

# Colored Restaurant

Editor of the Daily News:

I read in your paper where some of the participants of the "sit-down strikes" said that white people should put themselves in their shoes.

Being a restaurant operator, I am more concerned and inclined to put myself in the shoes of the "colored restaurant" owners and operators.

I know from experience that they must have a terrific investment and a lot of hard work and long hours to have these nice colored restaurants for their people to dine in comfort.

But if these "sit-downers" pass them up and close up the white lunch counters or restaurants, they are killing the goose and gander both. It seems that they are turning a peaceful sit-down into a racial setback or near riot.

Up until 1954 when the Supreme Court and the N. A. A. C. P. took over, many Southern white restaurants were serving colored people on a limited basis—that is, in parties, meetings, etc. But now they have stirred up so much trouble, and the people have become so "race conscious," that it is next to impossible. No clear-thinking businessman wants to lose his shirt trying to work out a problem that he knows will disrupt his whole business and income.

The businessman would have worked this thing out, as it is

the "American way" to struggle for more business and customers; and colored people's money is just as good as any. However, there is another American way, and that is not to be forced to do anything that will hurt one's business or security.

In my case, we—as a family—have worked seven days a week and many nights to have a nice restaurant. Our boys worked as "curb boys" since they were 10 years old, while other boys, including colored boys, rode by on their new bicycles. Our boys bought used bicycles with money that they earned. So, naturally we would be resentful of anything that would disrupt our business or security.

I don't think that white restaurant operators think that they are so much better than colored people or think that colored people are too inferior to be served in our restaurants.

We just couldn't afford the riffraff and trouble that the pressure groups are trying to put over under the shield of "their rights". We have rights too and want to keep our business peaceful.

We think that the colored people could settle this thing by building some nice up-to-date restaurants, integrating them and advertise that it is the new and modern way to serve the public. Get the N. A. A. C. P. and other organizations to help with finances. We would help too.

Get in direct competition with "all-white" and "all-colored" restaurants.

Many of the best cooks in the world are colored people, and if they would just use their intuition and talents they would be surprised at the white people who would support them.

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