



Watlington



Washington



Truesdale



Tucker

Man In The Street

"Blacks Should Celebrate Bicentennial Too"

by Robert Eller
Chronicle Staff Reporter

With the nations 200th birthday rapidly approaching and the bicentennial celebra-

tions growing larger and larger, the "man in the street" talked to citizens this week about their feelings on the bicentennial.

When approached with the

question of "do you have reason to celebrate the countries 200th birthday -- 40 year old Mrs. A.L. Chester said, 'To a degree we blacks have reason to celebrate,

we've come a long way, if I'm still living I plan to celebrate. At one time we didn't have reason to celebrate nothing."

Walter Tate 23, agreed saying, "yes, we have made sufficient progress to celebrate. Things are progressing to some extent."

29 year old David Brown felt differently. He commented, "no, how can black people celebrate when we continue to be victims of racism. We can't celebrate independence until we are a free people."

Charles Tucker 26, said, "Yes, I think we have made a lot of progress in the last 200 years. We haven't reached our goal yet but there is still some reason for celebration."

26 year old James Washington answered, "No, this (living conditions) is nothing but modern slavery. We are not economically prepared as a people to celebrate."

Rueben Watlington 25, agreed with Washington stating, "No, economically we haven't advance for enough. Until we are part of the power structure we have no reason to celebrate."

Ola Simmons 38, commented, "Yes, blacks should celebrate the bicentennial just like the whites."

Beatrice Truesdale 39, answered, "Yes, I feel we have reason to celebrate but

there is still much room for improvement."

22 year-old Willard Richardson said, "No, there's no reason for me or any other minority member to celebrate. What will we celebrate? We are still being denied things that others take for granted. We still live under the poorest conditions in the nation. Conditions whites have never suffered during the past 200 years. What the hell would we be celebrating, the continuation of our genocide? I won't be able to celebrate until I can truthfully say the pledge of alliegence and sing the national anthem."

70 year old Cora Owens said, "Son, I thought last year was the 200th year, besides I'm too old and too tires to celebrate."

The basic conclusion that can be drawn from these comments is that people disagree on whether or not there is reason for a celebration all feel that there are still many things that need to be done for the bicentennial celebration to be a joyous one for all.

Police

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though there was money in the cash register.

The owner of the cafe said he had advised employees not to open the door to anyone after the store closes. He said he is puzzled by the fact that no money was taken. "Maybe the person got scared after he did the shooting and ran," he stated. He added that he is considering offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the assailant.

Miss Clemons described the gunman as a black male about 35 years old, five feet, five inches tall, 150 pounds with a mustache and wearing a brown-and-yellow flowered shirt and brown pants.

Police have made no arrest at this time. The investigation is continuing.



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