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5 P (PAGE 4) RACIAL PROBLEMS, BLA-K-125

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SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 22, 1944,  
TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1944.

During the period which this report covers I have interviewed the following individuals in this area, particularly as to the racial situation here which at the present moment is the most critical.

Sheriff Martin Pratt, Sheriff Multnomah County  
A. L. Love, Chief Criminal Deputy Sheriff's Office  
Warren Weiss, Inspector Multnomah County, Sheriff's Office  
Jack B. Wills, Inspector Multnomah County, Sheriff's Office  
Stanley MacDonald, Identification Expert, Sheriff's Office  
Wally Wallenstine, Chief Clerk Criminal Dept., Sheriff's Office  
William A. Bowles, City Commissioner  
L. C. Stoll, State War Man Power Director  
Miss Helen Webster, Confidential Sec. to Mr. Stoll  
Thomas J. Sheridan, State War Man Power Commission Arbitrator  
Harry N. Niles, Chief of Portland Police Department

I have paid more attention to the county officials due to the fact that the two large transient colored areas are at Van Port and Fairview Farms Housing Projects which are outside the city limits and come under the Sheriff's Office.

In questioning Sheriff Pratt I find that he has 35 Deputy Sheriffs stationed in Van Port and these men also cover the police work at Fairview Farms. He also states that in the event of any large scale trouble, such as a riot, his force is entirely too small to handle the situation as there are only 60 Deputy Sheriffs in his whole force.

In questioning the two Inspectors who work in plain clothes at all times spending most of their time in Van Port and Fairview Farms they collaborate the fact their force would be entirely inadequate to handle a large scale riot. They also state that the negroes in this area are buying all the guns and ammunition they can obtain from any and all sources - furthermore they own good automobiles in the great majority of cases and in the event of trouble would be able to travel at high speed in any direction.

I verified this statement by going there personally and saw in the negro section at Van Port practically all good late model cars and in the white section a great majority were old models and second hand jalopies driven in from wherever the people came from.

The colored population of Portland and Multnomah County in 1940 was 1490; September 30th, 1944, it is 19,975.

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SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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There is a great deal of other important information which I have obtained but would necessitate very lengthy written reports however I have this information available and can give it to you any time you so desire.

The consensus of opinion of those with whom I have talked is first; that they haven't the men to cope with a large scale riot, second; that they are very glad the State is taking an interest and will cooperate in every way possible.

Irving Niles  
Lt. Colonel of Infantry  
State Staff

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SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE REPORT COVERING PERIOD OF  
OCT 1st to OCT 20th 1944.

During the period of which this report covers I have interviewed the following people; Chief of Police Harry Niles, Capt. O'Dale and Lt. O'Hallorn, of the Portland Police Department also L. C. Stoll, State War Man Power Director, all of these were more or less routine check-ups on current happenings in the community.

Interviewed Mr. Bernard Ass't Chief of the Local F.B.I. office and turned over to him the name of S. E. Kubo, a Japanese, who has recently been released from Tule Lake Concentration Camp and all other information I had regarding this man.

Visited Astoria and interviewed Sheriff Paul Kerney, of Clatsop County and Mr. Merle Chessman, Editor of the Astoria Budget. Find that in the Astoria area they have very few problems which my office would be interested in at this time. The area being particularly free of colored people and not a great many transient white people from other parts of the country.

On October 12th, I saw Mr. Herman Kuhn, Sec. of the German Bund, who has apparently been released from the Concentration Camp in Colorado and is now back in Portland.

Colored and transient whites are still arriving in the Portland Area at about the same rate as noted in my report of Sept. 30th.

Irving Niles.

Lt. Col. of Infantry  
State Staff.

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October 21st 1944.

Captain J. J. Keegan:

A meeting sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of colored people, Portland Branch, was held at 7:30 P.M. Friday, October 20, 1944, in the Library Hall, SW 10th and Yamhill Sts., and was attended by 105 people (actual count) half of whom were white.

The guest speaker was Mr. Chas. A. Houston, of Wash. D. C., Negro attorney and a member of the legal staff of the N.A.A.C.P. Vice-Pres. of the Am. Council on Race Relations, his topic was "The Negro's Civil Rights in War Time."

Rev. Jas. J. Clow, pastor of the Mt. Oliver Baptist Church, opened the meeting and the invocation was given by Rev. Geo. I. Nace, Portland Council of Churches. Rev. Clow then spoke in regard to a new proposed Civil Rights Bill for the State of Oregon.

Mr. Houston opened his speech by stating he was to talk on the subject of "The Negro's Civil Rights in War Time" but instead he would talk about his experiences on Civil Rights Law in many states and that a period of discussion would follow. He stated he was not familiar with the Civil Rights laws in Oregon, but believed it should be changed to a broader base in order to meet the local situation, where the migration of negro's to this district has been heavy. He told that due to the Wars great stress and events the Negro people migrated to those cities which were involved in the war effort, where they secured employment and built up industries. He stressed the fact that these Negroes in the general migration would not return to their former homes but would continue to live where they are now living. He cited as examples New York, Wash., D.C., Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City and St. Louis, whose negro population expanded during the past wars this country has been involved. He said the negro people followed the Army and war industries and then stayed and trickled out into the community. He said the migrants of today are the citizen of tomorrow.

Mr. Houston stated that in 17 states the Negro control the balance of power, that 21 states have Civil Rights Bills, with N.Y. the most complete and Indiana the weakest. Mr. Houston told that the Negro children should attend the colleges and to be assimilated into the community. He explained he did not mean by this that a white and Negro should inter marry, but that by the segregation of Negroes into districts many light colored negroes moved into different localities stating they were either Mexicans or Hawaiian and had married white people. He implied Pres. Roosevelt was his favorite for president for the reason of the greater employment of colored people during his administration.

Mr. Huston stated that Race Riots are not caused by the expansion of Negroes into the community but by the pushing back by the whites. He related the recent Tram strike in Philadelphia caused by the upgrading of 8 negroes, whereby their wage was increased only .16 ¢ a day and no seniority rights were involved. He added that the reason there was no race riots there was due to the fact of close consolidation of the white and negro leaders

through the Inter Faith Fellowship Church who advised every one to keep cool, and that the Negro leaders had a chance to contact their own people who were living in a patch here and there and were not segregated. He added that the concentration of Negroes in the segregated district of Harlem gave the negro a chance to elect 2 Negro Congressmen and to places on the City Council. He advocated to introduce and fight for a Civil Rights Bill in Oregon, never to let up on the fight for one and to STRUGGLE STRUGGLE. He advised a change in the wording of the Bill of Rights as now worded to stated (Any person or firm employing 8 or more persons could not discriminate against a Negro for employment.

Mr. Houston said in his opinion the solution to the Negro migration was not segregation and Negro Ghetto's but INTERGRADATION, he stressed the fact of intergradation very often and very forcibly. He added that the peoples of Asia are watching what this country's policy is in regard to the treatment of the colored people who are acting as Guinea pigs.

He requested that those persons present at the meeting write the different newspapers, requesting that more picture of colored service men overseas be published as many persons did not know that there were so many negroes serving overseas. He said that if a negro soldier at home in uniform could not be respected that negro should not have to fight overseas.

Discussions started at 9 P M when some white woman spoke in regard as to what was happening in her neighborhood. She extolled the Negro women living there as never being seen intoxicated or soking on the streets, while some of the poor white trash were always drunk and smoking.

Mr. O. V. Bradley related various trouble he has had for selling real estate to Negroes in certain districts. Rev. Clow then introduced Mr. Badley as running for County Commissioner in the next election.

Mr. Houston closed the meeting by stating he was against his favorite president on one issue which is the government policy of segregating the negroes in the Federal Housing Projects and that he believed the Negro was entitled to purchase a home for himself anywhere according to his own economic means. The meeting ended at 9:20 PM.

Resp.  
(Signed) L. O'Halloran D-52

Copy to M. E.  
FBI  
Mayor.

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