live in Portland. There are smaller concentrations in Eugene, Klamath Falls, Pendleton and a few other cities. The rest are scattered widely. In 1940 there were 2,565 Negroes in the entire state. Then came World War II, the shipyards at Vanport and other wartime industry. By 1950, there were 11,329 Negroes in Oregon and by 1960 the total had climbed to 18,133.

There are four major civil rights laws on the books: —A Fair Employment Practices Law, enacted in 1949, bars discrimination by employers, employment agencies and labor unions. —The Vocational, Professional and Trade Schools Act of 1951 is designed to prevent bias on the part of training facilities which could give Negroes the skills to qualify for better jobs. —The Public Accommodations Law of 1953, which prohibits discrimination in public accommodations, resorts, places of amusement and in all places of public services. —The Housing Act of 1957, which bans discrimination in the sale or rental of housing.

Mark A. Smith, a Negro, is administrator of the civil rights division in the State Bureau of Labor. He and three staff members carry the load of enforcing these laws among nearly two million people. Smith gets about 12 complaints a month, but says "most of them are traced to personality conflicts having nothing to do with civil rights."

Five Public Hearings  
Most of the laws win acceptance once the public understands them, he says. There has been no organized opposition and only five cases have gone as far as a public hearing, which is held if attempts to mediate the dispute fail. "But laws are meaningless unless they are written in the hearts of men," Hatfield said recently in a Salem speech, and this is where civil rights workers think the work must be done.

## The Medical Roundup

By *Walter Alvarez*  
Emeritus Consultant in Medicine  
Emeritus Professor of Medicine  
Mayo Clinic  
Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963.



**Advantages of Breast Feeding**  
Perhaps I am old-fashioned, but I am always a bit distressed when I hear a doctor say to a woman who has just had a baby, "Well, dry up your breasts right away, and put your baby on the bottle." I have read many pros and cons about this, and about the only advantage I can see in bottle feeding is that there are some cases in which the mother does not give her baby enough milk. In such cases, of course, bottle feeding is justified.

What has always impressed me is that mother's milk was made for a hungry infant and cow's milk wasn't. Cow's milk can produce in an infant severe forms of allergy which can be a nuisance for the rest of the child's life. Many a bottle-fed infant's skin gets covered with eczema, or he gets severe stomach-aches, or diarrhea, or asthma. That his troubles are allergic in nature is shown by the fact that he quickly gets well when given goat's milk or a milk-like material made from soy beans.

Years ago, Dr. Corwin Hinshaw and I questioned with care 500 patients seen consecutively in our offices, and found that a fourth of them had trouble with milk. Some just could not touch it. Some said they had always been allergic to it. Sixty-five years ago, when I was in high school, none of my classmates, so far as I can remember, had any allergic trouble, such as asthma or eczema, and I often wonder if the absence of allergy in those days was due to the fact that few infants were brought up on a bottle.

I have just been reading a fine book called, "The Womanly Art of Breast Feeding," (La Leche League International, 9806 Franklin Avenue, Franklin Park, Illinois). The authors of this book feel strongly that a mother ought to nurse her baby. As the famous Dr. Granly Dick Read wrote a while ago, "The newborn baby makes only three demands: warmth in the arms of its mother, food from her breast, and security in the knowledge of her presence."

On Page 13 of the La Leche book one finds some very impressive letters from mothers who say that after they had had several bottle-fed babies, they tried breast feeding, and are now very glad that they did. One rejoices over the "wonderful feeling of being needed." She wrote, "The baby 'needs me'."

**BID TOO HIGH**  
BOISE (UPI) — Public Works Commissioner Arthur Warren said Saturday that a bid on installation of fire escapes in two dormitory buildings at State Hospital North is nearly \$3,000 above available funds.

Is there any medical treatment for gallstones? Can you make them dissolve? For answers to these questions and many more, read Dr. Alvarez' booklet, "Gallstones and Gallbladder Disease." To obtain your copy send 25 cents and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT, Box 957, Des Moines, Iowa (50324).

BECAUSE OF A PUBLIC NEED FOR ADDED NEIGHBORHOOD BANKING SERVICE IN MEDFORD, FIRST NATIONAL HAS OPENED A TRAILER BRANCH ON SOUTH RIVER SIDE AVENUE UNTIL A PERMANENT NEW BUILDING IS BUILT. COMPLETELY SAFE IT WILL OFFER A NEW BANKING CONVENIENCE TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE MEDFORD AREA. ALL DEPOSITS ARE INSURED TO THE LEGAL MAXIMUM BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP. YOU ARE INVITED TO VISIT THIS NEW BRANCH OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OREGON.

Wants Law Amended  
Webb generally regarded as the state's most militant rights worker, wants the law amended to allow the Civil Rights Division to investigate possible discrimination without the filing of a formal complaint. He also

wants swift, severe punishment of offenders without the slower steps of mediation and conciliation. "People will learn to live with stronger laws," he says. "Obviously we need changes of attitudes, but I think they will be assisted by stronger laws. At this rate it will take another 100 years."

Webb takes a less favorable view of the situation in Oregon than do most of his colleagues. "I believe there are sundown towns, but I can't pinpoint them right now," he comments. Several of his pronouncements have badly shaken a few satisfied city officials around the state. Earlier this year he requested assurances from Medford, Grants Pass and Ashland that Negroes would be welcome to use public accommodations in that region. He hinted Negroes would be sent to "test" it if the assurances were not forthcoming.

"We had a tremendous response," he says now. "We accomplished a lot in getting the communities concerned." Another one of his plans for the future calls for sending a number of Negro young people on a tour of the state to test their reception. "I think it would be telling," he explains.

Webb's hard-line efforts have brought him some opposition within the Negro community. Mrs. Vivianne Barnett, president of the Albina Civic and Taxpayers Association, said recently there is now a danger of violence in Portland because of such incidents as Webb's threat to picket the Northwest Towers Housing Project during a proposed dedication by President Kennedy. Webb said the Housing Authority of Portland discriminated in its selection of tenants.

Did Not Visit  
Kennedy decided not to visit Portland, and many people blamed the NAACP. "The result is that those who have been liberal have become antagonistic to us," Mrs. Barnett said.

There have been several incidents of violence and one death in Portland in which race played a part. Portland police say there is a "hard core" group of about 30 Negro youths who have been involved in such incidents as a post-football game riot, the chain beating of a white boy on Halloween, and several other beatings. Law enforcement agencies are attempting to get them out of circulation while youth commissions make sure the problem gets no worse.

Law enforcement authorities are hesitant to be quoted, but police have experienced some difficulty in the heavily-Negro Albina district. Multnomah County Sheriff Don Clark says it is impossible

to determine whether there is more lawlessness among Negroes than whites in the same economic class. For one thing, a Negro may be more likely to be arrested for certain offenses than a white, and on the other hand police and courts may

take a less serious view of some crimes in a Negro ghetto. His term, for this sort of crime, which he admits is not original, is "misdemeanor murder."

Next: Jobs and housing

**IF YOU CAN REPAY \$44.13 MONTHLY YOU CAN QUALIFY FOR AN \$800 SHOPPING LOAN FROM US!**

CASH YOU RECEIVE	24 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
\$ 300	\$17.71
500	28.86
600	44.13
1,000	53.89
1,200	63.52
1,500	77.87

FOR FAMILY FUN you can't beat a holiday gift the whole family can enjoy. New car, color TV, stereo, home appliances or furnishings can make yours a holiday season all will remember. CALL ON US for the money. Just a glance at the chart will show you how low your payments can be on the amount you want.

**NATIONAL THRIFT CORPORATION**  
Successors to Doug Gerow Finance and Oregon Finance.  
45 S. Central Ave. Medford, Ore.  
Jim Pierce, Mgr. Phone 779-2321

OPEN SATURDAY MORNINGS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

## HOLIDAY ITEMS SALE

From Your Friendly MARK'S *Groceteria* THE PLACE TO GO FOR THE BRANDS YOU KNOW

6th and Grape

WE GIVE THRIFTY GREEN STAMPS. FILL YOUR BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS. WE PAY \$2 CASH FOR FULL BOOKS.

**Lyons 1-lb. Package RADIANT MIX 59¢**

**Baker's Chocolate CHIPS 6-OZ. BOXES 6 FOR \$1**

**Beautiful Christmas RIBBON For Wrapping Packages 1/2 Price**

**PENNANT MARSHMALLOW CREME BIG 10-OZ. JAR 33¢**

**GOLD MEDAL FLOUR 10-lb. Bag 89¢**

**Center Cut Pork Chops 59¢ lb.**

**PORK - Loin End 3-lb. Avg. LOIN ROAST lb. 39¢**

**Spare Ribs Country Style lb. 39¢**

**ARIZONA WHITE GRAPEFRUIT 8 LB. BAG 49¢**

**Fresh Dates 12 oz. Unpitted 29¢ 10 oz. Pitted 29¢**

**FLAV-R-PAC Gooseberries 303 Tin 33¢**

**HALEY'S Garbanzos 300 Tin 2/33¢**

**MD TISSUE 4 Pack Roll 43¢**

**LIBBY Corned Beef 12-oz. Tin 59¢**

**SWIFT PREM 12-oz. Tin 53¢**

**STEINFELD TINY KOSHER DILLS 15 oz 43¢**

**BETTY CROCKER ANGEL FOOD All Flavors 49¢ ENGLISH WALNUT 69¢ MEATS Fancy Halves—1/2 Pound 4/100 DOUMAK MINIATURE MARSHMALLOWS Big 10 oz. Pkg. 4/100 KITCHEN CHARM NAPKINS 60 Count 10¢ MATEY BUBBLE BATH 2--69¢ pks. 59¢ DEL MONTE RAISINS Seedless—15 oz. pkg. 29¢ SUN MAID GOLDEN RAISINS 15 oz. 39¢ NU MAR MARGARINE 1 lb. 2/25¢ C & H SUGAR Powdered or Brown 1 Lb. Pkg. 10¢**

GROCETERIA WILL CLOSE AT 7 P.M. TUESDAY, DEC. 17 FOR EMPLOYEE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY