

reached with over a hundred firms who have defense contracts, to abolish discriminatory practices.

But it is obvious that there has been no major change in the Negro's industrial status. As of 1960, the wage gap between the average Negro and white worker showed that the white worker averaged \$4,569; the Negro worker \$2,652 — barely half as much as the former. In 1939, the average Negro worker received \$364 a year as against \$956 for a white worker—more than two-and-one-half times as much as the former. In twenty-one years only a slight percentage gain was made, which, based on present rates and tempo of development, a projection would also require almost a century to solve. But there is no guarantee that even these rates will be retained. Automated industries take their main toll among Negro workers, and in time of sharp decline in the economy, it is axiomatic that "the Negro is the last to be hired and the first to be fired." In the 1961 recession, A Phillip Randolph sounded the alarm when, preparing for a Washington job conference, he declared:

"It is now a matter of life and death for the Negro worker, who must awaken himself through a civil rights revolution . . . What appears as a recession for white workers is a depression for Negroes."

The truth of this statement is readily obvious. Recent Bureau of Labor Statistics figures show that close to 70 percent of the current hard-core of unemployment is of non-white workers, over 95 percent of which are Negroes. The inability of big business to provide total employment for the American worker, plus widespread racism, account for a general breakdown of Negro family life. The chief recipients of relief, ADC and other welfare agencies in almost all large cities with large Negro populations are Negroes. The average age of young Negro couples at marriage is approximately 18 years. A current article in *Ebony* magazine pointed out that 78 percent of such marriages fail. John C. Conant, of Harvard University, points out that 47 percent of Negro high school graduates are unemployed.

What is true in regard to schools and industry is likewise true

in respect to discrimination in housing. Here, too, progress is very slow. Over ten years have passed since the Supreme Court made its ruling on restrictive covenants, and the ghettos of America still remain largely undisturbed.

Slum clearance programs or urban renewal result in most instances in the elimination of Negroes from communities on the road to integration. In some cases, such as the Hyde Park Urban Renewal development in Chicago, the plan is to establish token representation from among the Negro elite. No wonder a commission entitled "Residence and Race," established by the Fund for the Republic, reported recently that 27,000,000 Americans still suffer from housing discrimination. Of this number, 19 million are Negroes.

One could examine field after field and the picture would remain the same. Progress in all fields is relative, some more, some less, but in all of them there has been no fundamental change.

At the present rate of progress it would require another hundred years to end jim crowism in America life. This is the reality of the present situation as we prepare to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation. This is the situation nine years after the historic Supreme Court ruling.

New Trends in Negro Liberation Movement

The lack of appreciable changes in the jim crow system, coupled with the advance of former colonial peoples to freedom, has provided the base for the emergence of new trends in the Negro liberation movement. Frustrated, desperately seeking solutions, many Negroes are turning to nationalist organizations of a separatist nature. These organizations, which in the '40s were reduced to mere sects, are now in the process of revival. The Black Muslims undeniably become a tremendous mass movement. Their temples are growing all over the country. They claim over 200,000 members and have a paper which has a circulation of 300,000 each edition. They have a parochial school system operating in several cities, and they are now reported to be purchasing their own radio