Sensing The News

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THE NEGROES AND THE INDIANS

A news item that has received considerable attention recently, if not support, is the demand by certain Negroes who are officers in welfare rights organizations, that the Negro people be paid tremendous sums of money for the "injustices" meted out to them by the white people over the last several hundred years.

These claimants started out in various churches of the land by invading their pulpits or interrupting their services and demanding $500 million in reparations.

Then, apparently one of them divided $500 million in by the Negro population of the country, 20 million, and found out that was only $25.00 apiece. They then decided this was by no means enough and, taking over the stage at the bankers convention in New York, upped their demand to $6 billion, or $300.00 each if equably distributed.

This amount also would not last very long, but after all, if the $6 billion request is acceded to, what's to keep them from demanding $60 billion or $600 billion or any other amount they wish?

As a matter of fact, the Negroes are going at this proposition backwards. What they need is the same viewpoint as that gained by an intelligent Negro in this country who went to Africa sometime back, studied the situation among the natives there very carefully, and returned to the United States saying: "Thank God, my ancestors were sold into slavery."

Actually, the Negroes in this country are not only much better off than if they had remained in their native jungles the last three or four hundred years, they are much better off than most all people of any race or any color in any part of the world.

Then, too, the Negroes should realize they have no claim to any reparations whatsoever. If the economy of the whole world is to be turned upside down to meet demands for imagined past injustices, then we should have a stranger world indeed. The one thing that is clear is that everyone else have a claim, and that's where the trouble started and is back.

As a matter of fact, if the Negroes have a claim for $500 million or $6 billion or whatever amount, what about the claims of the American Indians? After all, they are their country until the white man came and took it from them.

Which is reminded of a recent poll taken over an Indian reservation. The question was asked if the Indians thought we should get out of Viet Nam, and most of the Indians thought we should not get out. "United States" surely the Indians in Indiana have a much clearer picture of the Communist and everything in that area, than is realized.

Another interesting item in this connection is the purchase of Manhattan Island from the Indians for the equivalent of $24.00 in beads and trinkets. Many smiled at that as the greatest real estate swindle in all history, although actually the white people from dammed the Indians. As a matter of fact, Russell Baker, a reporter for the New York Times, has considered it quite amusing example of