
January 1960

New York Law Forum Vol. 6 Foreword

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Recommended Citation

New York Law Forum Vol. 6 Foreword, 6 N.Y.L. SCH. L. REV. (1960).

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NEW YORK LAW FORUM

VOLUME VI

JANUARY, 1960

NUMBER 1

FOREWORD

THIS issue may appear to be weighted in favor of legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment and housing. The impression is a true one. Those interested in firmly establishing the human rights of all people in this country appear to far out-number those who maintain that we should not invoke the legislative process to put an end to discriminatory practices. Nor is it possible for me, even for the moment, to lay aside my firm convictions in order to offer an impartial foreward.

The matter of human rights and the manner in which they are to be maintained are of first consequence to all of our people. It is essential that we recognize, beyond the mere practice of lip service, that those who fight for us, trade with us, employ us or are employed by us, possess and therefore must not be denied the civil rights which any of us enjoy.

The phantom distinction that is drawn because of racial or religious heritage will have to disappear before we can claim to be a truly civilized society possessed of the moral strength and intellectual integrity that are essential to our preservation. Leadership of the free world cannot be vested in a nation where the rights which citizens enjoy depend upon the color of their skin or the spiritual concepts to which they adhere.

These brief thoughts are, of course, in accord with the views expressed by the distinguished advocates of anti-discrimination legislation. They have been generous in contributing their articles to this publication. The subject, however, is a controversial one and the differences of opinion are not only strong, but bitter.

In order that both sides of the question may be presented, we have invited Mr. Alfred Avins, who has been in the forefront of the fight against anti-discrimination legislation, to prepare an article for publication in this issue and he has responded to our request. For the

proponents of the status quo who are opposed to the position that I have expressed, he speaks volubly and ably.

Insofar as the New York Law School is concerned, its position, of course, is neutral on public questions. Its principal interest is to prepare our students for their careers at the bar and to inspire them to advocacy of the causes that will continue to keep our country great, give meaning to our Constitution and the Bill of Rights and offer leadership to the nations which are trying to establish a democratic way of life.

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