

PRRAC

Poverty & Race Research Action Council

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COMPILATION OF PRRAC RESOURCES ON REPARATIONS

FEBRUARY 2009

Part 2

Apologies/Reparations

We periodically offer a compendium of recent reports dealing with apologies and reparations around the world—for whatever lessons and models they might provide here at home. The most recent appeared in our March 2007 issue. We'll be happy to send you a collection of all earlier such versions; just send us a SASE (59¢ postage).

- Rev. Bob Jones Univ., the fundamentalist Christian school in Greenville, South Carolina, issued an apology for past racist policies that included a ban until 2000 on interracial dating and its unwillingness until 1971 to admit blacks. (*NY Times*, 11/22/08)
- Pres. Bush signed a bill giving the Army authority to award back pay with interest to 28 black soldiers wrongly convicted of rioting—an Army board overturned the convictions, citing lack of due process—in one of the largest court-martials of World War II. Only one of the soldiers is known to survive. (*NY Times*, 10/15/08)
- A group of about 200 prominent Turkish intellectuals—academics, journalists, writers, artists—issued an apology on the Internet for the World War I-era massacre of more than a million Armenians in Turkey by the Ottoman Turk government. (*NY Times*, 12/16/08)
- A delegation of British Baptists apologized in Jamaica for Britain's role in the transatlantic slave trade. "We have heard God speaking to us. We repent of the hurt we have caused." (*Wash. Post*, 5/31/08)
- Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in an address to the House of Commons carried live across Canada, apologized to Canada's native people for the long-time government policy of forcing their children to attend state-funded schools designed to assimilate them. Phil Fontaine, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, wearing a traditional native headdress, was allowed to speak from the floor in response. The government has offered those taken from their families compensation for the years they attended the residential schools, as part of a lawsuit settlement. Several months earlier, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made a similar gesture to the so-called Stolen Generations—thousands of aborigines forcibly taken from their families as children under assimilation policies that lasted from 1910 to 1970. (*San Francisco Chronicle*, 6/12/08). [See related articles in Nov./Dec. 2008 *P&R*.]
- A church in St. Augustine, FL, in a "service of reconciliation," apologized for turning away blacks in 1964 and honored two women who, as child civil rights activists, accompanied by an elderly white woman, were barred admission. (SFGate, 6/14/04)
- Ellis Island is adding a new Peopling of America Center, to be completed in 2011, expanding its story of U.S. immigration history, adding for the first time Native Americans and African slaves. (*Wash. Post*, 9/25/08)
- The Spanish government, in a "law of historic memory," has offered citizenship to the descendants of those exiled from Spain during the Spanish Civil War and the fascist dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco. A half million people, many of them in Argentina, Venezuela, Cuba and elsewhere in Latin America, are expected to file for citizenship. The same law provides public financing to unearth the mass graves of thousands of Spaniards buried during the war. (*NY Times*, 12/29/08)
- Tens of thousands of Mexicans who toiled as railroad workers and farm laborers—braceros—in the U.S. from 1941-46 will be allowed to collect back pay under the terms of a settlement of a long-fought class action lawsuit, originally filed in 2001. Under the program, 10% of their pay was deducted and transferred to the Mexican government, to be given to the workers when they returned to Mexico, but many said they never received the pay or even knew about the deduction. Each bracero, or surviving heirs, will receive \$3,500. Many are living in California, Texas, Illinois and other parts of the U.S. (*NY Times*, 10/16/08)
- The Magic of an Apology, by Deborah Howard of Guiding Change, examines the potential for apologies to prevent rather than create litigation. <http://guidingchange.org/blog/2008/05/29/the-magic-of-an-apology/#more.64>
- "Paid in Full? A Federal judge closes the door on a reparations suit," by Mick Dumke, appeared in the Winter 2005-2006 issue of *ColorLines*. The suit, brought by 19 plaintiffs from across the country, accused Aetna, CSX, JP Morgan Chase and 14 other companies of "unjust enrichment" and crimes against humanity, noting how the firms' predecessors had owned, traded, insured and transported enslaved Africans—and demanded disclosure of all such involvement and establishment of a trust fund to pay an unspecified amount of restitution. (For a copy, send a SASE to Chester Hartman at PRRAC.)
- The Irish Republican Army apologized to relatives of about a dozen people it murdered and buried in hidden graves over the 30 years of Northern Ireland's sectarian conflict. (*NY Times*, 10/25/03)
- The Christian Brothers, a Roman Catholic order that ran many Irish schools throughout the 20th century, apologized for the actions of a brother convicted of sexually abusing boys from 1959-74. (*NY Times*, 11/27/03)

• “The Reparations Bandwagon,” by Salim Muwakkil, on the acceleration of the national movement to gain reparations for descendants of enslaved Africans, appeared in the Sept. 2006 issue of *In These Times*. (For a copy, send a SASE to Chester Hartman at PRRAC.)

• New York City’s Museum of Natural History, in a ceremony attended by nearly 4 dozen members of the Tseycum First Nation in British Columbia, in traditional dress at the end of a 3,000-mile journey, is repatriating the remains of 55 of their ancestors, guessed to be at least 2,000 years old and at the museum for about 100 years—ending a 7-year campaign. (*NY Times*, 6/18/08)

• The American Medical Association made a public address to the National Medical Association (the black physicians’ group formed in 1895 in response to their exclusion from the AMA and its constituent societies), apologizing for a century of “past wrongs.” (*NY Times*, 7/29/08)

• “Long March to an Apology,” an op-ed by Mindy Kotler, on the justice due to American prisoners of war taken prior to the Dec. 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor attack (members now of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor), appeared in the 5/28/08 *NY Times*. (For a copy, send a SASE to Chester Hartman at PRRAC.)

• Two real estate developers in Stonewall, MS, having just purchased a shuttered cotton mill, discovered the edge of a buried swimming pool, learning that “in its heyday, the kids lived there all day long”—the white kids, that is. In the early 70s, the mill owners filled the pool with dirt rather than integrate it. Now the (white) developers are spending about \$250,000 to excavate and restore the pool and open it up to kids (and adults) of all races. (*AARP Bulletin*, Dec. 2006). (For a copy of the article, send a SASE to Chester Hartman at PRRAC.) □

(BUDGET: Continued from page 9)

tion and high economic growth.

The Freedom Budget proposed an outlay of \$185 billion in 10 years—which “sounds like a great deal of money, and it is a great deal of money.” But it presumed, indeed called for, an expansion of the nation’s economy, leading to increased federal revenues. And of course, even adjusting for 2009 dollars, that sum is dwarfed by what we now spend in bailout and war funding. The document reported that 34 million Americans were then living in poverty, 28 million others “just on the edge... Almost one-third of our nation lives in poverty or want.” (Shades of FDR...)

The 211 signers of the document represented a who’s who of late 60s progressive thinking and activism: Walter Reuther, I.W. Abel, David Dubinsky, Albert Shanker et al. from the labor movement; academics Kenneth Clark, John Kenneth Galbraith, Gunnar Myrdal, Hylan Lewis, C. Vann Woodward, David Riesman et al.; civil rights leaders Dorothy Height, Roy Wilkins, Floyd McKissick, Whitney Young, Jr., John Lewis, Vernon Jordan; Ralph Bunche, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Jules Feiffer, Father Robert Drinan, Burke

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PRRAC Update

• At our recent 20th anniversary celebration, PRRAC honored one of its founding Board members, **Florence Wagman Roisman**, who is retiring from the Board after many years of service. Florence is William F. Harvey Professor of Law at the Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis. She has written extensively on race and federal housing policy, and has been an innovator in the teaching of property law. She has helped inspire PRRAC to maintain a strong focus on school and housing desegregation, and has taken a lead role in a number of PRRAC conferences and projects, including the Third National Conference on Housing Mobility in 2004. Before coming to law teaching, Florence worked at the National Housing Law Project and at Neighborhood Legal Services in DC. We will miss Florence, but we expect to call on her regularly for advice and assistance!

• PRRAC Board member **Don Nakanishi** last November was awarded the Yale Medal, the highest award presented by the Associa-

tion of Yale Alumni, honoring outstanding individual service to the University (where he got his undergraduate degree).

• **Phil Tegeler’s** analysis of the implications of the Supreme Court’s voluntary school integration decision on fair housing policy has been published in a new book from the Urban Institute, *Public Housing: The Legacy of Racial Segregation*, edited by (PRRAC Social Science Advisory Board member) Margery Austin Turner, Susan J. Popkin and Lynette Rawlings. Available from the Urban Institute Press (304 pp., \$29.50 pb). Order online at <http://www.uipress.org>

• Former (and founding) PRRAC Board member **Robert Greenstein** recently received the prestigious (and monetarily hefty: \$250,000) annual Heinz Award for his long-time leadership of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

• **Chester Hartman** spent 3 days last November at Hofstra University as Visiting Presidential Scholar.

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- The Virginia House of Delegates unanimously approved a resolution expressing "profound regret for the Commonwealth's role in sanctioning the immoral institution of human slavery...and... all other forms of discrimination and injustice that have been rooted in racial and cultural bias and misunderstanding"; the statement also condemns the "egregious wrongs" that European settlers inflicted on Native Americans. The action comes as the state is celebrating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, the first settlement of Europeans. (*Wash. Post*, 2/3/07)
- Immediately thereafter, Maryland lawmakers heard testimony on a similar resolution "expressing regret" for that state's role in maintaining slavery and "for the discrimination that was slavery's legacy." The resolution says in part: "Maryland citizens trafficked in human flesh until the adoption of the Constitution of 1864....Slavery's legacy has afflicted the citizens of our state down to the present." (*Wash. Post*, 3/2/07)

PRRAC Small Grants Program Now Soliciting Proposals for 2007 Grants

Thanks to another generous grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, we are pleased to announce the renewal of our Small Grants Program for 2007.

PRRAC's Small Grants Program for Research/Advocacy funds social science research designed to support advocacy projects (of any sort). Our goal is to support, encourage and disseminate action-oriented research; and to make connections between and among those who engage in action, advocacy, organizing and research.

The maximum grant is \$10,000, with proposals for smaller budgets encouraged, so that we can support more work of this sort. In this grant cycle, we will give preference to grants in the areas of housing, education and health, as well as to work carried out in the cities where the Annie E. Casey Foundation runs its "Making Connections" programs: Denver, Des Moines, Hartford, Indianapolis, Louisville, Milwaukee, Oakland, Providence, San Antonio and Seattle.

See www.prrac.org/grants.php for a description of past grants, and guidelines for submissions. Questions: Write or call PRRAC Director of Research (Chester Hartman (charman@prrac.org), 202/906-8025).

- The City Council of Maryland's capital city, Annapolis, has under consideration a resolution calling for an official apology for slavery, in the words of its sponsor, Alderman Sam Shropshire, "part of a healing process, a process that still needs to take place even today in 2007...for our municipal government's past support and involvement in slavery and for our support of segregation for nearly 100 years." (*Wash. Post*, 3/23/07)
- Britain's lawmakers granted posthumous pardons to some 300 soldiers executed during World War I for failing to return to the front. (*Wash. Post*, 11/8/06)
- Topeka, Kansas officials have named a building after the first Topeka parent to sign on as a plaintiff in *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Lucinda Todd Education Center houses administrative offices and an alternative school for students in danger of dropping out. Ms. Todd, who died in 1993, was Secretary of the local NAACP chapter and helped recruit other plaintiffs. (*Wash. Post*, 11/19/06)
- The Montgomery, Alabama City Council voted unanimously to formally apologize to Rosa Parks and others mistreated in the 1955 bus boycott. (*Wash. Post*, 4/20/06)
- A federal judge approved a \$35 million settlement in a class action against an Italian insurance company by Holocaust survivors and relatives of victims, adding to the \$100 million the company already had agreed to pay. (*New York Times*, 2/28/07)
- A ceremony at the U.S. Capitol honored Oscar Marion, a slave owned by Revolutionary War Gen. Francis Marion (known as the "Swamp Fox" for his battle against the British in So. Carolina), who accompanied and served the General for 7 years during the War of Independence. Oscar Marion is depicted in many paintings (including one hanging in the Senate wing of the Capitol) and is described only as "the faithful Negro servant" in books written about Gen. Marion. A distant cousin, a genealogist, undertook to establish his identity. Rep. Albert R. Wynn (D-Md.), who helped arrange the ceremony, noted that "African Americans have been marginalized in so many different events in American history, as if they didn't exist. Whenever we can bring to light the name of a figure engaged in a historic event, it is good thing." (*Wash. Post*, 12/29/06)

- A bill approved by Congress calls for a federal study to better define the Trail of Tears route, when more than 15,000 members of the Cherokee, Creek and other tribes were forced from their homes in 1838 to make way for white settlement. Untold hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Native Americans died during the forced removal to Indian Territory—in what is now Oklahoma. The National Park Service oversees the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, which winds through nine states. The study likely will also result in an education and research center. Rep. Zach Wamp (R-Tenn.), primary sponsor of the bill, who claims Cherokee ancestry, noted: “You have to recognize and acknowledge your mistakes for the white man to make this right. There has to be an acknowledgement that ... slavery was a mistake, the Trail of Tears was a mistake.” (*Wash. Post*, 11/24/06)

- The House and Senate passed a bill committing \$38 million in National Park Service grants to restore and pay for research at 10 World War II internment camps for Japanese Americans, some 120,000 of whom were rounded up and imprisoned under a 1942 Executive Order signed by President Roosevelt, which also prohibited Japanese Americans from living on the West Coast. The Park Service already operates centers at two camps, the Manzanar National Historic Site in California and the Minidoka Internment National Monument in Idaho. The 10 camps specified in the new legislation are in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. In 1988, President Reagan signed a presidential apology. (*New York Times*, 12/6/06)

- H.R. 662, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act, has been introduced by Reps. Xavier Becerra (D-Calif.) and Dan Lundgren (R-Calif.). During World War II, an estimated 2,300 people of Japanese descent from 13 Latin American countries were taken from their homes and forcibly transported to a government-run internment camp in Crystal City, Texas. Adding to this injustice, some 800 of them were then sent to Japan in exchange for American prisoners of war, the rest held in camps without due process until the war ended. The bill authorizes study of these events (via U.S. military and State Department records) and recommendation of appropriate remedies. The earlier Commission on Wartime Relocation of Civilians led to passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided an official apology and financial redress to most of the Japanese Americans who were subjected to wrongdoing and confined to camps during World War II.

- The Serbian entity of the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina officially apologized to the victims of the 1992-95 civil war, 2 days after international judges in The Hague ruled that Bosnian Serb forces had committed genocide in the killing of nearly 8,000 Muslims in Srebrenica in 1995. (*New York Times*, 3/1/07)

- The Justice Department is partnering with civil rights organizations—the NAACP, National Urban League and Southern Poverty Law Center—to pursue the killers of scores of black men and women slain by white vigilantes in the South during the 1950s and 1960s. There are 40 unsolved murder cases that are of interest to the federal government (although the Southern Poverty Law Center has compiled a list of 76 unsolved cases, mainly in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia), and the Department will re-open investigations in 12 cases.

And the not-so-good news:

- The Cherokee Nation members voted to revoke the tribal citizenship of the Freedmen, some 2,800 descendants of the people the Cherokee’s once owned as slaves. A similar battle in 2003 involving the Seminole nation was won by the Freedmen. (*Wash. Post*, 3/3/07, *New York Times*, 3/3/07, 3/4/07)

- Indonesia’s Constitutional Court ruled the country’s truth and reconciliation commission illegal, casting doubt on whether victims of former dictator Suharto will ever see justice. (*Wash. Post*, 12/9/06)

- A grand jury in Leflore County, Mississippi, refused to issue new indictments in the Emmett Till case. While two men admitted to the killing in 1956 after being acquitted by an all-white jury, the Justice Dept. re-opened the case in 2004, seeking others who had been involved, including Carolyn Bryant, the white woman Till was supposed to have whistled at—which led to his murder. The 8,000+ page FBI report was turned over to the District Attorney, who sought a manslaughter charge against Ms. Bryant, the last living suspect in the case. (*New York Times*, 2/28/07)

- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has denied that Japan’s military forced foreign women into sexual slavery during World War II, contradicting the Japanese government’s long-time official position, issued in 1993, acknowledging the military’s role in setting up brothels and directly or indirectly forcing women into sexual slavery—a declaration that also offered an apology to the euphemistically termed “comfort women.” The U.S. House of Representatives has begun debating a resolution that would call on Tokyo to “apologize for and acknowledge” the military’s role. Historians believe that some 200,000 women—Koreans, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipinos, as well as Japanese, Dutch and other European women, served in such brothels. The government earlier established a private, non-governmental fund to compensate the women (set to close down this month), but many former slaves refused to accept compensation from this fund, claiming it evaded direct official responsibility. (*New York Times*, 3/2/07, 3/6/07, 3/8/07)

estate agents may be introduced to communities they never considered, but it is likely that many people approach an agent with a particular geography already in mind. Moreover, in another question on our survey, we learned that there is substantial racial matching between client and agent: The great majority of whites (98%), blacks (70%) and Latinos (70%) are assisted by a real estate agent of their same racial/ethnic background. Thus, although agents' blind spots are likely to be fewer than those of their clients, this race-matching of agent and client may further aggravate the barrier of community knowledge or at the least minimizes the improvements a real estate agent might offer.

Our study of racial blind spots suggests that affirmative marketing—educating residents about the variety of housing options available—is a critical step in the goal for integrated living. There are substantial racial blind spots in community knowledge that must be overcome. The kinds of work currently being done by places like the Oak Park Regional Housing Center or to be done in the future by the start-up, MoveSmart.org, are two examples of organizations seeking to reduce these kinds of blind spots. Policies and programs like this, in concert with critical enforcement work, can be one part of the solution needed to help dismantle the pernicious pattern of segregation in many of our nation's cities. □

Resources

<http://www.igpa.uillinois.edu/system/files/CriticalIssues07-2008Krysan.pdf>

<http://www.igpa.uillinois.edu/system/files/PF20-3.pdf>

MoveSmart.org

Maria Krysan and Michael Bader (2007), "Seeing the City through a Prism of Race." *Social Forces* 86(2): 699-733.

Apology for Slavery

On July 29, the House passed, by voice vote (with no nays), an apology for slavery. The resolution, introduced in February 2007 by Rep. Steve Cohen of Memphis, had 120 sponsors. Full, eloquent text below:

H. Res. 194

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,
July 29, 2008.

Whereas millions of Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and the 13 American colonies from 1619 through 1865;

Whereas slavery in America resembled no other form of involuntary servitude known in history, as Africans were captured and sold at auction like inanimate objects or animals;

Whereas Africans forced into slavery were brutalized, humiliated, dehumanized, and subjected to the indignity of being stripped of their names and heritage;

Whereas enslaved families were torn apart after having been sold separately from one another;

Whereas the system of slavery and the visceral racism against persons of African descent upon which it depended became entrenched in the Nation's social fabric;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the passage of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865 after the end of the Civil War;

Whereas after emancipation from 246 years of slavery, African-Americans soon saw the fleeting political, social, and economic gains they made during Reconstruction eviscerated by virulent racism, lynchings, disenfranchisement, Black Codes, and racial segregation laws that imposed a rigid system of officially sanctioned racial segregation in virtually all areas of life;

Whereas the system of de jure racial segregation known as 'Jim Crow,' which arose in certain parts of the Nation following the Civil War to create separate and unequal societies for whites and African-Americans, was a direct result of the racism against persons of African descent engendered by slavery;

Whereas a century after the official end of slavery in America, Federal action was required during the 1960s to eliminate the de jure and de facto system of Jim Crow throughout parts of the Nation, though its vestiges still linger to this day;

Whereas African-Americans continue to suffer from the complex interplay between slavery and Jim Crow—long after both systems were formally abolished—through enormous damage and loss, both tangible and intangible, including the loss of human dignity, the frustration of careers and professional lives, and the long-term loss of income and opportunity;

Whereas the story of the enslavement and de jure segregation of African-Americans and the dehumanizing atrocities committed against them should not be purged from or minimized in the telling of American history;

Whereas on July 8, 2003, during a trip to Goree Island, Senegal, a former slave port, President George W. Bush acknowledged slavery's continuing legacy in American life and the need to confront that legacy when he stated that slavery 'was . . . one of the greatest crimes of history . . . The racial bigotry fed by slavery did not end with slavery or with segregation. And many of the issues that still trouble America have roots in the bitter experience of other times. But however long the journey, our destiny is set: 'liberty and justice for all.';

Whereas President Bill Clinton also acknowledged the deep-seated problems caused by the continuing legacy of racism against African-Americans that began with slavery when he initiated a national dialogue about race;

(Please turn to page 10)

Apologies/Reparations

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- The Church of England, two centuries after profiting from the venture, has apologized to the descendants of its victims for its role in the global slave trade, which involved running a Caribbean island (Barbados) sugar plantation and branding the blacks who worked on it. A further instance cited in the apology was a \$23,000 payment made to the Bishop of Exeter in compensation for the loss of 665 slaves after Barbados emancipated them in 1833. (*Wash. Post*, 2/11/06)
- South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford signed a bill to add the name of former Senator Strom Thurmond’s biracial daughter — Essie Mae Washington-Williams — to the list of his children engraved on his monument. (*NY Times*, 6/29/04)
- The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, a Roman Catholic religious order in Ireland, apologized unconditionally for the “physical and emotional trauma” its nuns inflicted on children raised in its orphanages and schools. A 1966 television documentary that exposed the extent of abuse at one of the Dublin orphanages in the 1950s and 1960s prompted an earlier public apology, but the most recent statement went further, noting that abuse survivors had dismissed the earlier apology as conditional and incomplete. (*NY Times*, 5/6/04)
- Norway will compensate the country’s 8,000-12,000 “war children” — born to Norwegian women and German soldiers during the World War II German occupation — for the systematic harassment and bullying they were subjected to after the war. Each will receive \$3,000-\$30,000; but the amounts fall short of claims of up to \$72,000 sought by the Association of War Children. (*NY Times*, 7/3/04)
- Illinois Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn and a representative of the Illinois State Legislature came to Salt Lake City to present to Utah Governor Olene Walker and leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints a copy of Illinois’ House Resolution 793, expressing “official regret” for the violence and state-sanctioned condemnation that caused the Mormons to leave the state in 1846 on the trek that led them to Utah. (*NY Times*, 4/8/04)
- Under a bill approved by the state’s Senate, stretches of Mississippi highways in three counties are being renamed for James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, the three civil rights workers murdered by Klan members in Philadelphia, MS in 1964. The bill also will rename a portion of another highway the Emmett Till Memorial Highway. (*Wash. Post*, 2/11/05)
- The Dutch national railway company apologized for its role in deporting thousands of Jews to Nazi concentration camps in Germany and Poland during World War II. The company collaborated with Nazi occupiers in transporting 107,000 Jews, 70% of the country’s Jewish community. (*NY Times*, 9/30/05)
- Great Britain will seek ways to compensate African countries for the thousands of medical professionals who leave the continent to work in the British health service. The compensation will take the form of in-country training, provision of medicines to help with tackling infrastructure problems — albeit no financial compensation. About 70,000 qualified Africans leave their home countries every year to work abroad, in the UK, other parts of Europe, and the US, leaving the world’s poorest nations battling epidemics of AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis without sufficient qualified medical personnel. (*NY Times*, 8/20/05)
- Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco has pardoned a woman arrested in 1963 while trying to integrate a public swimming pool. (*NY Times*, 1/17/05)
- Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi observed the 60th anniversary of the Japan’s defeat in World War II by apologizing for the country’s past militarism in Asia and pledging to uphold its postwar pacifism. However, China, Korea and other Asian nations feel this is inadequate, pointing to Japan’s adoption of textbooks that whitewash its wartime past, as well as the Prime Minister’s visit to the Yasukuni Shrine, the Shinto memorial where Class A war criminals are enshrined along with the war dead. (*NY Times*, 4/23/05, 8/16/05)
- Can’t win ‘em all: A federal judge in Chicago, for the second time, dismissed a suit by slave descendants for reparations from corporations that benefited from slavery, holding that it was a political issue for the legislative or executive branch to deal with, and that since slavery was abolished a century and a half ago, the statute of limitations rules out damages. (*Wash. Post & NY Times*, 7/7/05)

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- The Chilean government released a 1200-page report on torture practiced by the Pinochet government following the 1973 coup, noting that “torture was a policy of the state, meant to repress and terrorize the population.” The Army commander acknowledged “institutional responsibility for ‘punishable and morally unacceptable acts in the past’,” leading to mounting calls for the judiciary and new media to offer a similar mea culpa for not denouncing the abuses. Chilean President Ricardo Lagos has proposed lifetime pensions and other reparations (preferential access to education, health care and housing) for the more than 28,000 Chileans who were tortured. Chile has already made reparations to families of people who died or disappeared in the political violence as well as to dissidents forced into exile. An initiative is under way to create a National Monument to Memory, to be constructed in a privileged, highly visible location in Santiago. (*NY Times*, 11/28/2004, 11/30/2004; *Wash. Post*, 11/29/04; stacie@ips-ec.org; see also “My Tortured Inheritance,” the moving op-ed in the 12/13/04 *NY Times* by Chilean journalist Rafael Gumucio)

- Bosnian Serb authorities issued a public apology for the killings of up to 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the town of Srebrenica, following issuance of a government-sponsored report acknowledging that the killings had been orchestrated by Serbian forces toward the end of the 1992-94 Bosnian conflict. The government also said it would meet its obligations to arrest those responsible for the atrocities. (*NY Times*, 11/11/04)

- Argentina will compensate children who were detained, stolen or born in captivity during a brutal 1976-83 dictatorship, according to Pres. Nestor Kirchner, “asking them to forgive the state.” Military officials adopted babies of women who gave birth in detention and were then killed. The children stand to receive up to \$75,000 each under the compensation legislation. (*Wash. Post*, 3/31/04)

- Mayor Thomas Menino took the first step toward removing a ban on Indians entering Boston — “for fear members of their ‘barbarous crew’ would cause residents to be ‘exposed to mischief’” — which has been in the law since 1675. (*NY Times*, 11/25/04)

- In June, the Virginia legislature approved \$1 million (matched by \$1 million from a private philanthropist) in scholarships (the *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Program & Fund) for African-Americans who had suffered gaps in their education decades ago when their local public schools closed rather than enroll blacks. Implementation has been slow, however. (*Education Week*, 11/17/04)

- Chief Leschi of the Nisqually Indian tribe, hanged in 1858 for the death of a white militia soldier in what is now

Washington State, was exonerated by a special Historical Court of Inquiry and Justice, led by the chief justice of the State Supreme Court, at the request of the state legislature. The unanimous, but not legally binding ruling (by 7 active and recently retired Wash. judges) held that if Chief Leschi — a revered icon of the tribe and a celebrated Indian martyr — did in fact kill the soldier (the evidence is by no means convincing), a murder charge was not justified, as they were lawful combatants in a time of war. (*NY Times*, 12/5/04, 12/12/04)

- Sen. John McCain is seeking a posthumous Presidential pardon for Jack Johnson, the first black world heavyweight boxing champ, who went to jail “on a trumped-up charge [abetting prostitution – relating to his open relationships with white women] to punish him for being an African-American in a white man’s sport” (Sen. McCain’s words). Johnson is the subject of a new Ken Burns film. (*Parade*, 9/12/04)

- Civil Rights Movement hero James Lawson – avatar of non-violence — was expelled from Vanderbilt Univ. for his participation in the Nashville sit-ins. In 1996, Rev. Lawson was honored as the first Vanderbilt Divinity School Distinguished Alumnus. (“The Lawson Affair, 1960: A Conversation,” in Dale A. Johnson, ed. *Vanderbilt Divinity School: Education, Context and Change* — Vanderbilt Univ. Press, 2001)

- The Jackson, MS International Airport has been renamed Jackson-Evers International Airport, honoring the memory of assassinated NAACP Field Director Medgar Evers. The Jackson Municipal Airport Authority plans to create an exhibit in the terminal honoring Evers. (*NAACP News*, 12/23/04)

- On Nov. 3, 1979, in Greensboro, North Carolina, 5 community activists protesting Ku Klux Klan racism, in a legally scheduled march, were shot and killed, 10 others wounded, in broad daylight – an action caught on film by cameramen from 4 TV stations. The killers, members of the KKK and American Nazi Party, were exonerated by an all-white jury in state court in 1981, by reasons of “self-defense”; a second federal civil rights trial ended in 1984 with acquittal by another all-white jury. Later, the widows and other survivors successfully sued the Klan, Nazis and Greensboro police (who were complicit in the violence) for wrongful deaths, and the City of Greensboro paid the small judgement (not the KKK or Nazis), funds that formed the basis for The Greensboro Justice Fund. Now, 25 years later, the Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission (modeled after what post-apartheid South Africa and other countries have put in place) has been created and will issue a report and recommendations for community reconciliation

(www.gtrcp.org). Two of the seven Commission members are NC Congressman Mel Watt and former Greensboro Mayor Carolyn Allen. (Greensboro Justice Fund, www.gjf.org; see also Signe Waller, *Love and Revolution: A Political Memoir: People's History of the Greensboro Massacre, Its Setting and Aftermath* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2002) & Sally Amery Bermanzohn, *Through Survivors' Eyes: From the Sixties to the Greensboro Massacre* (Vanderbilt Univ. Press, 2003)

- *Ray*, the terrific Jamie Foxx film portrait of Ray Charles, has a great scene wherein Charles, arriving in Atlanta in the 50s or 60s for a concert, is repeatedly harangued by a fan for playing before a segregated audience. Charles blows him off, then at the last minute reconsiders and gets back on the bus with his entire entourage. In retaliation, Charles is banned from the city and state. Then, in 1979, the Georgia Legislature passed a formal proclamation and apology, in the process making "Georgia on My Mind" the state song. In a nice contemporary touch, the movie has none other than NAACP Chair Julian Bond, a former Georgia legislator himself expelled for his opposition to the Vietnam War, portraying the legislator reading the proclamation.

- Can't win 'em all: Alabama voters narrowly voted to keep this language (of course unenforceable, per *Brown*) in the state constitution: "separate schools shall be provided for white and colored children, and no child of either race shall be permitted to attend a school of the other race." Voters rejected as well deletion of language referring to a poll tax (now unconstitutional). The ballot measure also would have removed language — inserted after the 1954 *Brown* decision — that there is no right to public education; oppo-

nents feared guaranteeing a right to public education (horrors!) "would have opened the door for 'rogue' federal judges to order the state to raise taxes to pay for improvements in its public school system." (*Wash. Post*, 11/28, 12/4/04) □

PRRAC Contributors

We are extremely grateful to those who responded to our end-of-the year funding appeal in the last issue of *P&R* — and hope others may be similarly inspired — thereby getting a head-start on their 2005 contributions (received as of January 3, 2005).

David R. Barclay
Marcia Bok
Cornelius Collins
Mimi Conway &
Dennis Houlihan
Judith Eisenberg
James & Kathryn Gibson
Joseph & Shelly
Guggenheim
Alice & Louis Henkin
Victor & Lorraine Honig
Charles M. Judd
Victoria Kaplan
Richard Kazis
Alan Mallach
Frances & Peter Marcuse
Harriette McAdoo

Henry W. McGee
Michael Meltsner
Dorothy Miller &
Daniel Klubock
Seymour M. Miller
David & Kathryn Nelson
Theodore Pearson
James Perlstein
Florence Roisman
Jay P. Siegel &
Mona Sarfaty
Gregory Squires
Walter Thabit
Howard Winant &
Deborah Rogow
Jody Yetzer

PRRAC Update

- Congrats. to new PRRAC Board Member **Darrell Armstrong** on birth of their first child, Amaris Kayla Armstrong!

- And congrats. to **PRRAC** and partner organization **Teaching for Change** re receipt our second recent award for our book *Putting the Movement Back Into Civil Rights Teaching* — this, an Honorable Mention in the 2004 Myers Outstanding Book Awards of the Gustavus Myers Ctr. for the Study of Bigotry & Human Rights at Simmons College. (Our first was the annual book award from the Natl. Assn. for Multicultural Education.)

- And final congrats. to the organizations headed by two of our Board members for their book awards: *Passing It On — A Memoir*, by human rights activist Yuri

Nakahara Kochiyama, published by the UCLA Asian Amer. Studies Ctr. Press (headed by **Don Nakanishi**); and *BRIDGE: Building a Race and Immigration Dialogue in the Global Economy: A Popular Education Resource for Immigrants and Refugee Community Organizers*, published by the Natl. Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (headed by **Catherine Tactaquin**). Both were awarded an Outstanding Book Prize by the Myers Ctr. A full list of the awards is available from the Center, lorewill@myerscenter.org

- Email address mistake: In our Sept./Oct. symposium on "Schools and the Achievement Gap," we had the wrong address for commentator Dianne Piché of the Citizens Commn. on Civil Rights: it's dpiche@cccr.org

Slavery/Apologies/Reparations

Periodically, we print a box like this with various items and resources touching on the issues of slavery, apologies and reparations (historically and in the present, US and internationally). Herewith the current batch. (If you'd like a set of past such boxes, send us a SASE — and, for those of you who don't yet have a copy of PRRAC's 1997 book Double Exposure: Poverty & Race in America, there's a really good 10-page symposium on the reparations issue; the 258-page book is available from us for \$25.45)

- Reparations are a major element of the work of South Africa's Truth & Reconciliation Commission — "Without adequate reparation and rehabilitation measures, there can be no healing or reconciliation.... The government should thus accept responsibility for reparation." (One of the Commission's recommendations is for all businesses to pay a "reparations tax" of 1% of their net worth.) The Commission's massive full report can be downloaded (but only until Jan. 29) at www.truth.org.za. Volume V, "Reparations & Rehabilitation Policy," details the legal and moral basis for reparations, the underlying principles, the various forms it might take, who is entitled to reparations, etc. — if you are unable to download, we can mail you a copy of the 15-page Volume V with a SASE — 78¢ postage.

- Germany's new chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, in response to various class action lawsuits, appears willing to compensate people forced into slave labor under Hitler and is bringing together representatives of major corporations (who fear bad publicity and boycotts) to develop a system for carrying this out. Volkswagen has announced it is setting up a \$20 million fund for this purpose.

- Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi formally apologized to China's President Jiang Zemin for Japan's conduct during World War II. (However, the Chinese regard the apology, delivered orally, as inadequate and are demanding a clear-cut written apology, similar to the one Japan gave to South Korea in November.)

- We highly recommend the new 355-page book (with audiotapes), *Remembering Slavery: African Americans Talk About Their Personal Experience of Slavery & Freedom*, edited by Ira Berlin, Marc Favreau & Steven Miller (New Press), which draws on the remastered audio recordings of former slaves interviewed during the late 1930s and early 1940s, as well as written transcripts of interviews carried out by the New Deal's Federal Writers Project.

- Pres. Clinton has signed into law the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Study Site Act of 1998, ex-

humming an 1864 attack by 700 US soldiers on a peaceful Cheyenne village, located in the territory of Colorado in which hundreds of Indians, mainly women and children, were killed. The unwarranted attack was investigated by a military commission and two Congressional committees, and although the US admitted guilt, treaty obligations between the US government and the Cheyenne & Arapaho tribes were never fulfilled. The Act requires the Natl. Park Service to submit a study to Congress and detail proposals to create a Historic Site at Sand Creek. This belated attempt at apology/restitution, coming 134 years after the event, suggests a counterexample to those who take the "it's too late" position regarding reparations for African American slavery (Rep. John Conyers, D-MI, has a bill to study this that for many years hasn't ever made it out of committee) and the stalled Resolution sponsored by Rep. Tony Hall (D-OH) and 15 other Members of Congress to issue a formal US Government apology for slavery.

- Marge Anderson, chief executive of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians in Onamia, MN, asked in an interview printed in the Dec. 1998 issue of *American Indian Report*, "Do you think there is any point in receiving an apology from the US government?," replied: "I believe a formal apology would make a difference in how the public perceives us. It would be an acknowledgment that wrong was done to us, and that we have suffered because of those wrongs. Of course an apology wouldn't solve the grave problems that American Indians face. But it would be a good start toward healing and reconciliation.

The Canadian government has taken this step. It has formally apologized to its 1.3 million indigenous people for a century and a half of misguided assistance programs and racist schools. The government has promised to establish a \$245 million healing fund for thousands of Canadian Indians who were taken from their homes and sent away to these schools, and it has outlined social and economic development programs.

The American government has not taken similar steps. I hope American officials learn from the example their Canadian counterparts have set, and issue an apology to this country's First People." □

Reparations/Apologies

Periodically, we note recent happenings with respect to apologies for past injustices, racial and otherwise, and compensatory steps. The last was in our September/October 2001 issue. We'll be happy to send you a compendium of all such reports, if you send us a SASE.

- The Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry Reparations Gift Fund, an interfaith coalition, has mailed reparations checks to 131 survivors of the 1921 race riot. Although the amounts were not large (ca. \$200 per survivor – all were small children at the time of riot), it was regarded as a matter of honor, as Tulsa leaders in 1921 promised victims compensation for their losses but never made full restitution.
- The Belgian government issued “its profound and sincere regrets and its apologies” for its role in the 1961 assassination of Patrice Lumumba, the man elected (socialist) prime minister of Congo seven months earlier, as the culmination of its independence movement from Belgium. A Belgian parliamentary commission, following a 2-year inquiry, concluded that Belgium was morally responsible for the assassination, which could not have been carried out without the complicity of Belgian officers backed by the CIA (which – no surprise – consistently has denied responsibility for the killing: see the wonderful recent movie, *Lumumba*). The Belgian government also has created a \$3.25 million fund in Lumumba’s name to promote democracy in Congo.
- The Japanese American Citizen League held a public ceremony May 11 in San Francisco to apologize for denouncing more than 300 Japanese Americans who resisted the draft during World War II, to protest the internment of US citizens of Japanese ancestry.
- A Japanese court has ordered the Mitsui Mining Co. to pay \$1.29 million to 15 Chinese men who were brought forcibly to Japan to work as slave laborers during World War II.
- Unitrin, Inc. will pay \$27 million to some 467,000 customers who were overcharged on life insurance because they were black, in settlement of a class-action lawsuit – overcharges that started in the Depression era and continued through 1970. Similar settlements have been agreed to by American General Life & Accident Insurance Co. (\$206 million) and Life Insurance Co. of Georgia (\$51 million).
- Indonesia’s new president, Megawati Sukarnoputri, apologized for mistakes of the past government in the Aceh region’s separatist war that has left thousands dead. “The central government in the past has made many mistakes...,” she said. “For that, on behalf of myself and the government... I offer my greatest apologies to the people of Aceh.”
- The Foundry United Methodist Church, Wash., DC, apologized to its sister church, Asbury United Methodist Church, for acting dishonorably 166 years ago, when it required African Americans to sit in the balcony and refused to give them equal opportunity to be church leaders. In response, in 1836, 75 free blacks and slaves, a third of Foundry’s congregation, left to form a church where they could participate in the Sacraments and sit where they wanted. Pastor J. Philip Wogaman of Foundry described it as “an act of institutional repentance,” and Rev. Eugene Matthew, Asbury’s pastor, responded, “We accept your repentance, your apology.”
- The French Council of State, the country’s highest administrative body, ruled that the government must pay half the damages owed to victims and their families by Maurice Papon, a former official sentenced to 20 years in prison for his role in the persecution of French Jews during World War II. The Council said that because Papon had acted as a government official (the government at the time being the Vichy government that collaborated with the Nazis), the government bore partial responsibility – in 1995, French President Jacques Chirac said the French state bore responsibility for the actions of the Vichy government.
- The US government announced it is returning 84,000 acres in northern Utah to the Utes American Indian tribe; the land was taken from the Utes in 1916 in order to secure “rights” to oil shale reserves.
- The City of Vienna, in a ceremony of remembrance and public apology last April, buried the last remains of handicapped or mentally ill children experimented upon and then killed by the Nazis. From 1940–45, when Austria was part of Hitler’s Third Reich, at least 789 such children (few of whom were Jewish) were killed at an Austrian children’s clinic. At the ceremony, Austria’s president, Thomas Klestil, called the formal burial service “very late for our country” and promised that “this dark time of our history must constantly remain in the present.”
- In May, Virginia Governor Mark Warner formally apologized for the state’s embrace of eugenics and denounced a practice under which some 8,000 people were involuntarily sterilized, starting in 1927 and continuing as late as 1979. The practice was embraced by 30 states and victimized an estimated 65,000 Americans. Virginia is the first state to express official regret over its role. The US Supreme Court’s 1927 *Buck v. Bell* decision (8-1!) upheld the practice – Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. wrote

in his opinion: "It is better for the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or to let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind." Along with Warner's apology, the state placed a historical marker honoring Carrie Buck, who brought legal challenge to Virginia's law.

- In March, a group of lawyers brought a federal class action on behalf of all African-American descendants of slaves, seeking compensation from 3 corporations (Fleet-Boston, Aetna, CSX - other companies to be named) for profits earned through slave labor and the slave trade. A copy of the March 31, 2002 *NY Times* op-ed by Prof. Charles Ogletree, Jr., co-chair of the Reparations Coordinating Comm., is available from us with a SASE.

- The Swiss fund set up five years ago to help needy survivors of the Holocaust wound up its work in early May, having paid out \$179 million to 309,000 people (Gypsies, gays, those persecuted for political beliefs or for helping Jews, as well as Jews). While Switzerland stayed out of World War II, it was accused of turning back Jews who showed up at its borders and allowing its financial machinery to aid the Third Reich. An earlier (1998) settlement by Switzerland's two largest banks, in another class action, created a separate \$1.25 billion compensation fund.

- The California Dept. of Insurance issued its May 2002 report to the California Legislature, as called for under a state law passed in 2000 (introduced by then-Sen. Tom Hayden and signed by Gov. Gray Davis) requiring all insurance companies doing business in the state to publicly release information about policies they or their predecessor companies wrote insuring slave owners for losses if slaves ran away or died. The report is available at www.insurance.ca.gov. □

(DC: Continued from page 11)

came the latest legislative body to pass a resolution favoring full voting rights for DC citizens — adding their weight to similar actions by the city councils of Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore and San Francisco; Los Angeles and the Illinois state legislature are moving to do this as well.

- Some DC voters — part of a formation known as DC Rabble — are boycotting federal jury service in protest.

- A recent example of federal interference in local issues got a lot of press attention: Dunbar High School teacher Tom Briggs ran (unsuccessfully) for DC City Council in 2000 on the DC Statehood Green Party ticket. The federal Hatch Act, which bars federal workers from participating in partisan political activity, unaccountably regards DC school teachers as federal employees (no other school teachers in the US are barred from partisan political activity). The US Office of Special Counsel brought action against Briggs and a few months ago ordered the DC school district to fire him, which they did (before the school year ended). Congresswoman Norton (who is allowed to introduce bills — she just can't vote on them) has introduced legislation exempting DC teachers from the Hatch Act. The school district has rehired Briggs — saying that, having fired him, rehiring is within the law — but the ever vigilant federal Office of Special Counsel announced it will review the action.

- Congresswoman Norton persuaded the US Postal Service to include DC in its 50-state commemorative stamp program; she also introduced legislation (passed in the House in the 106th Congress) to create a quarter coin for DC, in the same way such coins are being created for each of the 50 states.

- In June, the City Council held a hearing on a resolution altering the DC

flag to add "Taxation Without Representation" to the design — it is scheduled for a final vote after the summer recess.

- Another Norton bill (The Legislative Autonomy Act of 2002) seeks to eliminate Congressional review/power over civil and criminal legislation passed by the DC City Council. Past outrageous interference by Congress in local affairs include forbidding the District to count votes on a medical marijuana initiative; restricting funds to provide health care benefits for cohabiting couples; barring implementation of a needle exchange program; requiring the Metro system to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to change signage and maps throughout the system to read "Ronald Reagan National Airport" rather than "National Airport"; and, most recently, attempts (this by Attorney General John Ashcroft) to undermine the District's strict anti-gun laws.

So — what you can (should) do:

Get your local government to pass a resolution supporting DC voting rights or statehood.

Contact:

DC Vote, 1500 U St. NW, Wash., DC 20009, 202/462-6000, dcvote@dcvote.org.

The DC Statehood Green Party, 1314 18th St. NW, Wash., DC 20036, 202/296-1301, www.dcstatehoodgreen.org.

n.b.: Be aware that there are significant differences between the two approaches. The statehood advocates regard voting rights as too limited an objective, that having 3 DC voting members in Congress would not necessarily end Congress' rule over the city, that self-government should be the goal.

Thanks to Jamal Najjab of DC Vote for assistance in preparing this report. □

Reparations/Apologies

Periodically, we note recent happenings with respect to apologies for past racial injustices and compensatory steps – this is the most recent collection:

- Thousands of Mexicans brought to the US as farm and railroad laborers (known as braceros) during WWII have brought a class action against the US and Mexican governments (modeled after the successful suits of Holocaust survivors against Swiss banks and German companies), alleging they never received money deducted from their paychecks. As many as 300,000 laborers or their heirs are involved. Ten percent of their wages were deducted and held in savings accounts, and the money was to be transmitted from American banks to Mexican banks and given to the braceros upon their return to Mexico. With interest, the amount of money now owed could be \$500 million or more. (Details are in a front-page story from the 4/29/01 *NY Times*; we can send you a copy if you send us a SASE.

- Congressional Gold Medals were recently awarded to 29 Navajo “code talkers,” who used their unique language to develop a code that foiled Japanese intelligence and played a crucial role in the Pacific during World War II. Despite their important contribution, and the fact that they were Marines, they were mistreated at the time (one reported how fellow American troops held him at gunpoint, menacingly insisting he was a Japanese soldier) and until now their work was not recognized. (A feature film on their experience, “Windtalkers,” is scheduled to open later this year.)

- “Hidden from History: The Canadian Holocaust - The Untold Story of the Genocide of Aboriginal Peoples by Church & State in Canada,” published by the Truth Commission into Genocide in Canada, is available online: <http://annett55.tripod.com>. The report is the result of more than 6 years of research and contains testimonies of nearly 200 aboriginal eyewitnesses to murder, torture, sterilizations and other crimes against humanity committed at church-run residential schools and hospitals across Canada. More than 50,000 Indian children died in these facilities between 1891 and 1984, according to government statistics. More inf. from. Kevin Annett, kevin_annett@hotmail.com, 604/293-1972. (A short piece in the Winter 2000 *Native Americas Journal* raises the question of whether Natives who attended American boarding schools should sue for the abuses they endured – for more inf., contact Leslie Logan, 607/254-4955, 1188@cornell.edu; for inf. on the Journal, www.nativeamericas.com.)

- *Of Civil Wrongs and Rights* is a new film, by Paul Fournier, on Fred Korematsu, who challenged the WWII internment of Japanese-Americans before the Supreme Court (and lost in 1944) but carried on his 40-year legal fight to victory. For inf. about the film (and accompanying lesson

plans and materials), email pov@pbs.org or go to www.pbs.org/pov (other contact inf: 800/688-4768 & Talking Back, PO Box 750, Old Chelsea Sta., NYC, NY 10011).

- Relatedly, a new memorial (the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II) on Washington’s National Mall – “an apology set in stone” – by Davis Buckley/Paul Matisse/Nina Akamu was dedicated last June (it’s at the triangle of NJ, Louisiana and D Sts., NW. close by the Capitol and Union Sta.). As the *Wash. Post* review of the memorial put it, it “commemorates the courage and, under the circumstances, incredible sense of duty of Japanese Americans who served in the US military during the war.” Go visit it next time you’re in DC.

- The Korea Truth Commission (733 15th St. NW, #515, Wash., DC 20005, 202/347-9300, iacenterdc@yahoo.com, www.iacenter.org) is demanding investigation and compensation regarding the US role in massacres of Korean civilians during the Korean War.

- Princeton’s graduating class of 2001 did a wonderful thing in making Justice Bruce M. Wright an honorary member of the class, as symbolic apology for the university having turned Wright away in 1936 when he arrived to register. (Three years later, in response to Wright’s request for an explanation of this indignity, the university’s director of admissions, wrote that Princeton “does not discriminate against any race, color, or creed,” but that there were a number of Southern students at the college, “and as you know, there is still a feeling in the South quite different from that existing in New England. My personal experience would enforce my advice to any colored student that he would be happier in an environment of others of his race.”) Not until a decade after they rejected Wright did Princeton admit black students. If you’d like to have a copy of the lovely June 5, 2001 *NY Times* story, send us a SASE.

- Yale, Harvard, Brown, et al.: Recently released and widely publicized research documents how money from the slave trade financed Yale’s first endowed professorship, its first endowed scholarships and its first endowed library fund. Brown University’s early benefits from the slave trade have been long acknowledged. And Prof. Daniel Coquillette of Harvard Law School has discovered that the school was endowed with the proceeds from the sale of slaves working in the sugar fields of Antigua. Disinterring such history – likely true for many of our beloved institutions – is important in educating the public, as well as pos-

(Please turn to page 8)

(REPARATIONS: Continued from page 7)

sibly enhancing support for reparations of some type. A copy of Brent Staples' Aug. 14, 2001 *NY Times* column, "Wrestling With the Legacy of Slavery at Yale," is available from us with a SASE. A letter in the *Times* commenting on the Staples column notes, regarding the current relevance of these historical facts: "The most important issue highlighted by the revelations about Yale's past is whether admissions preferences to relatives of alumni by institutions like Yale that have a racially discriminatory past are themselves racially discriminatory and unlawful."

+ The Aug. 27, 2001 *Newsweek* has several useful pieces on reparations, including pro/con essays by Manning Marable and Shelby Steele, an update on US support by Ellis Cose, and some background materials. We can send you the 6-page section with a SASE. PRRAC's first "best of *P&R* book, *Double Exposure: Poverty and Race in*

America, also has a first-rate symposium on the topic, with brief contributions by John Powell, Sharon Parker, Theodore Shaw, Howard Winant, Richard America, David McReynolds, Kalonji Olusegun, Ronald Trosper and John Tateishi. We can send you those 10 pages with a SASE (55¢ postage) – or, better, order the whole book from us (\$27.95 + \$3.50 s/h).

+ "50 Years of Denial: Japan & Its Wartime Responsibilities" is an internatl. conf., Sept. 6-9, 2001, in SF, "to highlight the Japanese government's steadfast denial of its aggression & atrocities in the 14 Asian countries it invaded & occupied during the Pacific War (1931-45) & its continuing refusal to apologize & compensate for its crimes against humanity." Likely this issue of *P&R* is arriving too late to attend, but inf. from the Rape of Nanking Redress Coal., 268 12th Ave., #8, SF, CA 94118, 415/374-8992. □

"The Drug War is the New Jim Crow," is the title of an article by Graham Boyd, founder and director of the ACLU Drug Policy Litigation Project, appearing in the July/Aug. 2001 issue of *NACLA Report on the Americas*. It contains a fascinating table supporting his contention that the drug war's racial targeting has "managed to replicate – at least on a statistical level – the shame of chattel slavery in this country." For the full article, or to subscribe to this first-rate publication, contact NACLA (N. Amer. Congress on Latin Amer.), 475 Riverside Dr., #454, NYC, NY 10115, 212/870-3146, nacla@nacla.org.

Projected Black Inmate Population and Black Male Slaves

| Year | Projected Black Male Inmate Population | Year | Black Male Slave Population |
|------|--|------|-----------------------------|
| 2000 | 792,000 | 1820 | 783,781 |
| 2005 | 1,040,027 | 1830 | 1,001,986 |
| 2008 | 1,224,719 | 1840 | 1,244,000 |
| 2017 | 1,999,916 | 1860 | 1,981,395 |

The number of African-American male inmates is derived from the baseline of two million prisoners and the fact that African-American men represent 41.3% of the total inmate population. The growth in prison population assumes a constant yearly growth rate of 5.6%. This was the average rate of growth for the decade from 1990 to 2000. Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice statistics, *Prisoners and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2000* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Justice, March 2001). The data regarding slavery are from Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, Study 00003, Historical Demographic, Economic, and Social Data: U.S., 1790-1970. Ann Arbor, ICPSR.

