

"I think it (white and Negro families visiting each other's homes) very helpful, and I think it should start right here in Washington, D.C. . . . All groups, it seems to me, can afford not only to concern themselves as they do with Birmingham but also to look into their own lives."

—President John F. Kennedy,
News Conference of May 8, 1963.

"There has generally been no conception at all that the white man had anything to learn from the Negro. . . . What the Negro now seeks and expects (or perhaps he has entirely given up expecting) from the white man is not sermons on patience, but a creative and enlightened understanding of his efforts to meet the demands of God in this. What he expects of us is some indication that we are capable of seeing a little of the vision he has seen, and of sharing his risks and courage."

—Thomas Merton, "Letters to a White Liberal," Ramparts Magazine.

Published by the National Home Visit Center, Friendship House, 4233 South Indiana Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60653. Price: 1-9 copies, 25c each; 10-99 copies, 20c each; 100-999 copies, 12c each; 1,000 copies, 7c each. Center pays shipping charges if payment accompanies order.



I N the warm, relaxed setting of a living room, the isolation of man from man because of race can be bridged. Interracial Home Visits are the way.

An Interracial Home Visit is a conversation in a living room setting, conversation which affords white Americans an opportunity to learn directly from Negro fellow-Americans the problems, challenges, heartaches, perplexities faced by a person of color in this nation. At such a meeting a Negro "conversation leader" shares his personal insights and experiences, and directs a give-and-take discussion of them with white participants. Instead of preaching at people, lecturing, moralizing, the Home Visit simply creates a favorable situation: it leaves to the white person the freedom and responsibility to draw the "right" conclusions.

The confrontation this provides is of a special kind—and a deep kind of learning results. From removal and "apart-ness," white learners grow to understanding and involvement.

The goal is learning, a kind of education it is true, as one visitor put it, "you could not get in books." The social (living room) setting makes the educational impact greater; it insures keeping the group small and provides the warm, permissive atmosphere that helps an uncertain, uncommitted visitor to speak frankly . . . to venture to open his mind and heart to the dialogue in which he is engaged.

Unlike most "first step" actions in race relations, the Interracial Home Visit goes to the