

THANKS FOR MEMORIES

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Wilson. It was realized that one man could not bring about overnight changes. What was important was the fact that the Legislators were no longer in a position to cop out by saying "we didn't know." The needs of a neglected segment of our society were being voiced and thereby placed in the records.

As the 60s wound down and the 70s cranked up, more Blacks were elected. Blacks, as a political entity, were growing up. The representatives who had been in Carson City had not done the job because they had not felt that they were accountable to the Black population. By joining together, Blacks were able to fire them, as they had fired us hundreds of times before. Thank goodness for that.

Black people, working together, achieved results. Their victories were hard earned but they were victories just the same. They were the enemies of segregation in all forms and they sought it out, engaged it, and destroyed it. To some, especially those who have not par-

ticipated in those efforts, the achievements might not seem like much. To those who took the risks, it is well worth being thankful for.

Today, Thanksgiving 1980, we stand at a threshold — a point in

— Hispanics, Indians, Asians and poor whites. We are all being literally thrown into an arena where we are supposed to "wipe" each other out — over crumbs. Sight of the enemy is being lost. The enemy is

who are deprived are on the same team whether they like it or not. Today, some elements of those groups are fighting over who will be the NUMBER ONE minority in the U.S. as though that is an enviable position. It is not. Do not be deceived.



Professor Fitzgerald is director of ethnic studies at University of Nevada-Las Vegas

In some parts of the country, those groups are uniting and they are being acknowledged as a power within those communities. On a very limited scale, that is beginning to happen here. For this, I am thankful and, believe it or not, so should you be.

time in which we either forge ahead or retreat. The dilemmas which Blacks have faced are now being faced by numerous other groups

desirous that all of those groups remain at odds with each other — divide and conquer — and it is working in their favor and against us. Those

This Thanksgiving, let us resolve that the only stuffing that we will be interested in is the stuffing which we shall beat out of racism in the United States.

CENSUS

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factor them into important decisions that impact on communities. Feed in erroneous figures and you get not only minority political underrepresentation, but also misallocation of

aid funds and skewed business decisions that affect the entire economy.

So there are big stakes in correcting the undercount. Judge Gilmore ordered the Census Bureau to come up with a plan to adjust the figures. It can be done. In fact, the Bureau admits it made a partial correction for undercounting in the 1970 census.

Sophisticated statistical methods are available to make the 1980 census more realistic. In fact, with the masses of data on school population,

housing units, Medicare usage, and other indicators, and with finely honed survey techniques used periodically by the Bureau, there's a real question about the need for outmoded face to face enumeration every ten years.

Judge Gilmore's ruling was based on a suit filed by the City of Detroit. The city charged the 1970 undercount cost it over \$50 million in federal funds over the past decade.

The 1980 census was a failure and the time to correct that failure is right now.

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Bob came to Las Vegas from Phoenix, several years ago and resides with his wife Jo Ann. He serves his clients and customers in real estate as vigorously as he serves his tennis, which is one of his many sports activities. Bob has been associated with Toler Realty for two years and his specialties include residential and land sales.



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'SCARED STRAIGHT' NOT WORKING

By Phil Kerby
Los Angeles Times

People professionally concerned with juvenile delinquency may argue that "Scared Straight! Another Story," a fictional version of "Scared Straight," the TV documentary, is worse than the original. It's a tossup that can be decided fairly only by flipping a coin.

"Scared Straight," as you will recall, created an instant sensation when it was first shown two years ago. The cameras focused on a group of youngsters, potential candidates for prison, who were hustled to Rahway State Prison in New Jersey for an encounter session with convicts serving long terms for murder and other assorted felonies.

As the cameras rolled, the felons snarled obscenities at the kids, who included boys and girls. In graphic detail, the convicts told of prison murders, homosexual attacks and related other tales of the horror that exist behind prison walls. One convict, with eloquent terseness, warned, "The big eat the little." Another felon, whose statement was all the more effective because it included not a single obscenity, told the youngsters, "Everything you're doing now we done did it. We didn't get away with nothin'; we're here. So what makes you think you're gonna get away with it?"

What was the purpose of this bizarre exercise? It was part of the Rahway Juvenile Awareness Program started four years ago by well-intentioned prison inmates who thought they could frighten kids into "going straight." If the documentary had been confined to a factual report, it could not have been faulted. But it is asserted that of the 8,000 juveniles exposed to the shock treatment more than 80 percent had since stayed out of trouble with the law.

The TV station that aired the program touted the Rahway program as "A solution to a major problem," and the documentary's producer, who also made the second film, said of the awareness project, "It suggested a path that works, but one that doesn't cost us any money."

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James A. Finckenauer, a professor at Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, had a different view. He studied 81 teenagers with similar backgrounds, including 46 who took part in the Juvenile Awareness Program. His survey showed that among the youths who attended the encounter session there was a 41 percent failure rate, compared with a 11 percent failure rate among the control group that did not attend the session. Among the 46 exposed to the shock therapy, 19 were arrested within the next six months, while only four of the 35 who did not participate were arrested.

Finckenauer suggested that "a delinquency-fulfilling prophecy may be set in motion in which the project actually increases the probability of delinquent behavior."

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