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PERSONAL

ALLEN TO NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS

1965-1966

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201 East 165th Street
Bronx, New York
January 11, 1966

The Editor
New York Amsterdam News
2340 Eighth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

I read with great interest your editorial entitled "Two Wars" appearing in the January 8 issue. This editorial pointed out that a disproportionate number of Negroes are now being drafted into the Army to fight in Viet Nam. The article goes on to say that jobless black youths who have been denied equal opportunity at home become "prime cannon fodder for the Army."

As a person who has been called up for the Armed Forces Physical Examination and seen the proportions of blacks and whites in the Induction Center I can testify to the truth of your statements. However, I was deeply offended by the statement in your editorial which implies that young Negroes who get drafted were previously "hoodlums, drug addicts and criminals." Not all of us fit this description.

Furthemore, many of us are wondering why we are being called to defend "freedom" in a far-away land. Where are the "freedom" and "democracy" for which black men died in World War II? Must we blindly answer the call only to return, after the fighting is over and "freedom" has been spared, to the ghettos and discrimination which we left?

I fear that we may be distracted by the war "over there" from our real struggle at home, and too many of our young men will spill their blood to gain a "victory" which will be of dubious value to us.

Sincerely,

Robert Allen

Esquire Union Skin
201 East 165 Street
Bronx, New York
January 18, 1965
MADE IN U.S.A.

The Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43 Street
New York, New York

Dear Sir:

The Georgia Legislature has set a dangerous precedent in barring Julian Bond. This action should not go uncontested since Mr. Bond was duly elected and was entitled to his seat in the Legislature.

The Georgia Legislators have implied that Mr. Bond has violated or advocated the violation of the Law. The crucial and basic point here is that this question can only be decided in a court of law, which the Georgia Legislature definitely is not. It would therefore appear that the Legislature has usurped the powers of the courts, and it is on this ground that its action must be contested.

If Mr. Bond has not violated a law, as decided by the courts, then he is entitled to a seat in the Georgia Legislature, regardless of whatever views he may hold. For if Representative Government is to be truly viable, then the views of all citizens must be represented in the councils of government.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Allen

Robert L. Allen