

Ch 27 Section 4 The Other America

The Urban Poor

White Flight

- 1962, 25% of Americans below poverty level
- Post WW II–1960, 5 million blacks go from rural South to urban North
- White flight results in loss of businesses, tax payers to cities
- Cities can no longer afford to maintain or improve:
 - schools, public transportation, police and fire departments

The Inner Cities

- Poverty grows rapidly in decaying inner cities
- Poor economic conditions lead to illness and terrible conditions

Urban Renewal

- **Urban renewal**—replace rundown buildings with new low-income housing
- Housing and Urban Development Dept. created to improve conditions
- Not enough housing built for displaced people

Poverty Leads to Activism

Mexicans Seek Employment

- Many Southwest Mexicans become U.S. citizens after Mexican War
- 1942–47, Mexican *braceros*, hired hands, allowed into U.S. to work
- After war, many remain illegally; many others enter to look for work

The Longoria Incident

- Undertaker refuses funeral services to Felix Longoria, WW II veteran
- Outraged Mexican-American veterans organize G.I. Forum
- Unity League of CA registers voters, promotes responsive candidates

Native Americans Continue their Struggle

- During Depression, U.S. policy of Native American autonomy
- National Congress of American Indians: civil rights, maintain customs
- U.S. stops family allotments, wages; outsiders take tribal lands

The Termination Policy

- **Termination policy** cuts economic support, gives land to individuals
- Bureau of Indian Affairs helps resettlement in cities
- Termination policy is a failure; abandoned in 1963