

Beyond this aspect, we are deeply concerned over the anti-Negro sentiment which could develop from this summer of violence and rioting.

We urgently plead that the American people and the Congress not blanket the Negroes as a race. We must not generalize the blame for the riots on the people as a whole in the community. Whether the agitators are from inside the communities or come from without, the fact remains that only an infinitesimal number of Negroes are involved in the rioting, looting and destruction.

The vast majority of Negroes, like Americans everywhere, deplore and resent the wanton destruction to which their communities were subject in recent days. They prefer change that is rational and orderly. They deplore, as we do, the resort to arson, sniping and looting.

The example set by responsible Negroes is the clearest possible reminder of the obligation of every American not to indulge in false allegations or rumors or recriminations about the responsibility for riots. It is equally a pointed reminder that we cannot afford to forget those of our citizens who have been victimized by violence. Many who have little indeed have lost that little. They are the victims of a meaningless and self-defeating destruction, as some of our noted Negro leaders have recently stated.

It is the residents of the rampaged areas who pay for the breakdown in transportation, who lose jobs, services and homes. For the most part, they are the dead and injured. It is the Negroes in these gutted and looted areas who will do most of the paying.

We have confidence in Negro citizens. They are no different from white citizens in their desire for a good life for themselves and their families. Negroes recognize that they have a stake in their communities. They are against destruction for any purpose.

The vast majority of Negro citizens are constantly making efforts to upgrade and strengthen their home communities.

We must not allow the tremendous effort being made by the great majority of Negroes in these tragic communities to be overshadowed and forgotten because of a few irresponsible militants.

The irresponsible must give way to the responsible. Only then can we get on with the task of providing opportunity for a fuller life for all our citizens.

I thought it was important that people speak out in support of these people.

Rabbi Hirsch, would you like to make some comments now?

Rabbi HIRSCH. Except to follow up on the last thought of your own statement and that of Mr. Goodell's. I commend you for it. Being a Rabbi, I am very much impressed by homiletics and I like the phrase "the irresponsible must give way to the responsible." I would apply that, however, not only to the Negro community but to the white community as well. The thing that has disturbed me as a result of these riots has been that unfortunately the focus of Congress for the most part as well as the focus of the Nation as a whole, for the most part, has been on the riots and not on the things that society must do. I think that in a way it has been the society that has been irresponsible and I think what we represent is a plea to our Congress which is the manifestation of the good values of our society to help our society become more responsible.

During the last couple of weeks in Congress we have been hearing a great deal of talk about what I call the three R's of the last 2 weeks. We have talked about riots, rats, and rights. I think it is time we recognize a fourth right which is reflected in Congress and that is ruts. I think our society is in pretty much of a rut and the great promise that was held out to the Negro community in the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 act, in the Economic Opportunity Act, and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—this great promise and the moral passion which accompanied have now given appearance of dissipating.