

VIRTUAL RACISM

Racism is a word thrown about frequently today. It is interesting to me that most of the people who are using the word probably have no idea what it really means. Many, including so-called "civil rights leaders" relentlessly proclaim that America is rife with *racism*, bringing forth all manner of supposed malevolence to support these charges.

Disagree with a policy supported by the intellectual and media elites, and you hear "*racism!*"

Criticize our president for his policies, and you are immediately labeled a *racist*.

Disagree with the recently passed overhaul of OUR medical system, and you are undoubtedly a *racist*.

If I were a betting man, I would give odds that in most cases when the *race* issue is brought up in America today, it is by the media and if it *is* brought up by the citizenry, it is in response to some *news* story.

The simple truth of the matter is that Americans of every ethnic group, as a general rule, are too busy making a living, rooting for their favorite sports team, negotiating government red tape, or trying to avoid being taxed into poverty to spend hours absorbed in racial drama.

In my opinion, much of what today is presently being investigated, inveighed, and legislated against is what I call "*virtual racism*." This virtual racism, which today is causing many so much heartburn, would have once been hailed by the rank-and-file Blacks in the '40s, '50s, or even the '60s as having reached the Promised Land.

The prospect of having been *possibly redlined* for a loan, *perhaps* not promoted on a well-paying job with a major corporation, encountering an *insensitive* clerk at a major department store, or experiencing *deliberately slow service* in a restaurant chain would have been an occasion for singing "*We have overcome...*"

In my opinion, if I am still entitled to one, *virtual racism* is like *virtual football* or *virtual war games*. People can get quite exercised about it, but it's not likely to draw blood.

Back in the day there was bonafide (not *virtual*) racism. There were police dogs that bit people, billy clubs, water cannons that could take off skin, real lynchings, and bombs that killed little black girls in

church. I well recall a certain southern governor, who when charged with being a segregationist, stood in a doorway and proudly and publicly proclaimed, "*Segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever.*"

The civil rights movement, which included the sit-ins, the marchers, the freedom riders and their deaths, was sparked as much by the lynching of Emmett Till, a young black man from Chicago who whistled at a white woman, as by Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat in the segregated section on the bus in Montgomery, Alabama. Back in the day, black people knew real racists and understood what *real racism* was.

And may I add...most white people are tired of being blamed for something they had nothing to do with...slavery. If Americans were permitted by the politically correct thought police to express what they really feel, I am convinced the vast majority would say, "*Enough with the race stuff already! Let's get on with it!*"