

Negroes Are Getting Everything, Especially Rats And Shoddy Jobs

BY DICK SCHAAP
Herald Tribune News Service
NEW YORK: The Society for the Prevention of Negroes Getting Everything (SPONGE) has been formed by a group of teen-agers in Brooklyn, and not a moment too soon. It has become increasingly evident that in Brooklyn, as in Alabama and Mississippi, the Negroes are getting everything, good and hard.

They are getting, for one thing, all the rats. The other day, a white New Yorker took his young daughter on her first visit to

the Children's Zoo in the Bronx Zoo. She liked the rabbits and the turtles and the ducks, and she was particularly fascinated by the Hickory Dickory Dock display. "Mice," she said, pointing at the clock.

A little Negro girl standing nearby interrupted. "Those aren't mice," the little girl said, positively. "They're rats." No matter what the nursery rhyme says, it is difficult to recognize a mouse when you grow up on rats.

The Negroes, too, practically have a monopoly on certain business opportunities. Many of the SPONGERS in Brooklyn probably want to grow up to shine shoes, and they know how hard it is to break into that field if you're not Negro. Or try to be an attendant in a men's room. Or a porter at Penn Station. The Negroes have a lock on all the good jobs in these fields.

AND THE NEGROES get all the good court cases, except, of course, the divorces, which are a rich white specialty. A lot of civil rights organizations complain when a defendant in a criminal case is identified as Negro, but they're being too sensitive. Don't they know that in New York all defendants are presumed Negro until proven otherwise?

SPONGE, in itself, is neither a terribly powerful nor a terribly frightening organization. What is frightening is the attitude the group represents, the genuine fear among many whites that Negroes are trying to get everything. It is a cousin to the attitude that leads a Southerner to say that Negroes in the South are really happy with segregation, that they don't want to mingle with whites. Neither attitude stands up against the facts.

In Philadelphia, Miss., for instance, it is not easy to believe that Negroes prefer being served in a restaurant through the back window, that they enjoy standing in the cold and waiting for a sandwich to be shoved through the window at them. Maybe they do, but it is not easy to believe.

THE TEEN-AGERS in SPONGE, who are afraid of Negroes getting everything, should have been reassured by the group of New York teen-agers who returned from Mississippi Monday. The nine youths, members of a group called High School Friends of SNCC, held a press conference and said they felt that the Negro in the North is making less progress than the Negro in the South. They realized that George Wallace has said the same thing, but they said it, anyway, because they believe it is the truth. They said they are going to work to help Negroes in the North this summer rather than go to Mississippi. Maybe they are going to help the Negroes in the North get everything.

To Roost

It is unfortunate that some of our Latin neighbors look so complacently on Castro's enslavement of the Cuban people but are alarmed of U.S. action to prevent a similar conquest of Dominican people. In the days before Communist subversion was backed by hundreds of millions of dollars of Soviet support, Latin Americans could justly resent U.S. intervention in their internal disorders. Today, however, the imperialism which threatens their sovereignty comes not from the United States but from the Communist powers.

It is this thrust of Soviet power which requires the United States to take unilateral action against each threat of conquest. None of our neighbors could protect Cuba, and none did protect the Dominican Republic.

THE DOMINICAN REVOLT posed a serious threat to the Americas. With a Castro-type government established there, Haiti could not have survived. The whole northern flank of the Caribbean would have become a Communist fortress. A passive response in the Dominican Republic would have encouraged Communist assaults on other countries of Latin America.

The reality of Communist aggression in Asia and in America should persuade President Johnson of the futility of his quest for a detente with Soviet Union. Harry Truman was right when he concluded that he could not trust the SOBs and policy must be based on our actual experience with Soviet purposes and not on some abstract theory about the pursuit of peace. The president has shown good judgment in his timely intervention in the Dominican Republic. Hopefully, this experience will lead him to challenge the underlying thesis of the erroneous foreign policy which he inherited.

Clipped By:



hewittmeh
Tue, Jun 1, 2021