

The New Negro Militants

Stokely Carmichael's "Black Power" exhortations used to shock white America, but the current Negro militant rhetoric makes them seem almost tame.

Witness what happened at the National Convention of New Politics in Chicago over the Labor Day week-end: Although the delegates were all members of radical New Left organizations, all committed to the goal of Negro advancement, the Negroes among them had almost nothing to say to the whites beyond telling them to go to hell.

A black caucus formed and met behind doors closed to white delegates, and when it had completed its deliberations it demanded and received convention endorsement of 13 resolutions, the most bitter calling for formation of committees "to humanize the savage and beast-like character that runs rampant through America exemplified by George Lincoln Rockwell and Lyndon Baines Johnson." Thus the most radical white liberals, those most closely aligned with Negro aspirations, have now been put on notice that they cannot be trusted

with any significant share in the struggle for Negro freedom.

Black power, it should be emphasized, can be a powerful and progressive philosophy for aiding the Negro in claiming his rightful place in America and providing him with his rightful share of its bounty. But the new Negro extremists, growing in numbers and influence in the nation's ghettos, only confront a racially sick society with racial sickness of their own. Leadership in black communities seems to fall increasingly to those who offer the most moving description of Armageddon . . . the final, fiery confrontation between "good" and "evil."

If the country's history of racial segregation has produced a national neurosis, we are seeing it in an extreme form in the Negro militant movement.

It is regrettable that the potentially valuable courage and independence of those militant leaders is being dissipated in raucous martyrdom while the ghettos remain improperly served, both by the militants themselves and by the government and society they attack.