

Whenever I turn over a new volume number, I (Dave Van Arnham) worry a little bit about the pretentiousness of doing this. On the other hand, as the first of the New Breed of fmz, I think it is a Good Thing. So it will continue. Thirty volumes... that's quite a few.

FIRST DRAFT #175

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If you people think I've been talking a lot about death these days -- a personal friend first, then Jayne Mansfield and the whole insanity of our self-slaughter via the wonderful automobile machine that -- were we civilized -- would not be permitted to exist in anything like its present form and under the present regulations, well, I've hardly begun.

I don't think I'll say much this time about the riots in Newark and the senseless deaths there. I need to work out a few of my ideas on the subject first. But one thing is quite clear.

We are running out of alternatives, gang.

In fact, we have run out completely, except for three basic ones:

[1] We can kill all the n----- in the United States. There are those who wouldn't mind doing just that, of course, but now their number is going to increase. These are the people whose only response to rioting and looting is "Kill the bastards."

[2] We can bumble along ineffectually stopping each riot as it comes along, a riot at a time, taking one, two, three, four, or more days each, until all our cities are in flames and our civilization shatters around us. This is what the H. Rap Browns and the Stokely Carmichaels would have us do, on the grounds that a new civilization can be built on the ashes of the old. The trouble is that what the extreme radicals are talking about is not simply racial justice -- they are talking about the total destruction of everything that represents America today. And we are not that bad a nation, as nations go; in fact, of all large nations in the history of the world from the beginning up to the present, I wd hazard that we perhaps have the best society yet constructed. There is a progression here not lightly to be cast aside for the tattered cause of radical socialism and such like discredited philosophies.

[3] We can work out a way to help the Negro (and the Puerto Rican, and the whatever group is next) to help himself -- give him a chance to see the slums destroyed, the rats killed, the streets cleaned, the prices decent, the jobs available, the houses available -- in short, give him the chance to be freed from the honkey-imposed prison of his black skin and his ghettoized life.

There aren't any other options available. Killing the rioters stops only the ones you kill; it doesn't dissuade the others. The riots and the rioters will continue until they have destroyed everything or until all the Negroes have been destroyed -- or we can help them.

If we sit back and pass laws against Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown, there will come a man next month or next year who will lead the black man against the white until the record of slaughter will make this nation's name stink thru the rest of time. ☐ Hoping we are the sane...