

THEE

his mind, it caused him to remember that "grown up" discussion around the supper table that he had heard that Easter Sunday evening in 1939.

Day in and day out he remembered and day in and day out he was reminded that Marian Anderson had been humiliated in her own land while treated like royalty abroad. He was reminded that she had been put in her place and that, except for Mrs. Roosevelt, no one stood up for her. He was aware that there were other black people who were being humiliated, day in and day out as she had been.

There was something wrong with that. Even as a child he realized that there was something wrong with that. Marian Anderson was an American. He had already learned in his school books what being an American meant. Already he had begun to recognize that there were contradictions to be found in what he was being taught.

He probably mused the lines of the song:

*My country tis of thee
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing
Land where my
fathers died
Land of the Pilgrims'
pride
From every mountain-
side
Let freedom ring*

That song would continue to course through his mind for the remainder of his life.

Martin was no hero. Remember, he did not believe in violence. Perhaps I should say that he was not a hero in the sense of the common blueprint. He did not plan to go on a rampage nor did he intend to, one day, right all the wrongs of the world. He internalized that event of Marian Anderson and the Daughters of the American Revolution unconsciously and it became a part of him. It might well have been the first straw of a whole series of straws which would ultimately lead to the one which would prove to be too much to stand

RUSTIN

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to the resignation of President Nixon for his involvement in the Watergate coverup and just as the judicial process led to the punishment of those guilty for the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, so in Israel the democratic process will be the ultimate arbiter.

Out of the shock of Shalilat and Sabra have come the first stirrings of a way out of the Middle East's latest tragedy. And as we justifiably join the chour of condemnations of the Beirut massacre we can only hope that the new Lebanese President Amin Gemayel will follow Israel's example and launch his own inde-

any longer.

All of us always take as much crap as we can. Sooner or later it gets to a point where we must confront the cause of our grief. Remember what Owen Wister, the author of the book *The Virginian*, said: "A man's sense of himself is the most important

pendent inquiry to punish those directly responsible for the outrage. Such a move would augur well for the new Lebanese President, who faces the difficult task of constructing a stable and democratic society.

The events of recent days serve to restore our faith in the judgement of the Israeli people. They have made it absolutely clear that not external pressure but the internal expression of Israeli morality and conscience, led to the establishment of the independent judicial commission of inquiry. This recent turn of events can comfort us, but it should not surprise us. For it is another affirmation of the wisdom of the people — the fundamental

thing he has." Such is true of all of us. Adding insult to injury is what race relations in the United States is historically known for. We can only take so much. Still, we do not know what our breaking points are.

Ahhh. My country tis of thee.

tenet of democracy.

Americans should recall the long and tedious process that led to the Nixon impeachment hearings. We should recall that calls for his resignation were ineffective until that process was well advanced. We can hope that the Israeli judicial inquiry will be prompt

and speedy. But the recent expressions of conscience should make us confident that Israel's people will act wisely and democratically to set their own house in order. We should recognize that in launching their commission of inquiry the Israelis are on the right course.

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