



THE HARVEST INSTITUTE

SPRING 2000

REPORT

A VISION BEYOND THE DREAM

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Message from the President

ALERT 2000 Census

by Dr. Claud Anderson

Year 2000 Census will be mailed to you mid-March. On April 1st, the U.S. government expects you to complete the form and return it to them for tabulation. *Fill out this form with great care.* This form will offer 63 categories for race. You will be able to check more than one racial category. Most American Blacks have a mixed racial heritage. That reflects our history in this country and accounts for the variety of skin hue, stature, and hair. **DO NOT USE THE CENSUS TO MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT YOUR MIXED RACIAL BACKGROUND.** If you select a mixed race or a race other than Black, you will not be counted as Black and the Census numbers will not reflect our true population. The questions will ask you to list all racial categories that apply. It is of critical importance that you **not select** multiple checkoffs. If you consider yourself Black, **select Black and no other.**

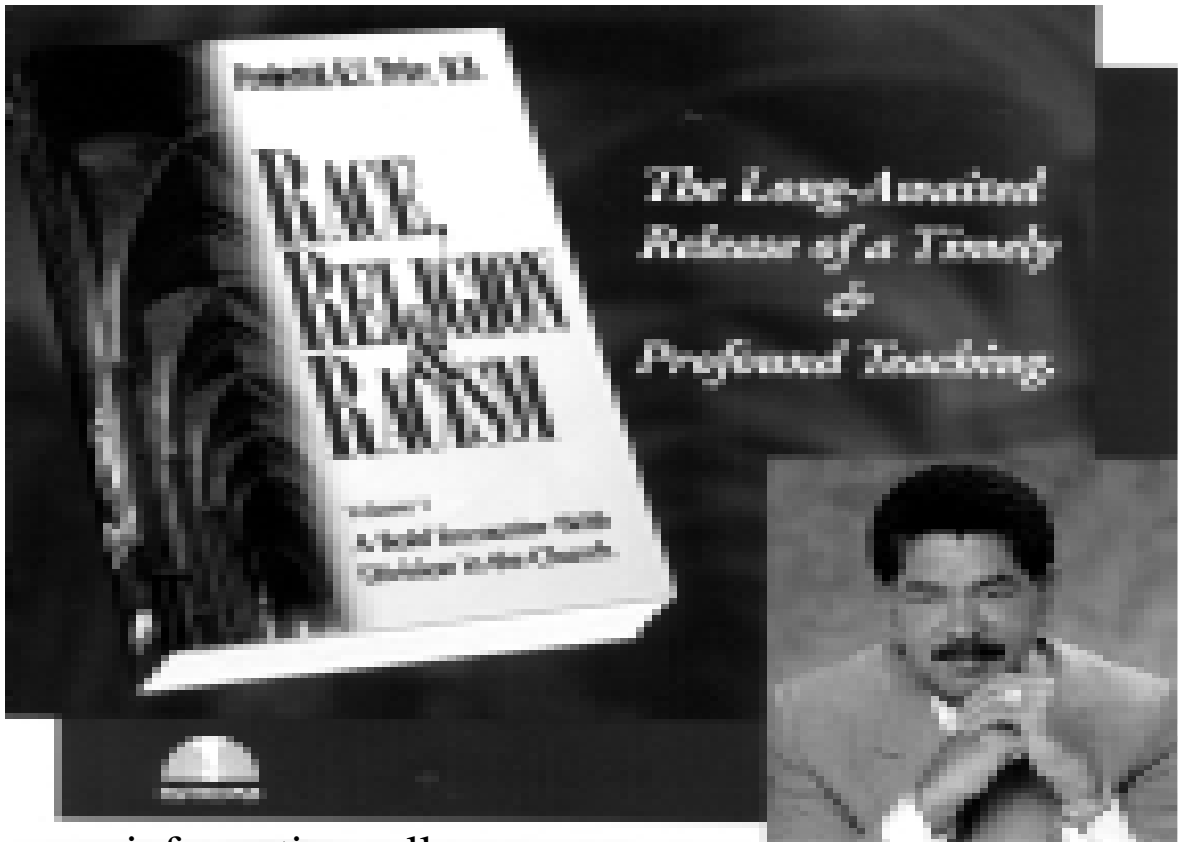
In our social democracy, power and wealth follow the numbers - the majority will win and rule, the minority will loose and suffer. Black America has always been this nation's only planned, permanent and involuntary minority or loser. After World War II, Mexican and Latin Americans protested being included with Blacks in the category of "others." They wanted their own population numbers for political and economic empowerment. Three decades later they fabricated a social-political category called Hispanics, now destined soon to numerically dominate Blacks. Blacks should not allow themselves to be further atomized nor participate in their own subordination. Once the official number of Blacks in America reduced to minority-minority status, they will have no recourse to impede them from being diluted out of existence. *(Continued on page 3)*

The Harvest Institute Mission
The mission of The Harvest Institute is to foster economic and social self-sufficiency and competitiveness for Black America.

Final Assault on Resources of Black America

The majority society fled integration and Blacks for the White suburbs more than two generations ago. Conservative White think tanks and a consortium of major banks and other businesses have concluded that rushing out of the old urban areas was a possible mistake. They now want those areas back! They have crafted several social concepts to recapture and control the Black urban communities and the infrastructures that they abandoned. The concepts are *regionalization, municipal sharing, and privatization.*

Regionalization is the process that expands the political boundaries of a majority Black jurisdiction to a larger White dominated governmental area in a way that reverses the Black majority to a White majority. Jacksonville, Florida is a classic example of regionalization. *(Continued on page 4)*



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ALERT 2000 Census (continued from page 1)

It will further erode the social and political status of Blacks. Since the Civil Rights Movement, the government and conservative groups have gone to great lengths to take the emphasis off of Blacks. The concepts of multiculturalism, cultural diversity, minority, and a “color-blind” society are all part of that effort. Throughout history, when Black people disappear so does white society’s guilt and responsibility for the treatment of Black people. The method of collecting race data in the 2000 Census is another government policy that will have a harmful effect on Blacks and will further bury Black issues. The objection is that Black labor built this country and created wealth from which only Whites were allowed to benefit. The country owes a debt to Black people, and only Black people, that has not been paid.

With 63 categories for race, **the Census is equating ethnicity with race.** **Ethnicity** refers to the common characteristics people have who come from the same geographic regions and share the same culture and usually language. **Race** and the concept of racism began as an economic practice in the 16th century. It was a literal “race” or contest between the European countries to see who could build the most wealth off of the slave trade. This was a kind of slavery that the world had not seen before. Black people were not in the race or contest. They were the prizes for the winner of the race. This new kind of slavery was based on skin color. This Black enslavement did not result from war, personal indebtedness, or religious persecution. It was slavery from which no Black person could escape.

Over the course of the last 300 years, the concept of race evolved from economics to biological, then to cultural. Today race is an amorphous generalized concept that applies generally to any person, gender, language or ethnic group that has been the victim of any kind of discrimination. The Census practice on race reflects that imprecise use of the term. It masks or covers-up the original economic disparities between the Black race and distorts the issue. The original Affirmative

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Action order was a minimum effort to correct the disparity between Blacks and Whites. It did not include ethnic or language groups. Today, as immigrants stream into the country, they may face problems of poverty. But, the poverty they experience is generally poverty that they brought with them into this country. Government policy should not equate their contemporary poverty and the uncorrected historical imposed poverty of Blacks.

This country’s responsibility to immigrants should be different than the responsibility and obligations it has to Black. The Black people of this country, most of mixed heritage, face persistent, historical, fixed problems of poverty. The economic problems that Blacks face as a group are a direct result of centuries of laws, social customs, and public policies. The 2000 Census policy on race reflects the deeply rooted institutional nature of racism.

The Census count will determine many race-based group benefits. The numbers are used to assess racial disparities in health, environmental risks, fairness of employment practices, the extent to which financial institutions are judged to serve community credit needs, legislative redistricting and many other funding, social, economic and political decisions that affect Black America. The change in the way race data is collected will dilute the official number of Blacks in the population.

Blacks have never received the benefit of their centuries of contributions to this country. The issue they face is one of justice. It is also one of competition. The year 2000 Census is a government activity that will strengthen and elevate immigrant groups over native Blacks. It will result in those groups receiving the benefits that have been earned but never enjoyed by Black people.

The Census must still decide how the racial data collected from the multiple checkoffs will be tabulated, interpreted and applied. *In the meantime, there are steps that you can take.*

The Census must still decide how the racial data collected from the multiple checkoffs will be tabulated, interpreted and applied. *In the meantime, there are steps that you can take.*

(Continued on page 5)

The Final Assault on Resources of Black America

(Continued from page 1)

When Jacksonville became predominantly Black, county officials annexed the city, making it part of the majority White county. This diluted the strength of the Black population and reversed the effect of Black population gains.

Municipal sharing allows governmental entities such as cities, townships, and counties, to enter into cooperative arrangements to share control of a public resource such as water, police and fire departments, and court systems. Municipal sharing is similar to regionalization except control of public services and assets remains public but control shifts from Black to White. This is a popular way to deal with water systems, which generally belong to the urban area that was abandoned.

Privatization is the process that converts services provided by a public entity to services provided by a private person or corporation through a contractual arrangement that turns over control, management, and profit making to the private sector. Schools and health care are examples of services that are often targets for privatization.

Regionalization, municipal sharing, and privatization allow the majority society to live in the suburbs and to recapture control of the major urban cities without ever having to alter the historical relationships between Blacks and Whites. Black mayors of many majority Black urban areas are the lynch pins to implementation of these strategies.

The Harvest Perspective

The grab for resources and wealth from Blacks and the complicity of many Black elected officials is a repeat of what occurred in the South after the devastation of the Civil War.

After the Civil War, Blacks were the dominant population in the South. In our system, the majority wins. But several things happened to prevent the shift of resources that should have accrued to Blacks. Here is the historical background.

In 1867, a few years after emancipation, U.S. Representative Thaddeus Stevens argued for redistributing economic rights to newly freed Black slaves. He was so passionate that he even promoted confiscating Confederate land and transferring title to Blacks. In arguing the point before the House, Stevens said: "Negro people could only be slaves or free. Without at least forty acres and a mule and \$100, to help them build their own communities, businesses and control their own lives, they will remain forever slaves." Representative Stevens proposed measures that would have marked an economic turning point for Blacks. As the majority population in the South, even meager economic resources would have provided them the means to become a competitive group.

But Blacks did not receive the benefits they deserved for several reasons. First, Blacks had an underdeveloped sense of their potential for power and the true nature of their changed status. They did not recognize that they were an emancipated majority; and, that majority status confers certain benefits. Second, the few Black elected officials held no power and controlled no resources but worked to maintain the status quo and to keep all resources in the hands of the White minority. At a time that was ripe for a transition of power to Blacks, these officials would not acknowledge or facilitate the change.

Robert Carlos DeBarge, one of the first Black legislators elected after the Civil War, represents the actions taken by too many Black office holders today. His inappropriate behavior set the stage for Jim Crow, the semi-slavery that lasted another 100 years. DeBarge used his public office to advocate a "time for healing" that would allow the minority Whites to set the social and economic agenda in the South. He advocated that Blacks forgive their previous White masters and not seek to take any of their land. A short 15 years later, Blacks were re-enslaved by Jim Crow. For the next hundred years, the White political structure refused to acknowledge Black people's unique historical experiences and economic dilemma and demonstrated a cruel indifference to their future. The North threw a figurative blanket over the resources of the whole Southern *(Continued on page 6)*

ALERT 2000 Census (Continued from page 3)

- 1** **Be alert and stay Black! Check Black as a race category and nothing else.** Spread the word to your friends, and relatives.
- 2** **Census issues are tied directly to immigration policy.** Blacks should demand that the 1790 naturalization law and present day barriers against Black people be removed. New immigration policies should be instructed that allow Blacks to immigrate into this country at a catch-up rate that is similar to the rate Hispanics, Asians and other groups have entered over the last four decades. Ninety-nine percent of all Hispanics and Asians have come to this country since the end of the Black Civil Rights Movement in the 1970s.
- 3** **Demand that your congressional representatives require the Census to count the data for Blacks who check other races be counted as Blacks.** To reach a member of the House of Representatives call 202-224-3121, or write to US House of Representatives, Washington, D.C 20515. To reach a member of the Senate call the same number but write to the US Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.
- 4** **Use all means available to get the word out -** church, social organizations through any means possible - e-mail, word-of mouth, fax, and photocopies of the article, telephone trees, loud speakers, radio, and television.

Read Chapter 5, Why Blacks Cannot Emulate Ethnic Immigrants in *Black Labor, White Wealth* by *Dr. Claud Anderson* for further background information.

Scholarships Awarded

The Harvest Institute and the PowerNomics Corporation of America presented scholarships to three outstanding students from **Florida Avenue Baptist Church** in Washington, D.C. who wrote winning essays on how they would use their education to help Black people progress.

Noelle Trent, a freshman at Howard University, majoring in history, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Harvest Institute. PowerNomics presented \$500 awards to each of two graduate students **Arlean Wells** and **Diana Mitchell**. Ms. Wells is working on a Masters degree in Policy Analysis and Management at Cornell University. Ms. Mitchell is pursuing a Ph.D. at George Mason University in educational leadership. All three students will have an opportunity to intern at the Institute and at the PowerNomics Radio Network (PRN) to work on policy issues that affect Black America and to learn first hand how to apply PowerNomics principles to business development. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients, to Florida Avenue Baptist Church, and to **Dr. Earl Trent**, pastor, as they work to economically strengthen their community, their church and their race.

PowerNomics Quote

The first thing every immigrant group does is to build a community of people who look, talk and behave alike. Black people have been conditioned to seek neighborhoods and integration and therefore do not have one single community in which to store its cultural values, wealth, businesses, income, unity sense of security, political power and other human resources.

-Dr. Claud Anderson

Final Assault

(Continued from p. 1)

region and absorbed them. So early regionalization benefited Whites and the North. The economic circumstances of Blacks did not change at a point in history where it could have happened.

Today, like Robert Carlos DeBarge, many Black elected officials are blind to the needs of their own people and to the economic opportunities that should rightfully accrue to the majority Black populations in their cities. They are venerated for being race-neutral. Two recent newspaper articles paint the picture. Both the **Washington Post** (January 17, 2000, front page) and a series featured in the **Detroit Free Press** (front page February 14, 2000) explored how Blacks elected to high offices revitalize their cities but ignore their Blackness, the historical problems of Black people, and racism. The series in the **Detroit Free Press** paid particular attention to “second generation Black mayors of urban Black cities such as Detroit, Philadelphia, the District of Columbia, and until recent elections, Baltimore.” According to these articles, compromise is one of the strongest strategies used by these elected officials. Regionalization, municipal sharing and privatization are compromises. But is never clear, what Black people receive from these elected officials and group compromises or the alliances they negotiate.

When Black mayors of majority Black cities embrace regionalization, municipal sharing and privatization, they often commit their city’s resources and assets to build business, wealth opportunities, and jobs for Whites and ethnic immigrants, many of whom often even live outside the city boundaries. Like DeBarge, they use the assets of their Black communities to create wealth opportunities for others but withhold them from the Black population. By ignoring the racial issues, they become instruments to maintain the economic status quo and Blacks do not prosper even when they make the shift and become the majority.

When Whites abandoned the cities they extracted nearly every wealth, income, tax revenue and job producing business, institution, and industry from the Black communities and Black politically controlled municipalities. The departing Whites knew it would be difficult if not impossible for Blacks to maintain the cities with an eroded tax base. Black people are

electing Black candidates to office rather than devising creative ways to make Black urban cities self-sufficient and competitive by building Black economies, educational systems, and institutions within these urban communities. They have instead turned them back over to the White power elite that abandoned them nearly four decades ago.

Having realized that they now want and need the riverfronts, skyscrapers, bridges, subways, and international borders of the old abandoned urban cities, the majority White society is willing to return, but only under their terms and controls. For example, in privatization there is no substantial record of the majority society demonstrating serious intent to educate Black children to be competitive with White children. As many Black mayors and councils support the move, it does not take a great deal of analysis to determine why there is such aggressive support for the nationwide effort to privatize urban schools or for Black “race-neutral” mayors to take over the school boards. The prize is not the education of Black children. The prize is the clear shot corporations have at nearly \$100 billion in urban school budgets. They want the funds being allocated to purchase books, school supplies, lunch programs, building construction, maintenance and repairs, professional services, computers and Internet providers. Major corporations that can contribute to local political campaigns should have little difficulty establishing an education arm that can reach into the pockets of urban Black school districts.

Because the Black municipalities have failed to operate as a majority and are on a path that will transfer their potential for wealth and strength to other groups, soon Black elected officials will simply be figureheads.

These strategies will be applied to other Black city assets like major convention centers, airports, city service contracts, property on tax rolls, entertainment centers, housing developments, public institutions, court systems, public water systems, and public sewage systems in Black urban areas are up for grabs.

Because the Black municipalities have failed to operate as a majority and are on a path that will transfer their potential for wealth and strength to other groups, soon Black elected officials will simply be figureheads. Once Whites have seized control of all the resources within the Black communities, including the Black elected officials, control of the police departments, fire departments and court systems, they will likely move *Continued on p. 7.*

Final Assault

continued from page

back into the cities and take advantage of the best property and business opportunities. The combined effects of municipal sharing, regionalization and privatization and failure of Black elected officials to use their resources to correct the historical inequalities in Black urban cities will permanently lock Blacks into an underclass status.

Recommended Action:

1. Be aware of and publicly oppose political schemes that exclude Blacks, whether implicit or explicit, from ownership, control and profit making aspects of governmental projects.
2. Be aware of the dilution effects of proposals. Oppose all that reduce Blacks from majority to minority numerical status.
3. When it become inevitable that public resources in Black areas are going to be privatized or regionalized, the community should demand that existing Black corporations or corporations formed for the purpose of performing the function to be privatized, assume the operation of the public facilities. When that occurs, you must then hold the Black corporation accountable to the community.

A Word of Explanation...

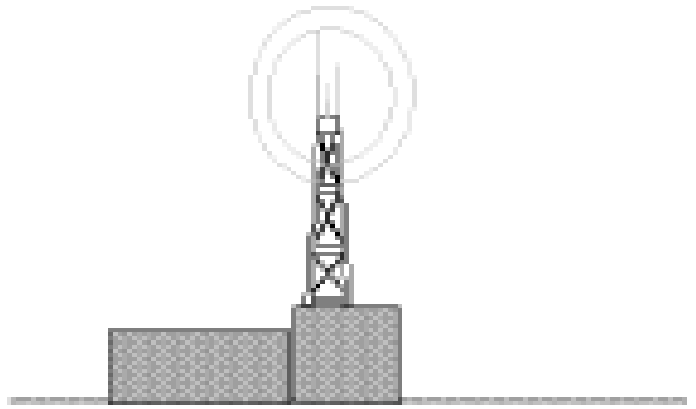
You will notice that The Harvest Institute capitalizes the words Black and White when referring to people. This may feel unfamiliar but we do it out of respect for both the Black and White race. It is inappropriate to capitalize Asians, Hispanics and other groups and not give Whites and Blacks respect to which both are entitled.

Did You Know that Blacks were the Model for The Holocaust?

In 1939, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt and other political leaders protested to Adolph Hitler, of Germany, against his treatment of European Jews, Hitler laughed scornfully and replied, "Look at how you treat the Negroes. I learned how to persecute Jews by studying the manner in which you Americans persecute Negroes." President Roosevelt had no answer. Two years earlier he had refused to support an anti-lynching bill. At that time at least one Black man was being lynched per day in Southern states. Sixty years after millions of Black Americans joined this nation's war efforts to stop the persecution of Jews, racial exploitations, subordination, and abuses of Black Americans continue.

Source: Matthew Frye Jacobson.
Whiteness of a Different Color.
(Mass: Harvard University Press,
1998)

Low Power Radio Service Update



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently adopted rules creating a new, noncommercial low power FM radio (LPFM) service. The new service will consist of stations with maximum power levels of 10 watts - reaching an area with a radius of between 1 and 2 miles - and 100 watts - reaching an area with a radius of approximately 3 ½ miles. The rules will be effective April 17.

Unlike the majority of radio stations that can accept advertising, this service will be non-commercial. Groups that are eligible to apply for the licenses can be non-commercial government or private educational organizations, associations or entities; or nonprofit entities with educational purposes. LPFM licenses will be awarded throughout the FM radio band and will not be limited to the channels reserved for use by noncommercial educational radio stations.

This new low power service will be exclusively non-commercial. No existing broadcaster or other media entity can have an ownership interest, or enter into any program or operating agreement, with any LPFM station. Other commercial media including radio and cable operators will not be able to participate in this process.

During the first 2 years of LPFM license eligibility, licensees will be limited to local entities certifying that they are physically headquartered, has a campus or has 75% of their board members residing, within 10 miles of the station they seek to operate. During this time, no entity may own more than one LPFM station in any given community. LPFM stations will have 8-year renewable terms and they will not be transferable.

The FCC intends to set a five-day window for filing applications, which they will announce, in a Public Notice. The application will probably not be available before May 2000. The Commission will provide 30 days public notice before accepting any applications. Application forms and information on how to file applications for low power radio stations will be avail-

able through this website (www.fcc.gov/mmb/prd.lpfm). There are a number of issues to watch with LPFM. Even though the FCC has approved this new service, there's a great deal of opposition from Congress and existing broadcasters. There is a possibility that LPFM will not get off the ground.

Even though these are small operations, they will be expensive to operate and revenue will be difficult to raise. Licensees will still need to follow the rules for large, full-power operations. To be successful you will need money for operations, lawyers, engineers, etc. Not only that, but these stations must be prepared to compete against well-heeled non-commercial entities. This is not a strong class of service new licensees will need money for the same things NPR-based stations need.

Harvest Analysis:

Harvest Affiliates and other Black non-profit community groups, churches, associations, chambers of commerce and any other organized groups with an interest in media ownership may find value in this service. Those who decide to apply should approach this service cautiously and take advantage of assistance that will be available. The United Church of Christ has received a \$250,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to offer educational and advocacy services to community based groups interested in LPFM. They will offer technical and organizational support services for those who may want to apply for a radio license. For more information contact the UCC at 503-236-0527. Another group out of Philadelphia, the Prometheus Radio Project, will also provide technical assistance. The Harvest Institute will make arrangements with a law firm to provide filing assistance if this service becomes a reality.

Because Whites own 98% of the commercial radio and television stations, according to a study by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Black people have little means of communicating information and ideas to and about their community.

*Low Power Update
(continued)*

LPFM is a very small and limited opportunity but it is one that we should participate in. Local groups should make the decision now whether their group wants to make the long term commitment.

The Harvest Institute will track this issue continue providing updates through this newsletter.

Historical Riches

Sometimes we miss the value of riches that surround us. In the book, **A Modern Guide to Recapturing Historical Riches: From Darkness to Light**, LaCheryl B. Cillie and Yolanda White Powell show how to appreciate our grandmother's things and the items that are stashed away in their closets and cupboards. The book provides an instructional manual that can help Blacks "build family inheritance, establish family keepsakes and reconnect family ties from one generation to the next." The authors show how to create new riches from history through auction buys, estate sale purchases or thrift store finds and their purpose is to help Black Americans recapture the past today and to preserve it for the future.

Black people were the artisans and craftsmen during slavery and the period of Jim Crow that followed. Cillie and Powell include pictures of the ironworks, quilts, and pottery and describe some of those famous craftsmen and their work. Yet, Cillie was inspired to write the book because of her family's experience after the death of their great grandmother. She watched as her great grandmothers' things including quilts, linens, glassware and furniture, totally discarded by family members were put on the junk pile. The writers hope to help families reclaim their past and to provide a guide that helps Black families establish traditions of transferring legacies, establishing keepsakes, and maintaining heritage.

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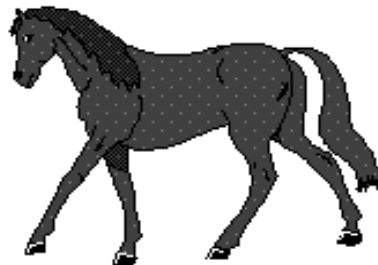
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