

We, as a people, have always championed the cause of the underdog and come to the aid of the underprivileged. Is it not then natural to our heritage and habit to champion and bring encouragement to those of our society who were so long and arbitrarily deprived of their freedoms and opportunity?

We, as a people ruled by the majority, have always recognized the right of the minority to protest and protect its constitutional and inalienable rights. We affirm that when the rights of a few are endangered or obscured, the freedoms of the many are themselves seriously imperiled . . . so should we not continue to value, honor and cherish minority dissent however inconvenient and unpopular?

We, as employers in a free society, have always been generous and compassionate in hiring the worker handicapped by loss of sight or limb. Isn't it but a natural extension of our generosity and compassion to extend the hand of fellowship to the worker handicapped by the color of his skin, the blight of his surroundings, the poverty of his education and upbringing?

We, as a nation of home lovers, have always respected the rights of our neighbor, shared our munificence with him, brought comfort and aid in times of need and emergency. Can we shut our doors and remain forever deaf to the call of anyone yearning for a decent home, in a proper neighborhood where he too can respect, share, comfort and help his neighbor?

How can we, as builders of great cities, let them decay and crumble? How can we as advocates of urban culture continue the drift to blight and decay? For how long will we as lovers of beauty accept ugly streets as natural, polluted air as normal, and the idea as inevitable that, since George won't do it, Uncle Sam will eventually respond?

Of course, in certain instances, we need and must have legislation and high court action to enlarge human opportunities and protect human liberties. Of course we properly require the interest of government in the health of our communities and in the enrichment of our lives. But we can do much by ourselves, by private effort; sometimes with the help of government and many times without its slightest insistence or involvement.

We don't need equal opportunity laws to tell us when the other fellow is getting the cold shoulder, the menial job, the petty cash and the paltry future. We don't have to be told whom we must hire or endure the shame of having fair employment legislated by number