

Editorials

Quotas And Affirmative Actions

The controversy over affirmative action programs and employment quotas has posed difficult questions for many groups that are traditional allies in the struggle for social change. What exactly are quotas? Are they ever justified? Do they endanger social progress, or enhance minority advancement? For the first time since the beginnings of the civil rights movement, blacks and Jews found themselves on opposite sides of a social policy issue. Quotas also presented problems to the strong alliance between the labor movement and the black community.

The Educational Fund is currently coordinating a series of discussions which should resolve differences in the approach to the enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation. The participants include the NAACP, Urban League, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League, and Jewish Labor Committee. It is expected that the formula developed by these groups, which represent the broad mainstream of the black and Jewish communities, can adequately deal with discrimination while rejecting quotas and retaining the principle of merit.

We May Be Our Own Worst Enemy

One of the easiest attitude for a black person to take is to tell himself that somebody is holding him back. One of the most difficult question for a black person to answer is the question: Who is that person holding you back? Is it possible that the black person is actually holding himself down without knowing it? Is it possible that the inroad into black community that some consider negative and unprogressive is created by nobody but us? These questions are difficult to answer because we have not really address ourselves to them.

Yet for the comfort of our own souls we tell ourselves everyday that the man is holding us down. True, you cannot honestly wipe out in one stroke the iniquities of the past nor can we deny that wrongs have been done to all of us. What we want to tear down is the wrong notion held by some that somebody else is holding us down.

We are not worse than any other race in the way we live but we are probably the most divided race on the face of the earth. Who but ourselves can unite us? Is it not true that in unity lies our hope of greatness and progress. We have studied the whiteman and probably now know how to live with him. Let us now study ourselves and know how to live with ourselves. For in the final analysis our own worst enemy may turn out to be ourselves.

When we don't register to vote we are being our own worst enemy because we are, out of our own doing, excluding our voice from being heard. When we call one person uncle Tom and the other person uncle Yesterday, we are dividing ourselves and denying one another a chance for cooperation. And when we stab one another in the back we are doing nothing but demonstrating that we are a divided people. A progressive people need the cooperation of all for the attainment of her goals.

The Struggle for Equality

Equality is measured in paychecks, shelter, schools, medical care - the things of day to day concern to working people. Despite noteworthy progress, the income of the average black family is still only 60 per cent of that of whites. Blacks are much more likely to live in the most deplorable slums, attend inferior schools, and suffer from inadequate medical care. The struggle for equality is two-fold: it helps develop and make popular broad programs for economic change and it serves as advocate for the specific parts of this broad program.

Discrimination and prejudice, which are so fundamental and personal to the black experience, are by no means limited to blacks. They are a familiar part of daily experience to peoples of all colors and all religions all over the world.

Those who have suffered from discrimination should be the first to speak out in the defense of other persecuted and oppressed peoples. Thus the Institute has always come to the assistance of such groups as Soviet Jews, Mexican Americans and the State of Israel.

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Brotherhood is an "Association of men united in a common interest..." Black people have a common interest - where is the Brotherhood?

CRIME AGAINST WOMEN ON UPWARD SWING

Crimes against women have increased to alarming proportions. Women are becoming increasingly reluctant to venture outside their homes - at night or even in broad daylight. Attendance in women's civic clubs has fallen; merchants have noticed a decrease in female patrons during certain hours of the day; restaurants and night clubs have felt the decline. And still the number of crimes against women increases. Women are terrorized by criminals on the streets, invaders entering their homes, and by offensive, obscene, and threatening telephone calls.

It is necessary to further the counterattack against crime. You can help. By assisting your fellow citizen against criminals and by supporting the law at all times, you can do your part in the fight against criminal activities. By reducing your own chance of becoming a victim, you reduce crime.

-Choose well lighted bus stops and street, staying near the curb and avoiding alleys and shrubbery.

-Invite a friend to walk with you.

-If approached by stranger, run to center of street, and don't hesitate to call for help.

-A dog on a leash is a good deterrent to the criminal.

-Be extra cautious of elevators, and stairways of office and apartment buildings.

-Leave work and meetings with others, watch each other to car.

-Refrain from displaying large sums of money when shopping.

-Don't leave your purse unattended on store counters, shopping carts or fitting rooms.

-Be alert to the possibility of crime.

-Utilize the Emergency Reporting Telephones located at each intersection in Winston-Salem with a traffic signal. (FOR POLICE AND FIRE)

-Tools For Defense - An aerosol spray, a plastic lemon filled with ammonia, a plastic whistle, hat pin, combs and nail files can be used for your protection.

-LIGHT and NOISE are the best deterrents to the CRIMINAL.

POLICE EMERGENCY
722-2531

Vote

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A voter registration will be conducted Saturday, September 21 at the Jetway Shopping Center. Be sure you get registered.

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welcomes letters
to the Editor
on Any Subject.

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