

A Time to Respond

What is the outstanding national domestic issue of 1964? What was it in 1963? 1962? 4-23

Civil rights, civil rights, civil rights.

As President Johnson said in his first address to Congress,

We have talked long enough in this country about equal rights. We have talked for 100 years or more. It is time NOW to write the next chapter—and to write it in the books of law.

Those students who agree with the President that the time has come to elevate the Negro to a status of equality with the other citizens of our country now have an enviable opportunity to do something about this conviction, both on a national scale and on campus.

On Saturday a delegation of Bucknell students is going to Washington with a two-fold purpose—to lobby and to learn. They will be joined by students from colleges throughout the East in what has modestly been called a "March on Washington."

Their first objective is an attempt to influence senators to vote for cloture to end the Southern filibuster. This "filibuster-busting" aspect of the trip is, even the organizers of the expedition admit, not likely to achieve immediate results. More on this later.

The second, and more important aim, is to be educated about not only this particular bill, but also the battle for civil rights in general. Participating students have already read a pamphlet explaining each of the ten major provisions of the bill.

In Washington, they will meet with senators, civil rights leaders, and newsmen. They will also attend the Senate debate on the bill.

Transportation is available for more students than have indicated interest thus far (as of Monday, 31). Others interested should contact Bruce McGraw tonight (ext. 350).

Students who are not able to journey to the Capital, as well as those who do, can exercise influence through letters to their senators. A flood of Lewisburg-to-Washington mail might not go unnoticed.

There is also something which can be done on the campus itself; that is, as one speaker has said, "changing the social atmosphere at Bucknell." Most students are probably unaware of the unpleasant incidents which occurred when a Negro girl from Howard University spent a semester here five years ago. A letter-to-the-editor which she wrote near the end of her stay is reprinted on this page.

Many people claim that the social atmosphere has changed since this girl attended Bucknell. This has yet to be proven.

Next month the Student-Faculty Congress is going to conduct a fund-raising drive in which it hopes to collect at least \$4,000 to finance several scholarships for worthy but needy Negro students. If students, faculty, and alumni support this campaign, much more than this can be raised.

All of the programs which have been discussed—the trip to Washington, the letter-writing campaign, and the drive to collect money for Negro scholarships—afford students an excellent chance to take part in a movement of unique national historical significance and to demonstrate, to any who doubt, that they are not apathetic, narrow-minded, isolated, or anything else of the kind.