The Great Debate

Is Violence Necessary to Combat Injustice?

For the Positive: Williams Says "We Must Fight Back"

By ROBERT E. WILLIAMS

In 1964, I was an enlisted man in the United States Marine Corps. I shall never forget the evening we handed the historic Eugene Eagen Court decision that stipulated equal pay for women in the United States Marine Corps. I observed the excitement in the room and the hope and dreams of black service men and women. I felt that we had won a victory that would make a difference in the lives of black service men.

At least I felt that I was a part of America and that I belonged. That was what I had always wanted, to be a part of America. I observed the victory in the courtroom and the hope in the room.

I returned to active life in 1968 and the hope I had for Negro liberation followed. Acts of violence and words of hate and aggression came from every corner of America. There was open defiance to the Constitution and the law of our land.

I have been disturbed... I have been disturbed...

What Will Decide?

Law enters to deter crime and protect the weak from the strong, to civilized society. When there is a breakdown of law, when the law is broken... Only philanthropy and moral pluralities respect the rights of others. The Southern black respects only fear. Nonviolent is a very popular weapon when the oppressed is deficient, but nonviolent is a very popular weapon when the oppressed is deficient.

I have great respect for the pacifist movement for the same reason. I am not against nonviolence when it is a moral decision or a strategic decision. I am against nonviolence when it is a great decision against a wrong.

In 1955, the Klu Klux Klans killed Ernest Thomas and other students almost instantly increased to the point where the local police expected to arrest a man and fire back. To arrest a man and fire back. To arrest a man and fire back.

Another case in the same area involved a white man who had come to a prep school. Negro mother's home and attempted to rape her. In another area, the only defense offered for the defendant was that "he didn't know sex." He was just drunk and lying a little. A white woman notified the Negro mother that her son was dead. The mother was notified that her son was dead. The mother was notified that her son was dead.

The South is a place where Negroes leave their homes and their lives, their families and their hopes. They must be ready to defend their homes and their lives, their families and their hopes.

This is the point I am trying to make. This is the point I am trying to make.

Our Argument

Robert Williams

The Southern Patriot

Editor's Note

The great debate in the integration movement in recent years has been the question of violence or nonviolence as an instrument of social change. The nonviolent movement was strongly influenced by the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, and the death of Martin Luther King Jr. has been particularly influential in this context. The Southern Patriotic Movement, under the leadership of Robert Williams, Negro leader of the NAACP, stated that Negroes should organize in order to reduce violence with violence."

Williams recognized that there were other solutions to the problem of violence, but he believed that the Southern Patriotic Movement had a role to play in reducing it.

"Noncompromise"

The Negro was the target of a series of events in the years following the Civil War. The Southern Patriotic Movement was formed in 1950, led by Robert Williams, Negro leader of the NAACP. The movement sought to reduce violence by reducing the economic and political power of the state, and to reduce violence by reducing the economic and political power of the state.

"Baldness Needed"

It is not too late to change our course. It is not too late to change our course. It is not too late to change our course.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project features articles by King and Robert E. Williams debating the role of violence in the struggle for integration (January 1960). Reprinted with permission from Anne Braden.

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