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Local Officials meet with Baja California Dept. of Ecology Representatives to solve border environmental hazards

Pictured above are local officials and representatives of the Department of Ecology, State of Baja California. Standing, (L to R), Joe Quatro, meeting organizer; Mr. Gil Apodaca, President, Institute of Management Consultants International; Mr. Nick Niglo, Assistant Deputy Executive, South Coast Air Quality Management Department; Mr. Al Lopez, Mayor Pro-tem, City of Coronar; Mr. Gil Carabalaj, Vice President, Institute of Management Consultants International; Senior Gustavo Davila Rodriguez, DOE Deputy Director; Senior Ernesto Reynoso Nuno, DOE Assistant Deputy Director; Senior Carlos Silva Tonche, DOE Director of Investigative and Regulatory Services, Senior Jose Luis Solis Muxia, DOE Assistant Director; and Mr. Joe Carabalaj.

The state government of Baja California has recently established a Department of Ecology (DOE) which has responsibilities to monitor the air pollution and environmental hazards which have become a health problem to citizens of that state, specifically along the border. The DOE officials met in the Riverside Chamber of Commerce office, Riverside, with community persons, environmental officials, city officials, and South Coast Air Quality Management Board representatives to initially discuss mutual problems, the organization of the.

Continued on page 6

Latinos in California's Inland Empire - Part IV

By Roberto R. Calderón, Ph.D.
Ethnic Studies Department
University of California, Riverside

Note: This is the final part of a four-part series reporting on the demographic, social, and economic conditions facing the Latino community in the Inland Empire. Submitted to Graciéló Gómez, Publisher, Inland Empire Hispanic News. Copyright, 1993. Roberto R. Calderón.

The present article is the final part of a series published by the Inland Empire Hispanic News. The series was based on a report recently released by the Tomas Rivera Center (TRC), Latinos in California’s Inland Empire. Of relevance to policymakers, scholars, activists and the general public, the series has reported extensively on the demographic, social and economic conditions faced by the growing Latino community in the Inland Empire. This last article discusses immigration, naturalization and legal issues impacting Latinos in the two-county Inland region.

Readers should understand that the discussion presented in this series has appeared in abbreviated form. The intent has been to provide an initial assessment of the data and invite further interest, analysis and debate within and outside the Latino community. For purchase information readers should contact the TRC at: 909/625-5607.

IMMIGRATION
Few issues in recent months have so aggravated the political culture in California and the country as has the issue of immigration. In California, the state's rank

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Community News
Wednesday, December 29, 1993

**America's Monstrous Criminal Addictions**

From page 1

Changes that are well beyond our control as local leaders. Increasingly, we have had to turn to state and national leaders for help to keep our community knit together.

However, the reality of dealing with state and national elected leaders is that they generally move only as far as we push them. They are part of a system often controlled by special interests and a bureaucracy from which they reap great benefit to maintain the status quo. Therefore, if we desire change, the responsibility is ours to suitably instruct those we send to Sacramento and to Washington D.C.

**Crisis always disguises opportunity.**

Our American society is in crises in so many areas - we ought to be using these times as a unique period in history to direct our representatives to make those fundamental changes in public policy that will benefit our children and grandchildren - making our city, state, and nation, not only more economically sound, but safer and more just. That certainly is what the President has in mind in leading the national discussion on health care reform.

My remarks to you this morning are about public policy in the field of criminal justice. The two central ideas I will be discussing are not new, they simply have been buried, largely by special interest money, while we have tried other solutions.

Since the early 1980s, this state and nation have followed a fairly simplistic course in dealing with crime. The crusade has been to stamp out crime by relentlessly chasing down and punishing criminals. We have devoted an ever-increasing portion of our taxes to fighting crime in this traditional way.

California Judges have been stacking the bodies in our state prisons 115,000 deep (over 5 times the population 12 years ago) and exploding the prison budget from 200 million in '82 to 3.3 billion last year (the only growth item in last year's state budget).

Our experience has taught us that this purely punitive approach is:

1. **Horrendously expensive it costs us from $100,000 to $200,000 to build a jail bed and $25,000 dollars per annum to keep that bed filled.**

2. **Has stripped away valuable resources from other important educational and community building programs.**

3. **Has not worked to reduce crime.**

The lesson we have learned is that the only fiscally sane and humane way to address crime is to emphasize programs of prevention and treatment. That is particularly important when dealing with America's two monstrous criminal addictions.

What do you worry about each morning and evening as you drive to work? Continued on page 4

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Manager

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People in the News
Inland Empire Hispanic News

Hardy Brown Chairs School Boards Planning Committee

Hardy Brown

Hardy Brown, San Bernardino City Unified School District board member, was recently named Chair of the 1994 Annual Education Conference Planning Committee for the California School Boards Association (CSBA).

The Annual Education Conference is CSBA's premier event, focusing on the major issues confronting education. The conference fulfills all three of CSBA's missions: (1) To be the leading authority on education in the state; (2) to train members; and (3) to educate the public regarding school boards.

Brown, who is assistant area personnel director for Kaiser Permanente Medical Program in Fontana, has been a Board of Education member for ten years and has served as president of the Board. During his tenure on the Board, the district has made major strides in establishing magnet school programs to give families more options, has established magnet school programs, has established programs to encourage students to go on to college, and has found ways to help strengthen families through parenting classes and other community resources.

Brown has also served on the California Advisory Council for Black Affairs for Education and has been a member and officer of the Coalition of Black School Board members. Along with his wife Cheryl, he is co-publisher of the Black Voice News and a member of the West Coast Black Publishers Association. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Newspaper Association for the Western States and is listed in Who's Who in California.

Bishop Straling's Christmas Season Message

I am a fan of Calvin and Hobbs, two cartoon characters, in which I can often see a little bit of the untamed, misdirected part of myself. A few days ago Calvin was talking to his stuffed tiger saying, "Yep, Christmas is just around the corner, and what better way to celebrate a religious holiday than a month of frenzied consumerism." Still talking to his toy tiger he said, "getting loads of loot is a very spiritual experience for me."

Unfortunately for those who have commercialized and secularized Christmas, it might very well be that "getting loads of loot," getting high at a party, seeing Santa Claus, trimming the Christmas tree or sipping eggnog is what Christmas is all about. Although many of these things may have become connected with the Feast of Christmas, this is not the true meaning or purpose of Christmas as it has been celebrated for over two thousand years.

Christmas is the feast of Christ, the Son of God, who came down from heaven, became one of us and gave us an example of how to live and love one another. Christ came to reconcile us to the Father so that we might have eternal life to live within us, as well as find peace and fulfillment in our lives. Christ is not just an event that we celebrate each year and then it is over, rather it is a time for each of us to grow deeper in our faith and add meaning to our lives.

As we get older and look back to previous Christmases, especially when we were young, or watch children today at the Christmas crib or opening a Christmas package, we begin to realize how much we have gained and grown in our knowledge and experience of the Christmas mystery over the years.

I pray that this holy season of Christmas will not be filled with the empty expectations offered by the commercialization and secularization of our society, but will be filled with the hope and love that only Christ can give. To help make Christmas meaningful for you and your family, may I suggest taking time with your family to read the Scriptures which describe the birth of Jesus, view the Nativity scene, attend Mass at your local parish and assist the poor and needy. Listen to the singing Christmas carols and hymns like the Angels sang so many years ago. It is my prayer that in this way each of you will realize the true meaning of Christmas, continue to grow in the Faith of the Lord, experience His love and care and find that we can place our trust and hope in Him throughout the year.

Like the wise men of old who came to worship and left renewed, may we too worship and be filled with the blessings and graces of God as we celebrate the holiday season of Christmas. Be assured of my personal prayers and Masses for you and your loved ones during this holy season of Christmas.

Ofelia Valdez-Yeager named YWCA Woman of the Year

Ofelia Valdez-Yeager was honored as a 1993 YWCA Woman of Achievement at a recent luncheon at the Riverside Convention Center in Riverside and presented with the Nautilus Shell Award. Valdez-Yeager was recognized as a dedicated volunteer for so many educational and charitable organizations and a champion for breaking down the barriers of race and ethnicity.

The Nautilus Shell Award is presented to women who symbolize strength in character, multi-dimensional living and rarity in accomplishments, excellence in the arts, community service, education, health, law, philanthropy, science or sports.

Valdez-Yeager serves as a trustee on the Board of Education of the Riverside School District. Originally from Montebello, she received a scholarship to the University of California, where she earned a BA in Spanish and teaching credentials.

She has taught bilingual education and bicultural programs at the elementary school level; counseling Mexican-American students at the middle and high school level; and has served as a consultant on bilingual education for classroom paraprofessionals.

Valdez-Yeager has been a long-time leader in the PTA, serving at the local and county level. She serves on the board of directors of the YWCA and United Way. Through the United Way, she was instrumental in the organization of a parental involvement program in a cooperative partnership with various local agencies.

Interested in the total community, Valdez-Yeager is a member of the County Literacy Network, Riverside Chamber of Commerce and Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Head Start Policy Council and Commission on the Future of Education, Riverside.

NALEO Internship Program

Available to Latino Students

Sacramento - Assemblywoman Leticia Jacome announces that an intensive five-week state legislative internship program administered by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) is seeking Latino college students from California.

NALEO's State Legislative Interns spend four weeks working with state-level elected officials in Sacramento during May and June of 1994. Former interns have tracked briefing materials on major public policy issues, particularly as they relate to Hispanics.

Following their assignment in Sacramento, the two California interns will join interns representing the states of Florida, Illinois, New York, and Texas from July 20 through July 27 in our nation's capital. The intensive "Week in Washington, D.C." consists of meetings with elected officials, administrative officials, the media, and influential advocacy organizations.

Finally, the students will attend the 1994 NALEO Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois, from Thursday, July 28 through Saturday, July 29. Here, the students will have the opportunity to meet with national Latino leaders who will be addressing issues of concern to Latinos nationwide.

Applicants must be currently enrolled in a two or four-year college, be a resident of California, demonstrate overall achievement and have an interest in public policy issues, particularly as they relate to Hispanics. For application information contact Julia Howell Barros, NALEO, 514C Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Telephone 202/546-2536. Application deadline is Monday, April 11, 1994.
America's Two Monstrous Criminal Addictions - From page 2

What is on your mind when you walk up to the ready teller machine outside the bank or pull into a gas station after dark? What, these days, overshadows almost all other concerns and has so substantially reduced the quality of our lives that tens of thousands of urban Californians are fleeing our cities and the state - seeking safe haven in rural locations?

It is, of course, VIOLENCE, specifically GUN VIOLENCE. This week's tragic shootings aboard the Long Island commuter train, leaving five people dead and 20 wounded, is but the latest episode in our national trial of tears that follows our addiction to guns.

According to Newsweek magazine, over 30,000 of us will die this year by gunshot, 13,000 by handguns. Firearms are right behind automobiles - the second leading cause of death for Americans ages 10 to 34 and the leading cause of death for American children. In addition to the tragic human cost, gun violence rings up an annual fiscal bill of 16 billion dollars, 80 percent of which is a public expense.

This nation stands in stark contrast to the rest of the world. In 1990 Australia lost 10 people to handgun homicide - you can count them on the fingers of your hands - 10 people, Sweden, 13 people, Great Britain, 22 Canada, 68, and Japan 87.

An editorialist recently opined that our handgun murder rate is so high because of our legendary "frontier mentality". That is, of course, pure nonsense. Canada also has a frontier history. Australia was colonized by convicts. People want to kill each other in other countries too. The difference is - they lack the means to kill with ease - the gun. Almost every civilized society save ourselves, strongly regulates access to firearms.

What is the level of our gun addition? We have 200 million guns in private hands, including 67 million handguns and a million assault weapons. U.S. Senator Daniel Moynihan pointed out during the Brady Bill debate that we have more gun dealers in America than we have gas stations. Many of these dealers operate off their kitchen tables and out of their cars. These conditions scream for meaningful public policy changes, and solid national reform ideas abound. The Brady Bill's five-day waiting period is but a start.

What about banning all assault weapons? Senator Diane Feinstein is carrying a bill that would forbid the manufacture and transfer of 19 specific models of military style rifles, pistols and shotguns plus any models that have high-volume detachable ammunition magazines with 10 or more bullets. It does not get rid of the million assault rifles already in circulation, but it is a start.

What about tighter gun licensing for dealers as well as licensing and taxing all guns and training their users? And why not tax ammunition like we do cigarettes to help pay for some of the costs of gun violence?

What about a federally-sponsored gun buy-back program for all weapons? And, of course, it should be illegal for teens to possess firearms.

The most far-reaching gun measure in Washington is offered by Rhode Island Republican Senator John Chafee. He proposes to ban the manufacture, sale and possession of all handguns. The Chafee bill would establish a six-month period during which citizens could turn in their handguns to federal, state or local law enforcement agencies for monetary reimbursement. After that time, violators could face criminal penalties of up to $5000 and/or 5 years in prison. The bill exempts law enforcement, the military and certain kinds of collectors, hunting guns, gun clubs, security guards and gun dealers.

The Chafee bill is the most logical and sensible of all the proposals now before Congress for it focuses on the primary gun manufacturer as the primary provider of choice.

Such changes will not be easily accomplished for the entrenched interests of the gun manufacturers and the NRA are some of the most powerful in the nation. But, as chief Justice Earl Warren observed, "Everything I did in my life that was worthwhile I caught hell for."

And, it will take time to cleanse ourselves of ourselves of our monstrous gun addiction. It took 30 years for doctors and the Cancer Society to get a handle on smoking. It took a decade for a group of mothers to have an impact on drinking and driving.

Recently, newspaper columnist Ellen Goodman, writing about our national violence epidemic, penned this comment, "In public health, they say that you can try to save the bodies floating down the river, but at some time you have to move upstream to deal with the cause. In violence, you can watch the victims floating across the television screen and the front page, or you can move upstream." She would agree, upstream at the source of the slaughter is guns. America must stop counting property crimes (shoplifting, auto stealing, burglary) to support her or his habit.

There are a great many thoughtful people in this nation who believe it is high time for all of us to engage in a national debate on the merits of our decision to tell people "use drugs - go to jail". They point out that many other countries have chosen to treat drug addiction as a public health issue and have had greater success at reducing recidivism and at far less cost than our nation.

I do not want to debate that proposition this morning. I simply want to tell you that all the evidence indicates that treatment works - addicts can be brought back into the community as responsible citizens. In the United States, the ten most urban counties, whose judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, public defenders, probation officers and drug treatment specialists are forging a new court model matching criminal courts with immediate, intense, long-term treatment programs for non-violent offenders - with great success. The program is called simply, DRUG COURT.

The first drug court was started in Dade County, Florida, four years ago when Attorney General Janet Reno was the chief prosecutor in Miami. Last week, she told me, "Drug Court is not a program - it is a philosophy that works on changing the culture of criminal justice. It is based on a belief in people. On not giving up on people. In believing that people can be redeemed - and they are!" The idea is to deal with some of the problems underlying the nation's crime epidemic rather than just adjudicating criminal charges. It is an honest attempt to break the cycle of crime.

In Alameda County, the only Drug Court in California, felony arrest for those graduating from the program was reduced 50%. The addiction rate fell 50% and the use of county jail cells was reduced to the point that Alameda is now leasing out empty jail beds to San Francisco and the Federal courts.

I strongly urge that we embrace this idea in San Bernardino County. Within the next six months we should organize a broad constituency and find the treatment resources required to launch our own court.

We are gathered this morning to celebrate a season of Thanksgiving and a time of hope. As we bow our heads before God in thanks for what has been provided we invariably include our prayer a plea for peace and an end to gun violence in our homes and on our streets. Upon uttering that prayer we become acutely aware that we are God's agents of change in this place. Let us be about that work.
Christmas in the Inland Empire

Fontana

Santa & Mrs. Claus bring a smile to a happy youngster.

Santa's helpers from the Puerto Rican Assoc. & Hispanic Chamber.

Fontana youngsters enjoy additional goodies from Santa.

GENTS in Colton

The GENTS distribute food baskets donated by Navidad Del Barrio to needy families at Luque Center.

Colton Recreation Dept. & Mission of Love Church volunteers serve Christmas Day lunch to families & seniors at Luque Center.

GENTS at Casa Ramona

San Bernardino

GENT members work the early kitchen shift in preparation for the service club's traditional Christmas Day community lunch.

GENT members' wives worked Christmas Day for their community.

Redlands

Donated food from Navidad Del Barrio is distributed by Redlands Impact Group, police, firefighters, and solid waste management volunteers to needy families.
Neigel - From Page 1

there should be a greater emphasis on cooperation between schools and law enforcement agencies," he said. "The violence and school crimes and the safety of our homes are important issues that should be addressed. One solution is the implementation of a formal force policy county wide." A graduate of the FBI National Academy and California Law Enforcement Advanced and Law Enforcement Management Certificate recipient, Neigel states that he recognizes the current fiscal challenges and is ready to meet them by challenging by demonstrating strict accountability to the voters.

Other key issues for Neigel are opening the central jail in Chino to avoid long distance transportation of prisoners and time consumed in the process; review the cuts in patrol and investigate services; and potential reduction of unnecessary bureaucracy and political programs.

Neigel is affiliated with seven professional associations, including PORAC, State Sheriffs' Association, FBI Academy Associates, and others. He is associated with the Elks Lodge #856, CIB, Boy Scouts and San Bernardino Community Church.

Colton Community Meeting
Set to Suggest Improvements

The City of Colton Community Development Department has scheduled a community meeting for city residents to suggest community improvement projects for funding from the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The meeting will be held on Monday, January 3, 1994, at the Huaton Community Center, located at 660 Colton Avenue. It will begin at 6:30 P.M.

According to David R. Zamora, Community Development Director, "We want to provide maximum opportunity for our residents to comment on our community development programs and participate in the establishment of funding priorities for our CDBG program for 1994."

Colton is a cooperative city with the County of San Bernardino in the CDBG Urban County Program, and as a result, receives its authorization for use of funds from the County Department of Economic and Community Development.

The CDBG program was authorized in 1974 under Title I, of the Housing and Community Development Act, and is under the authority of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The primary objective of the CDBG program is the development of viable urban communities, by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income.

Results of the community meeting will be provided to the Colton City Council on January 18, 1994, when they hold their public hearing to deliberate and select projects for submittal to the county, stated Zamora.
Inland Empire Hispanic News

Opportunities

CANDIDATE FORUM
CANDIDATES INVITED INCLUDE:
City of Riverside Mayoral Candidates
  Terry Frizzel, Mayor
  Ron Loveridge, Councilman

City of Riverside Ward 2 Candidates
  Ab Brown
  Ameal Moore

COME MEET THE CANDIDATES AND VOICE YOUR CONCERN!
When: Wednesday, January 5, 1994
Time: 6:00 to 6:30 pm Meet the candidates
      6:30 to 7:30 pm Question and Answer
Place: Riverside Unified Adult School
       Board Room
       6735 Magnolia Avenue
       Riverside, California

Sponsored by:
  American G.I. Forum, SSGT Ysmael Villegas Chapter
  Riverside Hispanic Chamber of Commerce * Mujeres Unidas
  Mexican American Political Association, Casa Blanca
  * Norte Vista Padres Unidos * PERC, City Chapter
  * ECC MECIA * UCR MECIA

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Experience: Five years of progressively responsible public works engineering experience including two years in a supervisory or administrative capacity with a governmental organization.
Education: Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in civil engineering.
License or Certificate: Must be registered as a Civil Engineer and license as a surveyor or otherwise qualified to review and approve final subdivision maps and plans in the State of California. Possession of, or ability to obtain, a valid Class "C" California driver's license.

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Inland Empire Latinos

Wednesday, December 29, 1993

Latinos in California's Inland Empire - Part IV - From Page 6

Also, California's most recent arrivals, the approximately 3 million immigrants who are living in households headed by persons who arrived in the state during the 1990s, tend to utilize public assistance less. These new immigrants had only a public assistance rate of 4.8%, but only 1.5% received Social Security. In contrast to the pre-1980 California immigrant group, the 1990s immigrants were generally poorer. They made only a median household income of $22,000; the older immigrants earned a median household income of $31,300. Among citizens who had lived in California more than five years, the median household income was $34,900. Citizens tended to be older, averaging 34 years, than immigrants the new immigrants settled included Los Angeles County, which drew nearly four in ten, followed by Orange (11%), Santa Clara (9%), and San Diego (7%) counties. Together these four counties received nearly 70% of the state's more than quarter of a million new legal immigrants in 1992. Such figures have prompted a flurry of restrictive sentiment in the state. Anti-immigration advocates have begun calling for a halt to legal as well as undocumented immigration, which has been their more traditional bailiwick.

While 54% of the new immigrant residents in the state came from Southeast Asia, 25% from North America, particularly Mexico, 13% from South America, and 5% from Europe, the 1992 legal immigration figure comprised the single largest cohort (76.26%). More than three-quarters of the legal immigrants who reported their intention to live in the state were from Mexico. Immigrants from other Latin American countries accounted for over 6% of the balance. Legal immigrants from El Salvador (20%), Mexico (15.4%), and Guatemala (15.1%) comprised the single largest cohort (76.26%). Immigration to the Inland region's second largest prisoner population in 1992, compared to 233 in San Bernardino County. Statewide, a total of 1,764,000 citizens or 14% were Latino. Thus, the Inland Empire accounted for 9.2% of the state's overall homicides in 1991.

Any number of explanations may be offered for the disproportionately high number of homicides committed by Latinos. Some, like language, education, and family structure, range from economic, political, and social ones to cultural explanations as well as the issue of racism in our society. A significant trend in the percentage of the Latino residents in the state's homicide victims tend to be Latino and African-American. If inequality can be measured by the lack of or availability of justice, we find the Latino and African-American communities were indices of a significant aberration in the presence of justice, and therefore a measure of gross inequality. But this is not the case and the time is as close to address this issue more thoroughly. And it is best that others more prepared in the area undertake to offer explanations as to why the problem occurs and the cause.

Inland Empire Prisoner Population by Ethnicity

Finally, in 1993 Latinos constituted the largest inmate group in the Inland region's various correctional facilities. Only Anglos comprised a larger segment of prisoners. And African Americans, who comprised about equally represented in the Inland region's population, were disproportionally overrepresented as prisoners by a significant ratio.

Lawyers who were less likely than Latino, Asian, and African-American lawyers to be government attorneys.

REPORTS ON ETHNICITY

In 1992, the percent of Latino homicide victims was significantly greater in the Inland Empire than statewide. As the TRC reported, "Inland Empire counties represented approximately 26% of residents in the Inland Empire and California, they comprised approximately 36% of homicide victims in Riverside County and 43 percent in San Bernardino County, 43 percent statewide." In contrast to this situation, Anglos experience a lower incidence of homicides than their number in the Inland Empire's population. While over sixty percent of the Inland Empire's population is Anglo, only 42% of homicide victims were Anglo in Riverside County and 37% percent in San Bernardino. In all, there were 128 total homicides in Riverside County in 1992, compared to 233 in San Bernardino County. Statewide, a total of 1,764,000 citizens or 14% were Latino. Thus, the Inland Empire accounted for 9.2% of the state's overall homicides in 1991.

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REPORTS ON ETHNICITY

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Any number of explanations may be offered for the disproportionately high number of homicides committed by Latinos. Some, like language, education, and family structure, range from economic, political, and social ones to cultural explanations as well as the issue of racism in our society. A significant trend in the percentage of the Latino residents in the state's homicide victims tend to be Latino and African-American. If inequality can be measured by the lack of or availability of justice, we find the Latino and African-American communities were indices of a significant aberration in the presence of justice, and therefore a measure of gross inequality. But this is not the case and the time is as close to address this issue more thoroughly. And it is best that others more prepared in the area undertake to offer explanations as to why the problem occurs and the cause.

Inland Empire Prisoner Population by Ethnicity

Finally, in 1993 Latinos constituted the largest inmate group in the Inland region's various correctional facilities. Only Anglos comprised a larger segment of prisoners. And African Americans, who comprised about equally represented in the Inland region's population, were disproportionally overrepresented as prisoners by a significant ratio.

Lawyers who were less likely than Latino, Asian, and African-American lawyers to be government attorneys.

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