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for the relatively affluent. And government seems less inclined to pursue "interventionist" social policy. "The white poor," writes Kilson, "fashioned a variety of cultural patterns, often aided by religious organizations, which enabled them to [reduce] those features of lower class life detrimental to upward social mobility." Poor blacks need the same "self-help." Neighborhood church youth programs, the Rev. Jesse Jackson's efforts to stir black children's zeal for education (PUSH), and new "back-to-basics" black-run private schools—all represent promising ways to break the cycle of poverty.

*The Elderly:
A New Breed*

"The Long Reach of 1914" by Jane Newitt, in *American Demographics* (June 1981), Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 68, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

The "graying" or aging of America was one of the major demographic stories of the 1970s. Virtually ignored, however, have been the change in the characteristics of the growing elderly population and its origins in the early 20th-century Age of Immigration. So writes Newitt, a Hudson Institute researcher.

Between 1905 and 1914, roughly one million foreigners—mostly young, male, and uneducated—sought new lives in the United States each year. Their numbers created not only a regional but a generational "bulge." By 1910, immigrants comprised 75 to 80 percent of the popu-



Climbing into America, 1908. *Lewis Hine's photograph movingly portrays the early 20th-century immigrants who recently comprised much of the nation's elderly population.*

From *America* and Lewis Hine, *Photographs 1904-1940*. © 1977 by Aperture, Inc., Millerton, N.Y.

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lations of New York, Boston, Chicago, and other Northern industrial cities. Fully 20 percent of American adults age 20 to 24 had been born abroad. Then, World War I and restrictive legislation dramatically slowed the influx. Today, the wave of pre-1914 immigrants accounts for the record growth in the number of "old old" Americans (age 75 and over).

The disappearance of the pre-1914 immigrants will move the elderly much closer to the mainstream of American life, writes Newitt. From 1970 to 1990, the proportion of high school graduates among the elderly is expected to jump from 25 percent to a solid majority. The typical 70-year-old in 1990 will have come of age during World War II and have bought a house in the suburbs after the war. Unlike the immigrants, many will have held salaried managerial posts—and earned substantial pensions.

Already, a few gaps in the labor pool have resulted. In 1970, men 60 years of age and older comprised only 10 percent of the male work force, but 30 percent of guards and watchmen, 23 percent of blacksmiths, and 31 percent of shoe repairmen. Women over 60 accounted for 31 percent of dressmakers and 35 percent of live-in domestics. Notes Newitt: "Older people have traditionally been an important source of workers for unskilled jobs that younger people do not want—and for highly skilled jobs for which few younger people have been trained."

Private Schools as Melting Pots

"A Din of Inequity: Private Schools Reconsidered" by Denis P. Doyle, in *Teachers College Record* (Summer 1981), Teachers College, Columbia University, 525 West 120th St., New York, N.Y. 10027.

Private schools, whether secular or religious, have always smacked of elitism and privilege to many Americans. But in the wake of enrollment gains since the mid-1970s, they deserve a new image, writes Doyle, a researcher at the American Enterprise Institute.

Until recently, the private school appeared to be an endangered species. Enrollments plummeted from 6.3 million to five million between 1965 and 1975, mostly due to a sharp decline in the Catholic schools. Public schools, by contrast, grew steadily. But by 1974, these trends had begun to change: Now, private school enrollments are expected to rise from 5.1 million in 1980 to 5.6 million by 1988, and to increase their share of the nation's students from nine to 12 percent. The nose-diving reputation of public schools and the smaller size of the American family, which now has more money to spend on education, account for the turnaround.

The shift has transformed student bodies. Nationwide figures on private schools do not exist, but national data compiled by Catholic schools, state surveys, and U.S. regional censuses tell the story: In Catholic elementary and high schools, white students' share of total en-