

Baha'is Say Racial Tension Vital Issue

The National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States meeting in Wilmette, Ill., recently gave attention to the growing unrest in the United States and elsewhere in the world rising out of racial tension and strife, and expressed the view that this problem is the most challenging issue facing every member of the human race at this time.

Speaking for the assembly, Charles Wolcott, national secretary of the organization, called attention to the divinely inspired writing of Baha 'u' llah, founder of the Bahi'i Faith, who proclaimed almost a century ago: "The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens." "Ye dwell in one world and have been created through the operation of one Will. Blessed is he who mingleth with all men in a spirit of utmost kindness and love." "The well-being of mankind, its peace and

security are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established."

Wolcott pointed out that the implications of these statements are clear. There can be no neutral side. "Any discrimination or restriction," he said, "because of race, whether of educational or job opportunities & mutual access to accommodations in eating and other commercial establishments and in public facilities, or equal protection of privacy and individual rights under the law, demeans the dignity of the individuals involved and are contrary to the teachings of God for this age."

"Such discrimination," he commented, "not only creates acute conflicts and social problems which inflict tremendous costs on our civilization but holds us back from enjoying the fruits which could result from the dynamic accomplishments which a truly organic and unified society, freed from restrictive thinking could produce."