

EDITORIAL By PAUL C. SMITH EQUALITY OF JUSTICE BLACK/WHITE

The Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, Article VIII says:

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishment inflicted.

According to Webster's Seventh Collegiate Dictionary:

Excessive - adj., implies an amount or degree too great to be reasonable or acceptable.

What is at issue is the wide spread difference in the setting of bail for the same crimes. The un-uniform application of bail has worked the disadvantage of the poor and the black.

A new study just released by the Justice Department shows the percentage of blacks in jails all over the U.S.A. rank higher (42%) of the total 11% population of blacks. Nevada ranked high number two in the study.

What we are saying is, that the reason the black inmate population is high, is because of the denial of bails or the setting of excessive bails.

For justice to be equal for blacks, the amount of bail should be set based upon the individual's ability to afford his constitutional rights.

Say a young man involved in a robbery is denied bail, while a man accused of murder can get a bail set to gain his freedom. The possibility of guilt seems to have no bearing upon bail set.

Two cases in point; a bartender up at Mt. Charleston kills a man with a shotgun with witnesses present; a cab owner shoots and kills a man before several witnesses. Both have been released on bail; both are white. Roland Marshall, a black youth never in trouble with the law is denied bail as a suspect in a 7-11 store robbery. Why? The same thing is repeated over and over many times.

The setting of bail was established as a means of being sure a person would be present for his trial. Since the courts have such a backlog of cases, it could take several months for a person's trial to be held. Under the bail system, the poor are placed in the position of not having the money for bail. Records show that a lot of burglars and robbers do act out of the need for money, and since blacks number so high on the unemployment lists, the end result appears to be for them to take what they need.

The general public normally thinks in terms of - why don't they work - without thinking about the fact that many can't find work. As a result the law of the jungle or whatever takes over - the have nots take from the haves. We are fighting for the rights of blacks to be equal - For mercy with Justice.

Murders West Las Vegas

The media has been giving the public a wrong image of the West Las Vegas area. Some have been painting a picture that all of the murders in Las Vegas happen on the Westside.

They give the impression that West Las Vegas is the highest crime rate area in the Valley. According to Metro Police records, the area known to them as the Henry area is the highest crime rate area.

Also to be considered is that over across town, they bury or dump bodies that are not found.

As a matter of fact, the latest figures show that from January through September there were 21 murders in the county and 16 in the city. That county figure could be higher if and when the bodies are found.

It is a disservice to the Black Community to distort facts that make our area look bad.

INSTITUTE OPPOSES QUOTAS

The A. Philip Randolph Institute has cited the failures of Administration economic policies as the major reason for the controversy surrounding the government's affirmative action program.

The Institute at the same time said it was

But, WHEN IS A CRIME A CRIME ??

HE-NIXON, BLAMED THE RISE IN CRIME IN THE SIXTIES ON WHAT HE CALLED "THE GROWING SENSE OF PERMISSIVENESS" AND "THE RELUCTANCE OF MANY TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO CONTROL CRIME" -



IN THE DOCUMENT HE SAID "THE ONLY WAY TO ATTACK CRIME IN AMERICA IS THE WAY CRIME ATTACKS OUR PEOPLE - WITH-OUT PITY. OUR PROGRAM IS BASED ON THIS PHILOSOPHY."

JAMES A. WECHSLER - NY POST



"unalterably opposed" to the imposition of racial quotas in hiring or college admission policies.

Norman Hill, the Institute's Associate Director, testified before the Special Subcommittee on Education of the U.S. House of Representatives that the quota concept would "entrench the tendency of society to respond to the call for equal opportunity with tokenism."

"Blacks object to the tokenism because it downgrades the dignity of the individual and cheapens both his or her accomplishments and the accomplishments of other blacks to follow. The same is true of the quota, only to a greater degree.

"The black who benefits from the quota suffers the uncertainty of never knowing whether he made it on his own merits, or was simply hired to meet a government decree. As for the dominant white society, it would automatically question the abilities of all blacks, including the overwhelming majority who have succeeded because of their intelligence, skills, and self discipline."

Mr. Hill noted in his testimony that black people still lagged substantially behind whites in terms of jobs, income, and other economic measures. The persistence of economic discrimination, he added, was not the result of prejudice as much as it was the product of "the economic failures of the past five years."

Black people experienced significant economic progress during the Johnson Administration, Mr. Hill said, because of economic policies which encouraged a high rate of employment and substantial industrial growth. These policies, however, were reversed when Richard Nixon assumed office, with the result that unemployment rose, and the pattern of black economic gain was reversed.

Mr. Hill said that there was a "direct relationship between the economic failures of the past five years and the problems which the affirmative action program has encountered.

"It seems painfully obvious that an affirmative action program cannot achieve its objectives peacefully and democratically if it must function within the context of scarcity.

"We are particularly dismayed by the notion that opportunities can be expanded for some

groups at a time when the job market is shrinking for all. You simply cannot elevate significant numbers of blacks or women into better-paying, higher-skilled and more satisfying jobs if those jobs don't exist."

Mr. Hill urged government to push for policies that would guarantee full employment. He also urged the expansion of manpower and education programs as a means of helping blacks overcome the handicaps of inferior educational opportunity. As an alternative to quota hiring plans, Mr. Hill proposed that government seek stiff fines and the cancellation of government contracts for employers found guilty of discrimination.

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