

FROM THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR" THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1969

'A True WASP' Responds to Strikers

You who demand "self-determination" lack the necessary intelligence to succeed. You have been nurtured too long by a Welfare society where "something" is demanded for "nothing" and where the socialistic tendency has been to eradicate all distinguishing lines between good, better, and best; as well as bad, worse, and worst. You keep missing the point in all your irresponsible ravings.

You exist here, now, in a national territory called the United States of America. We are not nor do we claim to be or be like China or Mexico or Africa. We have been called the melting pot because so many peoples of varying ethnic and national origins came to our shores voluntarily (except for the Blacks, as a whole) because for whatever their standard of values, they thought America was the place to be. And then they became Americans, not Italians or Poles or Mexicans. How, in the name of mature and realistic thinking, can you expect "America's present national life" to be anything but American. If there are faults, and there are, then work to correct them, but do not expect to chop America into little pieces called China, Mexico, or Africa. If America has appeared segregationist in some areas before and now, ultra-separationist tactics won't solve the difficulty. Two wrongs never did make a right and this as other cliches was founded on real life. If you truly are dying of the spiritual needs of your ethnic ancestors, then go and be welcomed into the bosom of you Chinese, Mexican or African villages. Now there is a place that could really use your potential to learn and your new awareness! Far be it from America to keep you here!

But, reacting as a true WASP, I must say that what really angers me is your apparently complete misunderstanding of what "self-determination" means. To me it is akin in definition to the so-called "self-made" man. And it is certainly allied to the very roots of American-ness, for this nation was founded by a handful of men who also wanted to be self-determined. So they got on a boat and battered their way to a strange and succorless soil and determined themselves from scratch. They did not ask that the Establishment pay their way with funds paid by all. They did not demand that those many believe in their cause and therefore subsidize it. They did not expect to find houses and factories to welcome them in from the elements and the hostile environment. And they certainly did not change the inflexible society under whose laws and practices they felt oppressed. They got the hell out and came to a land where there was not even a never-experienced-only-heard-about ethnic ancestry to shout about. These first independent Americans determined themselves in a realistic manner and provided the spirit and attitude that has since been reflected in American history.

So you who would be "self-determined" leave off your picketings and strikings and petulant tantrums. Do not expect the majority of Americans to hand you their daily-earned tax money for your separate school. We do not agree with your criteria for admission, instruction or financial aid. If you truly want your own school go build it, with money you earned. Taxpayers have every inalienable right to determine what their money buys. The market is glutted with striking students and there are few buyers. Stop trying to sell yourselves and start "determining" yourselves from scratch. Then you'll have the also inalienable right to direct where your money goes and what it buys you.

--Linda Eagan
TA, Spanish

AFTER READING THIS, YOU SHOULD BE READY TO HELP!!!

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- response to strike