

POVERTY AND PREJUDICE

Address by D. S. MacNaughton, President-Elect
The Prudential Insurance Company of America
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I APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT WITH TORONTO'S
DISTINGUISHED CANADIAN CLUB.

THIS OCCASION PLEASES ME FOR MANY REASONS: SINCE I WAS A
BOY IN UPSTATE NEW YORK, CANADA AND I HAVE HAD OUR OWN LITTLE
LOVE AFFAIR.

EARLY IN LIFE I CAME TO APPRECIATE ONTARIO'S RIDEAU CHAIN
OF LAKES, NORTHERN QUEBEC'S AWE-INSPIRING WILDERNESS, AND
TORONTO'S WARMTH AND STYLE.

IT PLEASES ME, TOO, BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF CANADA HAVE TREATED
ME SO WELL FOR SO LONG. OVER MANY YEARS, THEY HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN WARM AND FRIENDLY; FULL OF HUMOR AND GRACE; CERTAINLY
THE BEST OF NEIGHBORS.

THIS POSITIVE FEELING FOR CANADA IS QUITE TYPICAL OF PRUDENTIAL
PEOPLE -- AND WELL IT MIGHT BE -- FOR CANADA HAS MEANT A
GREAT DEAL TO THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
FOR ~~MORE THAN~~ ⁶⁰ 50 YEARS NOW.

INCIDENTALLY, IT'S NICE TO BE IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE PRONOUNCIATION OF MY NAME DOESN'T LEAD TO A REQUEST FOR THE SPELLING - AS IT INEVITABLY DOES BACK HOME. A COUNTRY WHICH BECAME HOME TO MANY RELATIVES OF MY SCOTTISH IMMIGRANT PARENTS. (SCOT - ST. PATRICK'S DAY) FREUDIAN)

IT PARTICULARLY PLEASURES ME TO BE WITH YOU BECAUSE, IN A SENSE, A PART OF ME IS COMING HOME ^{IN AS MUCH AS} BECAUSE MRS. MACNAUGHTON IS A NATIVE OF PARRY SOUND, NOT FAR FROM TORONTO.

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO DISCUSS AMERICAN URBAN CENTER PROBLEMS WITH YOU. IN 15 OR 20 MINUTES I CAN ONLY TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS, AND EVEN THESE IN NO GREAT DEPTH. I THINK, HOWEVER, I CAN SKETCH A PICTURE CLEAR AND VIVID ENOUGH TO AROUSE THE CURIOSITY OF THE CURIOUS, THE COMPASSION OF THE COMPASSIONATE, AND THE FEAR OF THE FAINT-HEARTED. (QUESTIONS AT) END

IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT I AM TALKING ONLY ABOUT AMERICAN CITIES. I AM AWARE THAT MANY OF THE MUNICIPAL DISEASES THAT HAVE REACHED ADVANCED STAGES IN THE U.S. HAVE ALREADY BEGUN IN SOME CANADIAN CITIES. AND I AM ALSO AWARE THAT MANY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SIMILARITIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES TEND TO PARALLEL OUR PROBLEMS. BUT THESE ARE CUT AND SEASONED BY SOME DISTINCT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISIMILARITIES WHICH TEND TO CAUSE THE PROBLEMS TO DIVERGE.

AT ANY RATE, MY COURAGE IS INSUFFICIENT TO PERMIT ME TO DISPLAY MY LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF CANADIAN CITIES BEFORE SUCH A SOPHISTICATED AUDIENCE AS THIS. WHEN I SPEAK OF URBAN CENTERS, I CONFINE MYSELF TO AMERICAN URBAN CENTERS.

AS YOU KNOW, OUR CITIES ARE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. THE CONVERGENCE OF GREAT SOCIAL FORCES DURING THE PAST HALF CENTURY HAVE AGGRAVATED OLD AND ADDED NEW DIMENSIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE CITIES. THE CITIES HAVE ALWAYS HAD PROBLEMS.

NOSTALGIA TENDS TO COLOR OUR THINKING -- AND MAKE US FORGET THE POVERTY AND RACE RIOTS OF THE LAST CENTURY - MAKE US FORGET THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD TEAMING, DISORGANIZED, POVERTY-RIDDEN CITY SLUMS, POPULATED BY FIRST ONE RACIAL GROUP, THEN ANOTHER, AND ANOTHER.

WE FORGET THE MUNICIPAL CORRUPTION OF THE PAST. WE FORGET THAT THE NIGHT-TIME STREETS OF OUR MAJOR CITIES WERE DEATH TRAPS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.

THE FACT IS THAT THE CITY IS NOT -- NOR HAS IT EVER BEEN A COMFORTABLE PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK IN. BUT IT IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN REWARDING, AND EDUCATIONAL.

THE CITY ATTRACTS THE WORST ELEMENTS IN THE SOCIETY, BUT IT ALSO ATTRACTS THE BEST. ONE CONTRIBUTES TO OUR DISCOMFORT, THE OTHER TO OUR SOPHISTICATION.

HOWEVER, SOCIAL FORCES HAVE BEEN AT WORK DURING THE PAST 50 YEARS WHICH MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO LOOK AT THE CITIES AND SAY, "IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN ^{THUS} ~~THERE~~."

FOR THE MOST PART, AMERICAN CITIES GREW UP AROUND FACTORY BUILDINGS. UNLIKE MANY OF THE FINE, OLD EUROPEAN CITIES, THEY ARE PRETTY MUCH PRODUCTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. FACTORIES WERE BUILT AND THE WORKING MEN WHO MANNED THEM CLUSTERED AROUND THEM IN NEARBY HOMES. AS INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS SPREAD, THE CITIES GOT BIGGER.

A NEW SOCIAL FORCE, THE AUTOMOBILE, AND THE WHERE-WITH-ALL ^{AND SUPER HIGHWAYS} TO BUY THEM, ^A HAS CHANGED ALL THAT. THERE IS NO LONGER A NEED TO LIVE CLOSE TO THE SHOP. INDEED, THERE IS NO NEED TO CENTRALIZE THE SHOP ANYMORE. IT, TOO, CAN ENJOY A REMOTE LOCATION BECAUSE OF THE AUTOMOBILE.

AT THE SAME TIME AS THIS SOCIAL PHENOMENON WAS DEVELOPING, ANOTHER, OF EQUAL SIGNIFICANCE, BEGAN. THE MECHANIZATION OF SOUTHERN FARMS UNLEASHED ^S HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF

HITHERTO
BLACK PEOPLE WHO ~~HERETO~~ HAD PLANTED, WEEDED, AND HARVESTED SOUTHERN CROPS BY HAND. THUS BEGAN THE GREAT NORTHWARD MIGRATION OF BLACK PEOPLE.

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IN 1910, 91% OF THE NATION'S ~~9.8~~ MILLION NEGROES LIVED IN THE SOUTH AND ONLY 27% LIVED IN CITIES OF 2,500 PERSONS OR MORE. NOW THE NEGRO POPULATION IS ABOUT 23,000,000 ^(count) AND 16,000,000 OF THE TOTAL LIVE IN CITIES. *AND* THE NUMBER LIVING OUTSIDE OF THE SOUTH HAS RISEN ELEVEN FOLD.

BECAUSE OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF NEGROES IN URBAN AREAS, *PROPAGATION* ~~NATURAL INCREASE~~ HAS NOW REPLACED MIGRATION AS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF POPULATION INCREASE IN THE CITIES. BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT MIGRATION FROM THE SOUTH WILL CONTINUE UNLESS ECONOMIC CONDITIONS THERE CHANGE CONSIDERABLY.

IN 1960 THE NON-WHITE POPULATION OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON WAS 55% OF THE TOTAL. IF THE *SAME* RATE OF INCREASE WERE TO CONTINUE (WHICH IT PROBABLY WILL NOT), IT WOULD BE 95% BY 1980.

IN MY CITY, NEWARK, OF A TOTAL POPULATION APPROXIMATING ONE-HALF MILLION, ABOUT 60% ARE NEGRO. MOST NORTHERN CITIES ARE HAVING A SIMILAR, THOUGH SOMEWHAT LESS DRAMATIC, EXPERIENCE.

AND STILL ANOTHER SOCIAL FORCE IS AT WORK HERE. AS I STATED, THE MECHANIZATION OF SOUTHERN FARMS TRIGGERED THE BLACK MIGRATION. MOST OF THE MIGRANTS WERE UNSKILLED AND THEY SAW THE INDUSTRIAL CITIES OF THE NORTH AS OFFERING THE MOST PROMISE OF GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT TO THE UNSKILLED. THAT, PLUS FATTER WELFARE BENEFITS THAN IN THE SOUTH, IN THE EVENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT, PROMPTED THE MOVEMENT NORTHWARD.

TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR UNSKILLED IMMIGRANTS, OF ONE RACE OR ANOTHER, HAS BEEN THE TRADITIONAL ROLE OF THE NORTHERN AMERICAN CITY. BUT NOW, HOWEVER, THE NEGRO HAS FOUND TWO THINGS HAPPENING. FIRST, AS I SUGGESTED EARLIER, INDUSTRY IS TENDING TO MOVE TO THE SUBURBS AND THE SUBURBS DON'T WANT BLACK PEOPLE, SKILLED OR UNSKILLED, IN THEIR MIDST.

SECONDLY, WE SEEM NOW TO BE ENTERING A NEW PHASE OF OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. AS THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY WAS ONCE REPLACED BY AN INDUSTRIAL ECONOMY, THE LATTER SEEMS NOW TO BE LOSING ITS STEAM.

FOR WANT OF A BETTER TERM, WE CALL THIS NEW THING IN DANIEL BELL'S PHRASE, "THE POST-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY". A CHARACTERISTIC OF THE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY ^{WAS} IS THE NEED FOR LARGE QUANTITIES OF UNSKILLED LABOR.

IN THE EMERGING SOCIETY THESE TASKS ARE MORE AND MORE BEING PERFORMED BY MACHINES, NOT MEN. SO THE UNSKILLED NEGRO IMMIGRANT TO THE CITY FINDS LESS AND LESS OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT.

STILL ANOTHER SOCIAL FORCE OF CONSIDERABLE SIGNIFICANCE, ~~AND THAT~~ IS THE EMERGENCE OF THE BLACK MAN'S PRIDE -- THE CIVIL RIGHTS' MOVEMENT.

IN HIS FINAL PUBLISHED STATEMENT, MARTIN LUTHER KING SAID, "TODAY'S PROBLEMS ARE SO ACUTE BECAUSE THE TRAGIC EVASIONS AND DEFAULTS OF SEVERAL CENTURIES HAVE ACCUMULATED TO DISASTER PROPORTIONS".

"THE NATION WAITED UNTIL THE BLACK MAN WAS EXPLOSIVE WITH FURY BEFORE STIRRING ITSELF EVEN TO PARTIAL CONCERN".

"IT IS NOW FORCED TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO RACE RELATIONS AND POVERTY, AND IT IS TRAGICALLY UNPREPARED".

HE GOES ON, "I AM NOT SAD THAT BLACK AMERICANS ARE REBELLING: THIS WAS NOT ONLY INEVITABLE BUT EMINENTLY DESIRABLE.

WITHOUT THIS MAGNIFICENT FERMENT AMONG NEGROES, THE OLD EVASIONS AND PROCRASTINATIONS WOULD HAVE CONTINUED INDEFINITELY. BLACK MEN HAVE SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT ON A PAST OF DEADENING PASSIVITY

"THESE ARE OUR BRIGHT YEARS OF EMERGENCE; THOUGH THEY ARE PAINFUL ONES, THEY CANNOT BE AVOIDED."

"THE SULLEN AND SILENT SLAVE OF 110 YEARS AGO, AN OBJECT OF SCORN AT WORST OR OF PITY AT BEST, IS TODAY'S ANGRY MAN. HE IS VIBRANTLY ON THE MOVE; HE IS FORCING CHANGE RATHER THAN WAITING FOR IT IN PATHETIC FUTILITY. IN LESS THAN TWO DECADES HE HAS ROARED OUT OF SLUMBER TO CHANGE SO MANY OF HIS LIFE'S CONDITIONS THAT HE MAY YET FIND THE MEANS TO ACCELERATE HIS MARCH FORWARD AND OVERTAKE THE RACING LOCOMOTIVE OF HISTORY." ...

FAR BETTER THAN I CAN, THESE ELOQUENT, MILITANT WORDS FROM A GENTLE, PEACEFUL MAN WHO HAS BECOME A MARTYR TO HIS PEOPLE, DESCRIBE THE DEPTH AND INTENSITY OF THE BLACK STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND RECOGNITION.

ONLY THE BIGOT WILL FAIL TO SENSE SOME THRILL ABOUT THIS STRUGGLE; SENSE A FEELING OF "GO TO IT", "MORE POWER TO YOU", AND "WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP".

THERE IS IN US AMERICANS, DESPITE THE MANY CONTRARY SIGNS,
A DEEP AND PERSISTENT BELIEF IN SOCIAL EQUALITY.

NEVERTHELESS, COMING WHEN IT DOES ^{SO} AS TO COMBINE WITH THE
OTHER SOCIAL FORCES I HAVE MENTIONED, THE BLACK MAN'S
STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM DOES INDEED COMPLICATE AND ACCENTUATE
THE PROBLEMS OF OUR URBAN CENTERS.

IN THE LIGHT OF ALL THIS, LET ME ^{SUMMARIZE} ~~TRY TO DESCRIBE~~ THE PROBLEMS
OF THE CITIES IN SIMPLE TERMS (TOO SIMPLE PERHAPS).

TRADITIONALLY, AMERICAN CITIES HAVE BEEN INDUSTRIAL AND
TRADING CENTERS, INHABITED BY THOSE WHO WORKED IN THEM --
ALMOST ALL WHITE PEOPLE.

IT IS EXPENSIVE TO MAINTAIN A CITY - TO PROVIDE THE WATER AND
SEWAGE SYSTEMS, THE POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION, THE SCHOOLS,
THE ROADS, THE STREETS, THE SUBWAYS, THE LIBRARIES, PARKS,
THE GOVERNMENT, ETC. ^{IN THE PAST,} HOWEVER, FOR THE MOST PART, THE
INHABITANTS WERE IN SUFFICIENTLY GOOD FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
TO PAY FOR ALL OF THESE THINGS, MOSTLY THROUGH THE PROPERTY
TAX MECHANISM.

IN EVER INCREASING NUMBERS, SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE AUTOMOBILE AND FIRST CLASS HIGHWAYS, THESE PEOPLE, WHO CAN AFFORD TO MAINTAIN THE CITY, HAVE MOVED OUT OF THE CITY, TO THE SUBURBS.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE GREAT MIGRATION FROM THE SOUTH HAS REPLACED THE DWINDLING POPULATION OF THE CITIES WITH PEOPLE, MOSTLY BLACK, WHO ARE POOR, AND CANNOT AFFORD TO MAINTAIN THE CITY.

TO THOSE WHO FLEE TO THE SUBURBS, WE SAY, THROUGH STATE AND FEDERAL TAXING TECHNIQUES, "YOU MUST CONTINUE TO PAY FOR THE CITY -- EVEN THOUGH YOU LEFT IT -- YOU CANT' SIMPLY WALK AWAY FROM THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

*WHICH MOST OF THEM
DONT*

THEY, IN TURN, ARGUE THAT EVEN IF THEY WANTED TO, THEY CAN'T, BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO BUILD NEW COMMUNITIES IN THE SUBURBS -- NEW SCHOOLS, STREETS, POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION -- THE WHOLE WORKS ALL OVER AGAIN -- AND THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO DO BOTH.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE LARGE BLACK POPULATIONS OF THE CITIES ARE BECOMING MORE AND MORE MILITANT, MORE AND MORE DEMANDING IN THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE.

AS A RESULT OF ALL THIS, MANY OF OUR CENTRAL CITIES ARE UNDERGOING AN UNBELIEVABLE PERIOD OF RAPID DETERIORATION.

PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE NAMED THIS TALK 'HOPELESSNESS AND PREJUDICE'. AT TIMES, THE CAUSE OF THE CITIES AND MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THEM, DOES SEEM HOPELESS; AND IF YOU HAVE NO HOPE, YOU HAVE NOTHING -- NO CHANCE.

BUT I DO CALL IT 'POVERTY AND PREJUDICE'. BECAUSE POVERTY AND PREJUDICE ARE THE TWIN EVILS THAT ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF EVERYTHING. THEY CREATE HOPELESSNESS. THEY STAND IN THE WAY OF WORKABLE SOLUTIONS TO ALL OF OUR MUNICIPAL PROBLEMS. THEY FEED, ONE UPON THE OTHER, AND BREED DISCONTENT AND VIOLENCE.

WHAT IS POVERTY? THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION DEFINES IT AS THOSE LIVING WITH LESS THAN A CERTAIN INCOME, CURRENTLY \$3,300 FOR AN URBAN FAMILY OF FOUR, AND PROPORTIONATE AMOUNTS FOR SMALLER OR LARGER FAMILIES. IN 1966, ABOUT 12% OF THE NATION'S WHITES AND 40.6% OF ITS NON-WHITES WERE BELOW THE

"POVERTY LEVEL". OVER 40% OF THE NON-WHITES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL LIVE IN CENTRAL CITIES. IN MANY OF OUR CITIES, NEWARK FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR NEGROES IS ALMOST THREE TIMES WHAT IT IS FOR WHITES. OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE, ALMOST 27% OF ALL BLACK PEOPLE OUT OF SCHOOL AND UNDER 25 ARE UNEMPLOYED.

HOWEVER, POVERTY IS MORE THAN BEING UNEMPLOYED OR UNDEREMPLOYED. IT IS MORE THAN A LACK OF INCOME. IT IS THE FEELING OF BEING AN INFERIOR, AND THE FEELING OF DEPENDENCY. THE LACK OF CAPABILITY TO IMPROVE ONE'S SITUATION CREATES FRUSTRATION AND A SENSE OF DEFEAT. THIS, TOO, IS POVERTY. MEN WHO ARE CHRONICALLY UNEMPLOYED OR LOWLY EMPLOYED, ARE OFTEN UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO REMAIN WITH THEIR FAMILIES. IN TURN, THIS FORCES MOTHERS TO WORK. THE TOLL ON CHILDREN BEING FORCED TO GROW UP FATHERLESS UNDER A WORKING MOTHER IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF DEPRIVATION, IS GREAT INDEED.

AS STATED BY THE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDERS, "THE CULTURE OF POVERTY THAT RESULTS FROM UNEMPLOYMENT AND FAMILY BREAK-UP GENERATES A SYSTEM OF RUTHLESS, EXPLOITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE GHETTO. PROSTITUTION, DOPE-ADDICTION AND CRIME CREATE AN ENVIRONMENTAL "JUNGLE" CHARACTERIZED BY PERSONAL INSECURITY AND TENSION.

CHILDREN GROWING UP UNDER SUCH CONDITIONS ARE LIKELY PARTICIPANTS IN CIVIL DISORDER.

I RECENTLY VISITED WITH A MAYOR OF AN AMERICAN CITY. WE DISCUSSED EVENTS SINCE THE RIOTS OF 1967. INCIDENTALLY, SINCE 1967, THE RIOTS HAVE DECREASED IN INTENSITY, BUT NOT IN NUMBER. THERE WERE MORE DISTURBANCES IN 1968 THAN IN 1967. HE TOLD ME THAT ALL THINGS, BUT ONE, WERE COMING ALONG FINE. THE ONE THING THAT WORRIED HIM WAS THE ALARMING INCREASE IN THE CRIME RATE. THOUGH HIS CITY WAS NOT UNUSUAL, THE INCIDENCE OF MAJOR CRIME HAD INCREASED ALMOST 30% IN 1968. HE CAME TO TWO CONCLUSIONS: FIRST THE SUPREME COURT HAD TO GET TOUGHER AND, SECONDLY, HE SOMEHOW HOD TO FIND THE MONEY FOR A MUCH LARGER POLICE FORCE. NOT ONE WORD ^{FROM HIM} ABOUT WHAT POVERTY WAS DOING TO HIS CITY. NO MENTION THAT ~~THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAD GONE DOWN,~~ THE UNDER-EMPLOYMENT RATE HAD GONE UP. NOTHING ABOUT SCHOOL DROP-OUTS AND LOUSY SCHOOLS AND INCREASING ~~INCREASING~~ WELFARE ROLES, AND ALMOST NO DENT IN AN IMPOSSIBLE HOUSING SITUATION FOR THE POOR. NOTHING ABOUT ALL OF THESE THINGS WHICH CAUSE CRIME RATES TO GO UP. HE BEHAVES PRECISELY LIKE THE GOVERNMENT OF ANCIENT ROME WHICH ATTACKED THE DECLINE OF ROME BY INCREASING EXPENDITURES FOR POLICE AND MILITARY. ^{THE} ~~THIS~~ ^{HE SEES} PROBLEM MAY BE CRIME . . . BUT ITS PRIMARY CAUSE IS POVERTY.

IN TERMS OF DOLLARS, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE THAT OUR URBAN POVERTY SITUATION IS IMPROVING. THERE ARE FEW GROUPS IN AMERICAN CITIES WHO ARE NOT BETTER OFF THAN THEY HAVE BEEN ^{OR EVER WERE.} THE ACTUAL NUMBERS OF PERSONS LIVING IN POVERTY HAS BEEN DECLINING AT ABOUT ONE MILLION PERSONS PER YEAR AND THE PROPORTION OF PERSONS IN POVERTY HAS DROPPED EVEN MORE RAPIDLY.

THIS
THE DIFFICULTY IS THAT DESPITE ~~THE~~ GENERAL IMPROVEMENT, CONDITIONS IN THE GHETTO AREAS OF THE LARGE CITIES ARE BECOMING WORSE. APPROXIMATELY 16 MILLION NON-WHITES LIVE IN THE GHETTO SLUMS AND THEIR INCIDENCE OF POVERTY IS THREE TIMES WHAT IT IS FOR WHITE CITY DWELLERS. . . AND THE GAP IS WIDENING AS ^{THE} GENERAL IMPROVEMENT CONTINUES.

IS THERE SOME CORRELATION BETWEEN THIS AND THE FACT THAT IN ALL THE NORTH ATLANTIC DEMOCRACIES EXCEPT THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN, THE TEEMING, DISORGANIZED LIFE OF IMPOVERISHED SLUMS HAS ALMOST DISAPPEARED? X
THE ~~MASS~~ POVERTY AND SQUALOR, OF THE KIND THAT MAY BE FOUND IN ANY LARGE AMERICAN CITY, SIMPLY CANNOT BE FOUND IN COMPARABLE CITIES IN EUROPE, JAPAN, OR HERE IN CANADA.

GIVEN THE OVERWHELMING AMERICAN ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE, THE

PERSISTENCE OF MASS POVERTY SUGGESTS THAT SOMETHING MORE FUNDAMENTAL IS AMISS. THUS WE TURN TO THE SECOND PART OF MY TITLE -- "PREJUDICE".

ONE CHARACTERISTIC OF MOST OF TODAY'S POOR IS THAT THEY ARE BLACK - (NON-WHITE). IN CONTRAST TO THE GREAT SUCCESS WITH WHICH AMERICAN CITIES HAVE ABSORBED WAVES OF DIFFERENT ETHNIC MIGRATIONS FROM EUROPE, "AMERICAN SOCIETY HAS NEVER YET BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE BLACK PEOPLE AN EQUAL PLACE IN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS. "

AS SOME EVIDENCE OF THE TRUTH OF THIS PROPOSITION, EXAMINE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE 1967 RIOTS. THEY HAD ALL OF THE EARMARKS OF POVERTY RIOTS --- INDEED, THEY WERE POVERTY RIOTS, NOT RACE RIOTS. IT JUST HAPPENED TO BE THAT MOST OF THE POOR WERE BLACK. SUPPOSE WORD GOT ABOUT THAT THE STREETS OF NEWARK WERE AFLAME WITH POOR WHITE PEOPLE REBELLING AGAINST CONDITIONS. AS SOON AS THE RIOTS WERE QUELLED, WE WOULD HAVE SET ABOUT CORRECTING THE CAUSES ^{not WHITE} ~~FOR THEM~~ BECAUSE, IN FACT, THE RIOTERS WERE BLACK, OUR TEMPERAMENT IS DIFFERENT. WE TALK OF FUTURE PREVENTION, ^{rather THAN} ~~NOT~~ CORRECTION.

WALTER LIPPMAN ONCE SAID . . .

"WE SHALL HAVE TO WORK OUT WITH THE NEGRO A RELATIONSHIP WHICH GIVE HIM COMPLETE ACCESS TO ALL THE MACHINERY OF OUR COMMON CIVILIZATION, AND YET ALLOWS HIM TO LIVE SO THAT NO NEGRO NEED DREAM OF A WHITE HEAVEN AND OF BLEACHED ANGELS. PRIDE OF RACE WILL COME TO THE NEGRO WHEN A DARK SKIN IS NO LONGER ASSOCIATED WITH POVERTY, IGNORANCE, MISERY, TERROR AND INSULT.

WHEN THIS PRIDE ARISES, EVERY WHITE MAN IN AMERICA WILL BE THE HAPPIER FOR IT. HE WILL BE ABLE THEN, AS HE IS NOT NOW, TO ENJOY THE FINEST QUALITY OF CIVILIZED LIVING - THE FELLOWSHIP OF DIFFERENT MEN. "

THIS WAS MR. LIPPMAN'S PREFACE TO CARL SANDBURG'S BOOK ABOUT THE CHICAGO RACE RIOTS OF 1919. A LONG TIME AGO, AND SOMETIMES IT SEEMS AS THOUGH LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AGAINST INTOLERANCE. HOWEVER, MUCH THAT IS FAVOURABLE HAS HAPPENED, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SUPREME COURT DECISION OF 1954.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT MR. LIPPMAN WAS RIGHT. UNTIL WE LOWER THE BARS OF PREJUDICE, WE CANNOT SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF OUR CITIES. TWO SOCIETIES, ONE WHITE AND ONE BLACK, HOSTILE TO EACH OTHER, CANNOT LIVE FOREVER IN THE SAME HOUSE. .

WE CAN AND SHOULD PURSUE INTEGRATION. THE IMMEDIATE NEED
IS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION IN THE GHETTO - - - BETTER SCHOOLS,
BETTER HOUSING, MORE JOBS AND BETTER PAYING JOBS. ALSO, A
COMPLETELY NEW CONCEPT OF PUBLIC WELFARE WHICH, AS IT NOW
DESTROY FAMILY LIFE AND
IS, DOES MUCH TO ^A MAKE THE GHETTO A MATRIARCHAL SOCIETY.
THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE GHETTO IS ESSENTIAL AND URGENT - BUT
IT IS NOT ENOUGH. IT WILL NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM. ^{IT} WHEN THE
NEGRO IS ENCOURAGED TO MOVE OUT OF THE CENTRAL CITY AREAS,
WE WILL BE ON THE ROAD TO SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS . . . AND
ONLY THEN.

BY FAILING TO MENTION THEM, I DO NOT INTEND TO *DENIGRATE*
THE MANY SPECIFIC WORTHWHILE PROGRAMS NOW UNDER WAY.
THESE RUN THE GAMUT IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, HOUSING,
HARD-CORE JOB PROGRAMS AND THE LIKE. PERHAPS I PARTICULARLY
SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY'S BILLION DOLLAR
PROGRAM - NOW ALMOST ALL COMMITTED. I SIMPLY CHOSE INSTEAD
TO DISCUSS WITH YOU THE TWIN EVILS WHICH *IN MY* ~~IN MY~~ ARE AT THE
BOTTOM OF EVERYTHING.

NOR
~~NOT~~ HAVE I EXPLAINED WHY A BUSINESS MAN SHOULD SOUND LIKE A
SOCIOLOGIST. IN AMERICA, WE HAVE LEARNED AT LEAST TWO THINGS
SINCE WORLD WAR II. FIRST, THAT THE MORE AFFLUENT A NATION
BECOMES, THE MORE SOCIAL PROBLEMS IT DEVELOPS. PREVIOUSLY

WE HAD WRONGLY ASSUMED THAT PROSPERITY REDUCED SOCIAL PROBLEMS. SECONDLY, THAT IN A HIGHLY DEVELOPED SOCIETY LIKE OURS, GOVERNMENT ALONE IS INCAPABLE OF COPING WITH THE EVER INCREASING SOCIAL PROBLEMS. IN THESE OUR BEST YEARS, WITH GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH, AND WITH A SERIES OF ADMINISTRATIONS BENT IN THE DIRECTION OF SOCIAL REFORM, THE SITUATION WORSENED INSTEAD OF IMPROVED.

IT IS OBVIOUS TO US NOW THAT THE COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION OF ALL STABLE ELEMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING BUSINESS IS ESSENTIAL TO GET THE JOB DONE.

LET ME END ON A POSITIVE NOTE. WE ARE GETTING THE JOB DONE. THERE IS STEADY IMPROVEMENT ON ALL FRONTS, HOUSING, JOBS, EDUCATION AND URBAN REDEVELOPMENT.

WE HAVE EVEN COME A LONG WAY TOWARD SOLVING ^{the} ~~OUR~~ ESSENTIAL PROBLEM ~~WHICH IS~~ PREJUDICE.

AS DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING OFTEN QUOTED FROM AN UNLEARNED BUT ELOQUENT LAY MINISTER:

"LORD, WE AIN'T WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE.

WE AIN'T WHAT WE WANT TO BE

WE AINT WHAT WE ARE GOING TO BE.

BUT THANK GOD WE AINT WHAT WE WAS.

THANK YOU!