

### 1C) Is there a wrong way to challenge discrimination?

#### **LI Negroes Let Race Down, *Newsday*, January 2, 1963**

Garden City -- Lincoln Lynch, Long Island chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), described Long Island last night as a place where the Negro is subject at all levels to the discrimination and segregation. And he heaped the bulk of the blame on the Negro himself for accepting the situation. "Here in Nassau County," Lynch said, "... racial discrimination and segregation cry out loud for correction. . . .

Lynch startled the predominantly Negro audience . . . by asserting that the Negro was engaged in a "mad scramble to . . . acquire the trappings and false values dictated by the same society which holds him in contempt." He said, "that in such strivings, the Negro has forgotten that he cannot attain freedom until all Negroes have freedom." He urged Long Island Negroes to prepare and finance lawsuits, to badger elective officials for legislation, to picket or sit-in or boycott, if necessary, to win equal rights.

#### **Right Way, Wrong Way: Editorial, *Newsday*, January 3, 1963**

That a subtle form of discrimination against Negroes exists on Long Island cannot be denied. But the way to remedy situations is not, so to speak, by crying "Fire!" in a crowded theater. That appears to be the solution espoused by Lincoln Lynch, Long Island chairman of . . . CORE.

When Lynch urges as a remedy a barrage of lawsuits, an unrelenting pressure on public officials, along with pickets, sit-ins and boycotts, he is crying "Fire!" That is not the way to win equality in the North, which is acutely aware of its own shortcomings and equally aware that its soldiers freed the slaves. The solution in the future as in the immediate past is the continuously accelerating but patient movement toward interracial understanding that has already gained a foothold in some communities and should be extended to all.

The answer is not to call to arms. The answer is the gradual absorption of the Negro into the American community on every level. . . . Time, and not very much of it, is a far better catalyst, a far better solution to an acknowledged problem that is rapidly working out anyway.

#### **The Negro and "White Ghettos" on Long Island: Letter to the Editor**

*Newsday*, January 10, 1963

West Hempstead -- Like many white liberals, the main thrust of your editorial is the tired, hackneyed (usual) and limpid (weak) plea for time. You ought to know better. Time is neutral; it is no assurance of anything. Time permitted Hitler to murder 6,000,000 Jews. Time permitted the South between 1865 and 1919 to lynch more than one hundred Negroes each year. Time has permitted real estate brokers in Nassau to perpetuate white ghettos and Negro slums.

#### **The Plight of the Negro on Long Island: Letter to the Editor**

*Newsday*, January 15, 1963

Levittown -- I feel it is necessary to point out certain of your misinterpretations of my remarks before the NAACP dinner in Garden City on New Year's Day. First of all, what Long Island CORE, the NAACP, and other organizations are doing about discrimination on Long Island is a far cry from yelling "'fire' in a crowded theater." Calling "help" while sinking in a morass (swamp) of quicksand would be more accurate. We are trying not to inflame, but to arouse. The Negro in America feels that too much time has elapsed and that his "absorption ... into the American community" has been all too gradual. To quote Martin Luther King, "Time unused is the ally of no man." Long Island CORE rejects categorically this theory of gradualism. The Negro himself must realize that he has the opportunity, the responsibility, and the means to change this second-class status which has been forced upon him for over 100 years of "freedom." - Lincoln O. Lynch

#### **Questions:**

- 1- What methods did Lincoln Lynch advocate to challenge racial discrimination on Long Island?
- 2- Why does the *Newsday* editorial criticize Lincoln Lynch?
- 3- Which view or views in this controversy do you agree with? Why?