

Still June 25

Dear Ones,

I just got hold of TIME for June 12 - the Pony edition. Page 27 reports on "Trouble in Cambridge" under Education. It is the story of Anti-Semitism and race rioting in Cambridge, and of Dean Hanford's cooperation with the Boston press in suppressing the details of an attack on two students. Such incidents are becoming only too common in the Boston area; ~~but~~ it is the attitude taken by Dean Hanford, which I can not understand. It runs counter to every idea and principle which I have ever associated with the liberal policy of Harvard. Why do the intelligent leaders, of our politics and our education, continue to dodge so futilely from a question which should logically find its greatest discussion and exposure during the hours when we are fighting Fascism all over the world. We talk of defeating fascism as a way of life, yet we sanction by our quiescent attitudes fascist outcroppings in our own social structure. Certainly no manifestation of fascism is more clearly defined than the hoodlumism of Anti-semitism, of the race riots. We have a golden opportunity to once and for all point out the undeniable lesson of the rise of European fascism and to crush it now by public scrutiny. This will not be accomplished (as TIME points out) by an "ostrich" Press and public. What is to be gained by hushing things up? Why are we afraid to broach this issue, to force it to a showdown? Perhaps I am being naive; perhaps I do not know of all the involvements which would result in Cambridge and Boston and Massachusetts politics if someone challenged this area "rife with Coughlinism anti-Semitism, Anglophobia." No problem of this sort ever was or ever will be solved by ignoring it. It is the overly cautious who are naive, whose very caution lulls them into fatal inactivity. I am not asking anything of a revolutionary nature; my request does not ask that deeply ingrained problems of our social structure be solved overnight. All I ask is the first step to be taken by intelligent leadership: exposure, discussion, understanding, consideration, and then action in educational and political lines. These anti-democratic forces can not be allowed to fester and become infectious; our democracy is not yet immune to its germs. There will times of stress when they will arise in more virulent attack and ~~when~~ we may lack the means to withstand them. The secret of democracy in society is the gradual, evolutionary learning and maturity of the average citizen; the first step of that process is the breakdown of destructive forces to clear the groundwork for constructive ideas. Surely there is no better time than the present to begin with the two problems which face us immediately. To rouse the questions into the light will not "provoke further trouble", ~~but~~ <sup>RATHER</sup> it will signal the first step to the necessary solution.

Despite the split infinitive and the hasty nature of this first draft - I know you agree with what I am trying to say. But I feel as though I should be writing this to someone else besides to you at home for the very reason that you do agree with me.

June 26

Nothing special today - working on meditation  
lectures:  
(over) Dave, Sumner



wrote to Cottage yesterday to Aunt Etta - not knowing  
 until I got his V-Mail letter today that Uncle Bert was in  
 Pottersboro. I didn't even mention him in the letter - please  
 cover my fault - pass!! (in interest of good family spirit)

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