

from Garfinckel's, Woodward & Lothrop, Louis & Dan Brown, University Shop, and jewelry, television sets, furniture, etc.

On April 18, 1968, a column written by Richard Starnes, a Scripps-Howard Staff Writer, in the Washington Daily News, another demagogue, Floyd B. McKissick, in his statement said: "I don't know if the white community has the ability to change."—"I don't know if it has the intelligence to listen to what's being said to it." My answer to Mr. McKissick is, "Yes, the white community has the ability to change and I know it has the intelligence to listen. But, on the other hand, does the black community have the ability to change and the intelligence to listen?" Both the black community and the white community have to work hand-in-hand without any interference or Mafia-type threats from the demagogues and "punks."

Also, in the same column, a question was asked of Mr. McKissick: "What is it that the Negroes really want?", Mr. McKissick explodes in bitterness when he hears it. "I don't like that question," he replies darkly. "What I want—what every black man wants—is really quite simple. I want everything you've got right now, and everything you hope to get." My answer to Mr. McKissick is: "You can have everything I have now through hard work, but not through hand-outs."

I would be willing to help show you the way to obtain the necessities of life—homes, jobs, schools, clothing, health, education, etc., for now and in the future, for those who want to be shown. But you must remember, Mr. McKissick, that the Negro's worst enemy is himself—for lack of communication, the poor Negro has been exploited more so by his own people ratio-wise than by the so-called whites.

Now, there are those black racists who say and demand 51 per cent of the businesses should be controlled by the Negroes, and that only Negro-owned businesses should be permitted to return to the burned-out areas of this community. Also, those same racists say that if the white businessman return, they will be burned out again. To start with, to have Negroes only owning all the businesses is totally infeasible. At this time very few Negroes have the capability that is needed to own and operate their own businesses. But given time, and through training and financial help from the white business community, there can be many Negro-owned and operated business. But let's not forget this is not something that is instant; it will require many years of practical experience both in training and in merchandising, buying, and most of all, hard work to compete with other businesses. Those demands made by the demagogues and racists should be repudiated by this City Council and by the Mayor in public. If racism is going to be based on the black and white kick, it is also understood that the blacks, as a whole, resent the Puerto Ricans and the Mexican-Americans. This indicates that the black militants are only interested in their own personal welfare—they are not for the best interests of the community in which they live.

I understand through several "scuttlebutt" sources that organizations such as Pride, Inc., are involved, in my opinion, in some type of "skulduggery." For instance, you will recall a recent confrontation with Rufus Mayfield—a Mafia approach involving all types of guns in order to discourage all types of free speech. And this was not a white man's proposal. This was "black to black." It appeared that Rufus Mayfield has to date, information for this community's interest that is not available for publication. There are sources also that claim that Pride, Inc. is involved in payoff schemes towards the militant-black-power identities.

In my extensive travels to countries of this hemisphere, I have obtained first-hand information, because while visiting I was always very interested in the areas considered underprivileged or unplanned. With this background information, I was able to compare them with similar areas in the United States. I will not hesitate to say that at our lowest levels we are better than any country in the world, even with regard to freedom of speech.

As a Real Estate owner, I would like to bring to the attention of this Committee that there is constant ridicule and harassment of property owners. The public, however, does not know of this kind of treatment of property owners. Not all property owners are alike, nor are people who rent. It is frightening to know that a newly constructed apartment can be rented on one day and in ten days the windows are broken and vandalism takes other forms; in addition, obscene language is found written on walls. Such occurrences are very discouraging to property owners.