

THE STRIKE DEMAND

Week of 5/22/70 - 5/29/70  
Ray Washington

Despite constant reiteration of the basic aim of the strike, confusion still reigns. And so...here we go again.

The philosophy of the strike is to add the strength of concerned white students to that of the Third World organizations, and thus help to begin to solve the problem that underlies all their other problems: they are minorities in this society and, especially, at Washington State University. If we can lend them our strength of numbers, if we can give them majority power, then a number of their difficulties on this campus can be eliminated. Nobody persecutes the majority - not for long, at least - so if you want to help someone, make him a member of the majority.

All that we who are striking are doing is putting our power behind the Third World groups. We in no way intend to give them the benefit of our wisdom, because in matters of race relations, our wisdom is mere ignorance compared to what a Black or a Chicano or a Native American knows by the time he is ten years old.

Therefore, the strike is not directly in support of the Eleven Demands. If the Third World groups want the Eleven Demands, or only ten of them or three or what-have-you, that is their business, NOT OURS. We are striking to force the administration, from Governor Evans to the Educational Policies Committee, into meaningful negotiations with the Third World groups.

Not just talk. That has been done and done. Negotiations. Real ones. Like the United Auto Workers have with General Motors.

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