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A THOUGHT FOR TODAY *They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous.—I Timothy 6:18.*

The best way to keep good acts in memory is to refresh them with new.
—Marcus Cato, Roman statesman.

EDITORIALS

What Negroes Really Want

In all the furor in recent years over rights for Negroes, little real effort has ever been made to determine exactly what the Negro-in-the-home really wants. "Freedom Now" has been the rallying cry, instant prosperity the indication. But the precise details have been lacking.

Now a survey conducted for the Senate subcommittee on executive reorganization—the one which has been conducting hearings on the plight of the cities—has made a stab at finding out what the average Negro family really wants. And the answers are not very surprising, though Martin Luther King and Stokely Carmichael probably don't like them.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S survey, conducted by the John F. Kraft firm, revealed that the Negro in the "ghetto":

- X ✓ Isn't particularly interested in civil rights laws;
- X ✓ Loathes welfare programs because they force families to break up;
- X ✓ Isn't worried about "police brutality" because he lives in a state of near-anarchy, and actually wants more police protection;
- X ✓ Rejects forced desegregation of schools, but wants schools that will teach children basic discipline, manners and personal hygiene.

Senator Abraham Ribicoff, chairman of the subcommittee, said the survey was conducted in carefully-controlled interviews in Watts, Harlem, Chicago and Baltimore, using especially-trained Negro interviewers to overcome the "whitey" barrier.

THE SLUM AREA Negro's objection to welfare programs is that family instability is one of the prime causes of difficulties among the poorer Negroes. But where an unskilled Negro father finds it difficult to support his family, welfare pro-

grams help out only if he breaks away from his family. What the Negroes of the slums want, the surveyors report, is job training so they can get off relief and keep the family together.

HARLEM RESIDENTS were particularly strong in their demand for stopping crime on the streets. Whole neighborhoods, the surveyors reported, have been virtually abandoned to dope addicts ready to kill, maim or steal for a "fix." The Negroes want more police protection, so they can walk, shop, work and live in safety.

The results of this survey speak well for the Negro families of the big city slums, for they show that the aspirations of the average Negro there are sound and in keeping with the aspirations of most other Americans. But the survey findings suggest that the civil rights leaders and the political liberals are chasing the wrong moonbeams.

INSTEAD OF laws and court decisions liberalizing the protection of the individual Negro from the brutal arm of law enforcement, the Negroes want more police protection.

Instead of laws and "guidelines" forcing an arbitrary quota-system integration in schools, the Negroes want better education and stricter discipline in their community schools.

Instead of a dole and a poverty war, the Negro wants to learn job skills with which he can support himself and his family.

Instead of government programs to take over his children as toddlers, the Negro wants an opportunity to support and rear them himself.

The survey is a mighty good starting place for some re-thinking by all of us—from private citizen to public official to Negro "leaders." There may not be as much politics in the changed emphasis. But there would be a lot more common sense and potential.