

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

---

Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Special Collections

---

4-16-1964

## Give Up Rights?

Richard Leland

*University of Maine*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social\\_justice](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Leland, Richard, "Give Up Rights?" (1964). *Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion*. 524.  
[https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social\\_justice/524](https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/social_justice/524)

This Letter to the Editor is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Social Justice: Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

stands, is contrary to the free enterprise system. Title II of the Bill — the public accommodations section — would bar discrimination in any business which deals with interstate travelers or interstate commerce. Under the proposed law businessmen could not refuse to deal with any "decent" persons, whether white or colored, on penalty of a law suit and substantial unfavorable publicity. This section of the bill is intolerable. We cannot ask our Senators and Representatives to legislate away the rights of the majority in favor of a militant minority. In effect this is going to be the direct result of the Bill. Any group of people which threatens to sit-in at the Capitol, threatens civil disobedience, threatens a reign of terror and violence, and proves that these threats will be carried out by riots in Maryland, Massachusetts, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, New York, and Washington, D. C., cannot and should not expect laws or public opinion favorable to them.

The United States does not cower from pressures and actions of countries; on the contrary, by applying pressures on the U. S. is the surest way of not getting what you want. So why should we legislate in favor of a minority within the country who will spill blood — American blood — to force the issues. The most popular answer to this question is that the Negroes have not had equal opportunities and are now reacting to repression of their wants and needs. It is quite possible that the Negro Race has occupied portions of the earth longer than has the White Race. With an entire continent at their disposal, with vast natural wealth and resources, and with a climate far more favorable than that of Eurasia or America for food production; what have they accomplished thru the eons of time? The vast countries of Europe and the Americas have been built from the soil upward while the people of Africa have built from the soil downward.

The majority of Senators are receiving mail running heavily against passage of the Civil Rights Bill. The voters do not want their children moved from neighborhood schools to other schools to satisfy a claim of discrimination. The voters *do* want to have the undictated choice of people whom they work, live, play, and do business with. The voters do not appreciate having to compete with members of minority groups who are given favored treatment because the present administration would like to gain votes and see a racial balance in employment. Are YOU willing to give up your rights as a majority in the face of strong-arm methods, unpeaceful and undemocratic actions, and force in the disguise of law?

## Give Up Rights ?

To the Editor:

An equitable Civil Rights Law is necessary in a democratic society. The Civil Rights Bill, as it now

Richard Leland