Jules Feiffer
Some Civil Rights Related Cartoons, 1960-1966

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DIER SINC’ HE WAS KNEE HIGH TO A GRASS HOPPER. I’D SAY TO LITTLE BEN, ‘LITTLE BEN, YOU’RE OUTFITLESS AN’ LAZY,’ AN’ LITTLE BEN WOULD SHUFFLE A STEP OR TWO AN’ SAY, ‘GUESS I IS MR. JOM.’ WE GOT ALONG FINE THAT WAY, LITTLE BEN AN’ ME.

I’D KEEP TELLIN’ HIM WHAT HE WAS AN’ SURE ENOUGH HE WENT THE WAY HE SHOULD.

AN’ HE WAS GROWIN’ UP JES’ FINE TILL THEM OUTSIDERS COME ALONG AN’ TOLD LITTLE BEN JES’ BECAUSE I TOLD HIM HE WAS OUTFITLESS AN’ LAZY. I DII’N’T MAKE IT SO.

WELL, AFTER THAT LITTLE BEN DONT LISTEN TO ME THE WAY HE USE’ TO. I’D SAY, ‘LITTLE BEN, NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS, YOU’RE OUTFITLESS AN’ LAZY AN’ IDIOTALL DEVOTED TIME.’

AN’ HE'D SAYS, RIGHT BACK WITH, ‘MR. JOM, NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS, YOU’RE A RACIST, YOU’RE A KILLER, AN’ YOUR TIME IS COMIN.’

WELL, I BEAT HIM UP PRETTY GOOD FOR THAT AN’ ANYTIME I’D SEE MORE AGITATORS AROUND I TOOK A GUN TO THEM, BUT IT DII’N’T DO NO GOOD.

I BEGUN’ T WORRY IF I WASN’T LIKE WHAT LITTLE BEN SAID.

SO I KILLED LITTLE BEN.

THAT’S WHAT HE WAS FOR, MAKIN’ ME BELIEVE HIS DREAM INSTEAD OF HIS BELIEVIN’ MINE.
AS PART OF A FACT FINDING TROUBLE SHOOTING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM SENT OUT TO SEEK WAYS OF RESTORING RACIAL COMMUNICATION IN SOUTHERN CITIES, I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT OUR FINDINGS.

NO. 1. IT IS OUR CONCLUSION THAT SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES ARE SEMANTIC. THE NEGRO COMMUNITY HAS DROPPED THE USE OF THE COURTESY WORD "SIR," REPLACING IT WITH A WORD FOUND TO BE FAR LESS APPEALING. IMMEDIATE REINSTATEMENT OF THE WORD "SIR" MIGHT WELL OPEN OTHER AREAS FOR DISCUSSION.

NO. 2. IN TALKS WITH WHITE CIVIC LEADERS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT INCREASED TENSION WAS DUE TO NEGRO LAXES IN THE TECHNIQUE OF NON-VIOLENCE. SOUTHERN MODERATES FEEL THIS TO BE A BETRAYAL OF THE NEGRO REVOLUTION AND INSIST THAT ONCE THE NEGRO COMMUNITY SURRENDERS ITS ARMS OTHER AREAS FOR DISCUSSION MIGHT WELL BE OPENED.

NO. 3. SOUTHERN MODERATES DEEM THE CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT OF NEGRO CHILDREN IN SUNDAY SCHOOLS TO BE A DELIBERATE PROVOCATION. RETURN NEGRO RELIGION TO THE HARMLESS PURPOSES IT WAS DESIGNED FOR AND OTHER AREAS FOR DISCUSSION MIGHT WELL BE OPENED.

FINALLY, WE FIND THAT WHITE CIVIC LEADERS REMAIN PERTURBED AT OUTSIDE AGITATORS--A PRIME EXAMPLE BEING THEIR ANGER AT OUR FACT-FINDING TROUBLE SHOOTING PRESIDENTIAL TEAM WHEN IT TRIED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE NEGRO COMMUNITY. THE DISSOLUTION OF OUR TEAM MIGHT WELL SERVE TO OPEN OTHER AREAS FOR DISCUSSION.

OUR PRESENT ATTITUDE IS THAT THIS MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE SHOULD BE CONTINUED.
MY FATHER SAYS THAT
"THANK GOD IT'S A
Blessing we don't
live in the South
with all this
going on."

ABSOLUTELY.
MY FATHER
AGREES.

EXACTLY WHAT
MY FATHER SAYS. MY
FATHER IS VERY
INTERESTED IN
UNCOMMITTED
COUNTRIES.

MY FATHER SAYS.
"I'M ASHAMED TO CALL
MYSELF AN AMERICAN
WITH LITTLE ROCK
AND ALL."

MY FATHER QUITE
DEFINITELY AGREES.
HE'S ALWAYS BEING
ASHAMED OF CALLING
HIMSELF
AN AMERICAN.

MY FATHER SAYS THAT,
"THANK GOD THERE'S
NONE OF THIS
NOISE CASE HERE
IN NEW YORK."

MY FATHER GOES RIGHT
ALONG WITH YOUR
FATHER. THEY CAN
THROW THE REST OF THE
COUNTRY AWAY AS
FAR AS MY
FATHER
IS
CONCERNED.

WHERE
DO THEY
SEND
YOU?

THORSTEIN VERLENN
ACADEMY IN
SCARSDALE. HOW
ABOUT
YOU?

"THE PANDIT
NEHRU
SCHOOL.
IT'S IN
NEW YORK."
Billie came over to me in the morning after you promised to take me to the zoo today, Daddy. And I said I'm sorry, Billie boy, but Daddy has got something else he must do today.

Billie's Momma said now you stop bothering your Daddy, Billie boy, and I said don't scold the boy, Charlotte. I know just the way he feels because I still remember what it was like when my Daddy disappointed me.

And Charlotte hugged me and called me her honey, Bear, and said you're too gentle for your own good Daddy, and I said it's a bad thing when a father has to break a promise to his son. That's the way a child can turn sour.

And Charlotte said no child of ours will turn sour so long as a man like you is around. And I hugged her and said you're my little girl. Then I picked up my bat and I said I'd best be on my way. I'm late as it is.

Hit one for me, Charlotte yelled, and for me too, Daddy. Billie boy yelled, and I yelled back Don't you worry about me. I'll do fine.

And then I drove downtown to the civil rights demonstration.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT HANDKERCHIEF HEAD PROTEST! IT'S TIME FOR THE AFRICAN AMERICANS TO MEET VIOLENCE WITH VIOLENCE!

NONSENSE! NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WEAPONS. THE NEGRO HAS ALREADY SURRENDERED IT?

IF MISTER BOSS BUMPS YOU, YOU BUMP MISTER BOSS. ANYTHING LESS IS A SELL-OUT! AFRICAN AMERICANS HAD BETTER KNOW IT!

THAT'S THE BLOODY ROAD TO INTEGRATION! THAT'S JUST WHAT THE BOYS HOPE FOR?

THE BOYS ARE OUR ONLY ENEMY MAN! GOMA MERE! GO-SLOW BUDDY, THE WHITE LIBERAL!

THE NEGRO WILL WIN HIS RIGHTS PEACEFULLY OR NOT AT ALL. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THE FRIENDS WE'VE MADE!

PEACE MEANS WHITE MAN'S PEACE. YOUR NON-VIOLENCE BETTER WORK PRETTY SOON, MAN! A LOT OF US ARE GETTING DAMN TIRED!

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

WE'D BETTER INTEGRATE IMMEDIATELY!

GOD, YES! BEFORE THOSE EXTREMISTS TAKE OVER!

NICE WORK, CHARLIE!

THERE'S ANOTHER WHITE BAR DOWN THE BLOCK. LET'S GO DOWN THERE AND PANIC THEN,
Originally published in *New York Post*:
I'm very proud of my latest cartoon chief.

A very strong comment, but haven't I seen something like it before?

You mean this one when I was concerned that extremist tactics would lose the Negro as many white friends?

Powerful! But haven't I seen something like it before?

You mean this one when I was fearful that irresponsible actions would endanger the passage of corrective civil rights legislation?

Boy, that really stings it but haven't I seen something like it before?

The great strides the Negro people had already made!

Thanks partner!

A beauty! But haven't I seen something like it before?

You mean this one when I wondered if trying to move too fast wouldn't threaten the great strides the Negro people had already made?

Thanks partner!

You mean this one when I just couldn't understand what these people wanted?

A classic! But haven't I seen something like it before?

You mean this old one?

Boy, one picture is worth a thousand words.

Thanks partner!
In my opinion, Negroes are going too far with their protests.

I'm only for me, Sonny. Too many years spent worrying about other people.

You feel unappreciated, Mr. Backlash?

On the record you are for integration?

Then off the record you're against democracy, Mr. Backlash?

I'm even for integration.

Then why the backlash, Sonny?

They all hate us, Sonny! It's even-stevens. They hate us, and we hate them.

For the record, Sonny, you may say that in my opinion extremist tactics are regressing the Negroes to their many moderate friends.

Thank you, Mr. Whitney Backlash.

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