

By Harriett Muhammad

**DEAR HARRIETT,**

I'm quite disturbed and at the same time frustrated over the recent trends of the civil rights movements — especially those in Chicago. I'm all for Negroes having better housing and more and equal job opportunities, but from the looks of things—we aren't going to get it by demanding it or begging for it from the white power structure. All these demonstrations seem to be doing to me is showing how impossible it will be for white and black Americans to live together in peace and harmony.

**I HAVE** always listened to the different view points concerning what must be done and what I must do in order to bring about a change in the status quo, but I have always been reluctant to "join" any group that I couldn't benefit from, personally. I don't know — maybe I'm too individualistic.

However, I have been "making it" on my own initiative and have done pretty good so far. I'm well educated; middle classed—morally, economically and socially; and confident that I can continue to get along pretty good on an individual basis. I feel if I can make it with hard work and effort then others can too. I also feel that too many of our people don't do any better than they do due to their unwillingness to work and plan for what they want, now and in the future.

Now, Martin Luther King's recent demonstrations are bringing the American Nazis Party into blossom. Person-

ally, I think the party will continue to increase in number.

**I DON'T** like to become involved in demonstrations and groups — I just want to be an individual and be accepted on my individual characteristics and abilities. Yet I am doubtful if this new social trend is fertile soil for "rugged individualism." What do you think?

J.W.M. Chicago, Illinois

**DEAR J.W.M.**

We are in a time of social change and conflict. There is no room for your kind of individualism, right now. If more of our qualified people like you were to come out of this frame of mind — much more could be accomplished.

If you don't have to live in a ghetto, don't suffer under the delusion that others do because they don't work hard enough or plan for the future. Our people are very hard workers, you know. We just have not been working hard for ourselves. Some of us just don't have the ability to carry through with plans and others of us are so apathetic and discouraged until we lack incentive.

If you, and others like you, would personally help others not as fortunate to improve as individuals, all would benefit as a result. Our people are demonstrating for open-occupancy and for better job opportunities.

Much money, time and effort is spent and blood is spilled in the process. Yet these demonstrations would mostly benefit the middle class element of our people. Who else would be able to **BUY** a home in such neigh-



DEEP YEARNING of Negro chi more about their own history is these signs during recent Chicag tion. Signs give parting push t

borhoods? -

Who else would be able to benefit from higher paying jobs but the more educated middle class?

**WE NEED** to improve the condition of three-fourths of our people who are at the bottom of the economic totem pole — the group that supposedly everyone is trying to "help."

**TO BE CONTINUED**

Something on your mind? Write and tell me about it.

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