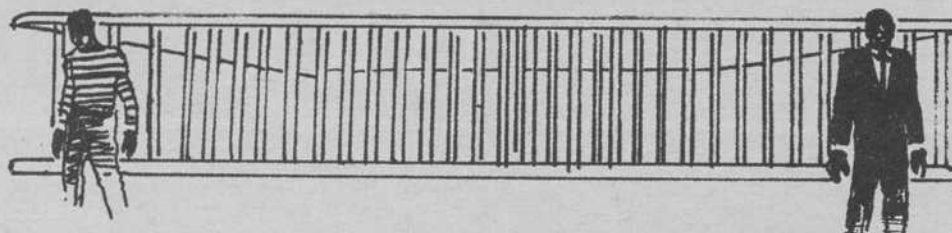


Julian I. Garfield

Special Report:

The National Movement to Boycott Crime: Building More Citizens, Not Prisoners



In the face of an escalating crime rate, many Americans have made some basic decisions about how our society should respond to this grave and costly problem. A major proposal requires an increased prison capacity to make our streets and communities safe from the enemy (the offender). This opinion is quite popular and yet it is rather disturbing, because it fails to recognize the necessity for intentional crime abatement—not deterrence or coercion, but *crime abatement*.

The National Movement to Boycott Crime, Inc. (NMBC) is a *crime abatement* program offering a unique solution to this critical problem. NMBC is a sharp departure from the traditional "crime prevention" schemes which attempt to solve the problem with urban armed forces, more penal institutions, a harsher criminal justice system, protective sheathing for private property and a calculated and insidious use of welfare dependency and illiteracy.

To many Americans, the crime problem is an urgent matter, and rather than waste precious time and resources attacking allegedly unknowable and indeterminate causes of crime, they feel that the state should invest in the physical security of the community.

Along with police protection of homes and communities, the criminal justice system is expected to provide an effective process for detecting, apprehending, prosecuting and punishing offenders. Judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers are expected to command both the resources and the authority needed to present a credible threat to the criminal elements in our society. Such people believe that if crime is ever to diminish it will be due to the swift and certain punishment of offenders. This is clearly an ethical conclusion that defends criminal punishment in order to preserve and sustain what is called the *common good*.

What is NMBC?

The National Movement to Boycott Crime, Inc. is a New York-based corporation that exists to demonstrate and promote effective crime abatement programs. It was founded in 1981 on the rationale that a pro-active response to violent crime is both cost effective and socially expedient.

NMBC is a "voice crying in the wilderness" to arouse interest in the bold venture of reducing crime through comprehensive community programming. It seeks to increase public awareness of both the desirability and the efficacy of its crime abatement-oriented programs and concepts.

NMBC directly approaches those institutions of our society that have the greatest potential for leadership in this social movement—the church, the media, the business community, social service and law enforcement agencies, public schools, and federal, state and local governments.

NMBC takes a pro-active stance to *abate* crime by giving birth to alternatives that seek to weave a strong and durable fabric from the toil, creativity and spiritual embodiment of Black America.

NMBC—Mission Possible

NMBC's mission is to "convert" community-based programs and to help them demonstrate their viability as positive alternatives for crime abatement. To "boycott" crime is to "combat crime by *abating* (reducing, lessening, diminishing, causing to fail, making safe from) crime, rather than by emphasizing *punishment* (arrest, incarceration, death) for crime."

When we experience violent crime at the current reported rates, a movement to boycott crime is clearly indicated and worth serious consideration. To *boycott* means "to refuse to deal with." It is

often the most effective weapon of the socially defenseless. Everyone can participate. To boycott crime requires a conscious strategy. The only practical way to actually boycott crime is to actively work to abate crime.

The Founder

The National Movement to Boycott Crime is the brain child of Julian I. Garfield, a long time civil rights and community affairs leader in the Metropolitan New York Area. Early in 1980 a treatise written by Garfield, creating the concept of crime abatement by boycotting crime, came to the attention of Harvard W. Stephens, Jr., who had written extensively on crime at Harvard University. Garfield and Stephens collaborated to bring the concept of boycotting crime from a vision and/or altruistic concept into an actual movement.

Julian Garfield, founder and president of NMBC, has had extensive training in management, public relations, marketing, advertising, sales, publicity and community relations. He assisted in organizing and directing the public information and community relations programs of the New York City Transit Authority and the Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority.

He has been involved in many community organizations in one capacity or another including the Board of Directors of the Municipal Credit Union of the City of New York; past president of Frontiers International, Inc.; past chairman of the Board of Governors, Consumer Groups of New York and New Jersey, Inc.; past president, Purchase Power, Inc.; past president and charter member of the Associated Transit Guild of the City of New York, Inc.; past president and treasurer, New York Chapter of the National Association of Market Developers, Inc.; past president, Public Relations Officers Society of the City of New York, Inc.; and Board of Directors, Bergen Blacks for Action in Politics.

Garfield was a founder of the

Associated Transit Guild and the guiding force in its 20-year struggle for civil rights and equal employment opportunities in the New York transit system. He created an awards program and designed medals for heroic and distinguished service honoring *all* qualifying transit employees.

Many of the disadvantaged in New York's Black and Hispanic communities remember the city-wide program organized by Garfield to help prepare them for examinations in six open competitive and seven promotional civil service transit job categories. More than 3,000 persons qualified for new jobs in the first two years, thanks to his efforts.

NMBC's Garfield is the proud recipient of numerous honors and awards including the Harriet Tubman Freedom Fighters Gold Medal (1970); 92nd (Buffalo) Division Association's "Man of the Year" (1971); Spergen A. Doswell Memorial Award (1979); and Fund-Raiser's Certificate, United Negro College Fund (1960) and March of Dimes (1965).

YOUSA

As its initial demonstration, NMBC implemented several pilot programs for youth. These programs are fostered through Youth Organizations USA (YOUSA).

YOUSA is the first of several intact programs initiated by NMBC. It aims to prevent crime by reaching potential young offenders and reshaping their attitudes so that criminal behavior does not begin. This model for youth programs can be applied to a variety of community settings and yet remain indigenous to each community served.

YOUSA sponsors a variety of activities designed to help youths begin to learn and harness experiences that will confront them as adults. These experiences are meaningful and productive alternatives to anti-social pursuits. They

(Continued on page 6.)