

Saturday, October 1, 1966

*"First the blade, then the*

## Keeping sight of the goal

In a lull during the Negro outburst in Atlanta earlier this month, Mayor Ivan Allen allowed himself to think aloud in the company of a television reporter as they walked through a troubled area on a morning after. What Mr. Allen said was to the effect that there were often excesses at a time of tumultuous change, but that this should not deflect society from its goal. This was the observation of a level-headed and far-seeing man. And it was all the more remarkable because the Mayor had borne the brunt of considerable abuse from the more activist Negroes involved in Atlanta's troubles.

Mr. Allen forecast, nevertheless, the effect that this Negro outburst was likely to have on Georgia politics. This effect has now manifested itself in the outcome of Wednesday's Democratic primary election. Segregationist Lester Maddox triumphed over moderate Ellis Arnall, who was seeking to get back to the governor's chair that he had once occupied for a term. This leaves the contest in November to two men whose views on race are not very far apart: Howard Callaway, the Republican gubernatorial candidate, comes from the same part of the spectrum as Mr. Maddox. In other words, the white backlash seems to have swept out of the running any moderate candidate for the Georgia governorship.

There is little doubt that the turn that the Negro revolution has taken this summer is having an effect on American public opinion as a whole. Figures quoted by pollster Louis Harris in a CBS television documentary this week showed strikingly how white attitudes toward Negroes have changed since the summer began. The

trend already was apparent by June. By then, public opinion was split about evenly into "pro" and "anti"—a fall off from the euphoric days of not so long ago when sympathizers with the Negro revolution outnumbered resisters two to one. According to Mr. Harris, the end of the summer sees this proportion roughly reversed. Resisters to the current trend or pace of the revolution now outnumber sympathizers two to one.

From Atlanta, attention now shifts to San Francisco. There—after Mr. Maddox's success in the Georgia primary—the immediate question is whether this week's outbursts in the Negro sections of San Francisco will swing back to Republican Ronald Reagan those votes which he was apparently beginning to lose to Democrat "Pat" Brown in the campaign for the governorship of California. Mr. Reagan is cut in a different mold from that of the victor in Wednesday's primary in Georgia; but there is general agreement that in their respective states both he and Mr. Maddox have directly or indirectly sought the white backlash vote.

For our part, we are inclined to go along with Atlanta's Mayor Allen. Neither the outcome of the Georgia primary nor the regrettable and intermittent outbursts in the Negro ghettos of big cities is likely to deter American society as a whole from the goal which it has set itself—equal rights, equal opportunities, equal responsibilities for all. The goal has within itself its own dynamism. Human failings and human excesses may cause the caravan to falter or impose detours. But it has not turned back or disintegrated in its nearly two-hundred-year journey—and is hardly likely to do so now.



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FAMILY  
FEATURES

*Dialogue  
with youth*

By Erwin D. Canham

*Editor in chief of  
The Christian Science Monitor*

**Reader:** Would you please comment on the operation and purpose of the "spoils system"? To most Australians this system seems to be a form of corruption built into the political system. Do you approve of it?

**Anna S.**  
Victoria, Australia

**E. D. C.:** The "spoils system" is a form of corruption built into the political system. You are quite right. It comes from the phrase, "To the victor belongs the spoils." It used to prevail in the United States, and it did so previously in Great Britain and elsewhere. Government servants held their appointments at the pleasure of a political patron. Now the system has been largely replaced by civil service. In the United States, the civil service does not extend quite so high up in political rank as in Great Britain. This is partly because American administrations do not usually change as often as in parliamentary countries. It would be impossible in Britain or Australia to clear out the second and third rank of officials in government departments whenever the government changed. In the United States, a department head and his immediate subordi-

