

Squawk From 3rd World

By ROBERT E. SEGAL

It seems necessary to say something about preferential quotas again. In doing so, it might be instructive to consider the plea of the Brandeis unit of Grito, a Latino organization.

But even before we get to Grito, we need to recall something Captain Ahab said in "Moby Dick": "All my means are sane, my object mad." For some of the means now being advocated for compensating for cruelly sustained acts of discrimination are not sane at all even though the objective is quite reasonable.

Well, in a recent issue of The Bay State Banner, an excellent Black newspaper, there appeared a letter signed by Grito declaring (1) that organization is working to get more Chicanos and Puerto Ricans into Brandeis; (2) that President Charles Schottland of Brandeis has reduced the financial aid budget of minority group students of the incoming class by about 50%; (3) that this means only 35 "third world students" (Latinos, Blacks, and American Indians) will be admitted next year; (4) that white middle-class standards are being used at Brandeis to evaluate Latino applications; and (5) that Brandeis has "absurd and racist" policies.

Now a call to President Schottland helps to clear away some of the cloudiness of this overstated case. Such an inquiry evokes these facts: (1) the number of Latinos, Blacks, and

members of other minority groups admitted to Brandeis will depend in part on (a) the amount of financial aid available and (b) how many will need aid; (2) of the \$400,000 available for all freshmen, at least \$100,000 must, according to governmental regulations, go to those economically deprived in several groups; (3) this leaves \$300,000 in the general assistance pool; (4) \$100,000 is earmarked for Latinos and Blacks.

Surely, most of the folks reading this report will realize that practically all colleges and universities are in a financial crunch these days; hence to claim that a president of a university "has reduced the financial aid budget for minority group students" is certainly not to reason why but to toss out an incomplete declaration. Again, anyone familiar with efforts by Brandeis to act affirmatively on the search for "third world" students will balk at the reference to "only 35" such students. Furthermore, were it true that "white middle-class standards" are used to evaluate Latino applications, one might wonder how the large number matriculating ever made it.

Finally, about those "absurd and racist" policies: perhaps it is time for somebody to point out that some "third world" students have given such head to their pro-Arab activities that objective observers would have to conclude that the students are decidedly anti-Jewish. Where, then, does that leave Brandeis? Or any other university seeking to do right by all deprived students?

And where does this process of strident demands for lopsided preferential treatment leave Jewish applicants and applicants of such minority origins as Italian and Irish? Some of these students need financial aid also.

Not everybody heard it, but a whistle has blown on the over-insistence that rules of fair play in colleges and in civil service now be tossed overboard regardless of how many upward striving people representing a variety of races, creeds, and origins get crushed.

In a valuable and impartial statement of the case for and against preferential quotas, Leo Pfeffer has written in The Congress Weekly: "Equality can no more be achieved by changing from malignant to benign quotas than sobriety can be achieved by changing from scotch to gin. The only way to obtain sobriety is to stop drinking, and the only way to attain equality is to end inequality."

The sins of the past must be exorcized. But in driving out one evil, we would be mad indeed to create new demons. Our obligation is to add new educational facilities and expand the economy so that all may be educated adequately and employed gainfully. Quotas, either for good reasons or bad, have had their chance and failed.

NEW YORK--A hotel Seder (ritual meal) for the large Jewish military congregation of Fort Sam Houston, Tex., and solo Seders for small groups of men on duty at isolated posts are among the worldwide Passover arrangements made for Jewish military personnel by the National Jewish Welfare Board.

JERUSALEM (WNS)--Ezra Shapiro of Cleveland, now chairman of Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal, was elected president of the World Confederation of General Zionists.

NEW YORK--More than 250 Jewish high school and college students will participate in the Zionist Organization of America's study-and-travel programs this summer in Israel.

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