

THE HERITAGE OF ALL MEN

Writing in the special issue of Survey Graphic in November, Mr. Elmer Anderson Carter, member of the Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board of New York, says:

"The majority of Americans are not deliberately hostile to the participation of the Negro in the benefits of democracy . . . What the majority of Americans do not realize is that equality in these benefits which in a democracy should be the heritage of all men, never can be attained under a system of racial segregation."

This statement was hailed by the Race Unity committee of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is as sound and true. This committee believes that the facts and reasoning, which Mr. Carter presents to prove his point, will strengthen the new tide of opinion among leaders of both colored and white races disfavoring segregation in any of its forms.

Until recently, declares Mrs. Alice Simmons Cox of the Baha'i committee, even sincere workers for advancement of the Negro, whether white or colored, were most of them protagonists of bi-racial progress—the parallel way—or whatever they chose to call it. They now begin to see that progress in perpendicular or parallel paths has had its day of service in proving the capacity of the Negro to himself and to others.

The Baha'is see this evidence of a coming understanding as a healthy sign calling our attention to the fact that the welfare of all humanity lies in the processes that contribute to unity rather than to separation.

It is not in separate cultures, adjacent to one another by virtue of a common country or locality, but in the development of an interdependent and cooperative civilization in which barriers of race, class and creedal prejudice are swept away and the virtues of peoples blended, that America is destined to emerge from its present crisis.

With the press of conditions and deeper thinking, we can dare to hope the shadows of the slave tradition may at long last be growing thin.