

On pages 7 and 8 is this statement about equality: "Under our Constitution and our laws all citizens have equal rights. . . . It makes no difference what a man does for a living, to what race or religion he belongs, or how much money he has—he is the equal of any other citizen in the eyes of the law. . . . We Americans believe that everyone should have an opportunity to get an education and a job, and the chance to make a decent life for himself and his family. We have done a great deal to make these things possible for all Americans. Although some of our people still do not enjoy equal opportunities, we are working toward our ideal of 'liberty and justice for all.'" Again, timidity accounts for the vagueness of this statement.

In Chapter 3, which deals with "Our Documents of Freedom," one statement (page 55) concerning "What Should We Know About Our Constitution" declares: "We should know that no American can be refused the right to vote because of race, religion, or color." This, of course, is a vague and inaccurate reference to the Fifteenth Amendment. The following "documents of freedom" are completely ignored: Thirteenth Amendment; Fourteenth Amendment; Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; the Supreme Court decision of 1954 (*Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka*).

Chapter 7, "Great Americans Express the Spirit of Our Nation," is a medley of well-known quotations from Lincoln, Webster, Washington, Patrick Henry, etc. A portion of Lincoln's second inaugural address is included, with the passage referring to slavery omitted. Indeed, there is no quotation with any reference to slavery, to emancipation, or to the post-Civil War struggle for civil rights.

Chapter 10, "Good Americans Make Democracy Work," devotes more space to how to fight Communism than to any other topic. One might expect at least a brief discussion of the problem of race relations in this chapter, but the authors ignore the problem. On page 207 they make this astonishing statement: "Today almost all men and women over twenty-one have the right to vote, regardless of their race or their color or whether they are property owners." But elsewhere in this chapter there are additional vague statements which are good in themselves but are not related to anything specific. On page 208: "We believe that every person deserves respect as a human being, no matter who he is. We believe in fair play and in justice for all." On page 209: "Respect for the rights of others is part of our way of life in our democracy."

On page 218: "We must remember that it is not possible for any government to be perfect. Government officials are human beings, and all humans make errors. Citizens may also criticize our democracy because there are still Americans who are not given equal rights in the community where they live. . . ."

At the very end of the book are two relatively bold statements, if still somewhat vague:

Page 220: "We are a land of many races and nationalities, and we are proud that this is so. This is the wonderful and different thing