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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Timeliness in law review publication is not by any means necessary, but it is certainly desirable. Thus, in a year when the nation's attention has constantly been focused on civil rights and domestic politics, it is a pleasure to publish two articles which delve into selected areas of some of the legal problems involved in these issues, and suggest where the national interest lies with respect to them.

Mr. Herring has performed a massive job of research. His well-documented article indicates that repeated efforts of minority groups to secure equal status in labor organizations have been spectacularly inadequate, when these groups have sought to achieve that status by litigation. By exhaustively documenting these efforts and their failures, he develops a persuasive argument for a national fair employment practices law. As passed, the 1964 Civil Rights Act purports to satisfy this need. Under Title 7, especially § 702(e) and § 704(c) and (d), discrimination by labor unions is prohibited. Under §§ 705 and 706, the Commission on Civil Rights is empowered to enforce the Act, it appearing that the Commission's jurisdiction might displace the NLRB in an enforcement capacity. This legislation may be of little comfort to the plaintiffs whose efforts

to achieve equal status have been thwarted time and again, but it is a step forward.

Mr. Blaine, on the other hand, suggests that Congress is about to make a move backward by suspending the FCC's "equal time" and "fairness" doctrines, thereby silencing the voices of serious candidates for national office who are not supported by at least one of the two major political parties. Mr. Blaine suggests that such action would negate a basic assumption of American politics: that "so long as freedom of political speech exists, it is possible that all political groups will 'get a hearing'." The wisdom of suspending these doctrines is to be questioned, he says, and it is to be more closely questioned insofar as it proceeds on the tacit assumption that only two political parties speak for all the people.

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