

EMERSON

(Continued from page 31)

adult guests who were black or Jewish or in some other unacceptable category. Club members who brought people like this to dinner were expected to gain some kind of clearance ahead of time so there could be proper seating arrangements made and precautions could be taken to avoid unpleasant incidents involving other less tolerant members who might resent the presence of such guests. Today, I've been told by people who are active in these clubs, this kind of thing has changed. Policies are much more liberal.

"My concern with the club system really stems from the fact that in this kind of suburban situation, clubs are major institutions. They play a significant role in establishing the social patterns of the whole community and have an enormous influence on the thinking and the outlook of its young people. So many kids in the area belong to the clubs and for them the clubs are a way of life. They grow up in them. They take advantage of the golf and tennis facilities; they learn to sail and swim there. They spend quite a bit of time at the clubs and enjoy it. But very few of them are ever really asked to consider—very few ever consider for themselves—the extent to which the clubs discriminate against many of the same people they willingly associate with at a public high school. The same Jewish or black youngsters with whom they date or socialize in a public high school, they unthinkingly discriminate against in their clubs. Unless something is done to bring to the attention of these young people the nature of the situation, unless something is done to ask them to change both the attitudes of parents and the policies of the institutions, the clubs, which their parents support, these kids are going to grow up to be very much like their parents. I don't consider that to be a particularly happy prospect.

"You may have noticed what happened to the fraternity system on college campuses. There has been a move away from the kind of discriminatory practice that for many years characterized fraternities. On some campuses fraternities have become quite liberal; there is incredible competition for black students which results often in nine or 10 fraternities at one school pledging as their first choices the few black students who are interested in joining. It's quite a change from only a few years ago, and I think it represents a trend—a trend that people whether officers or managers of a club, should be aware of and should think about.

"This is the kind of thing that people are becoming more aware of. They are going to demand that politicians and other prominent people justify their membership in clubs that are not open to everybody in the community. There's going to be more pressure brought to bear on individuals and groups which condone or practice social discrimination. And there's going to be a greater rejection of the values of the private club system because the system continues to deny the individuality of so many good and worthy people." □

Next month I will conclude with remarks from a man with a more conservative view as well as one with a "the middle of the road" view.

Technical schools open

Three two-year technical schools, which should help meet the need for qualified golf personnel, have been established. For information write: the School for Irrigation Technology, South Plains College, Levelland, Tex., attention, B. P. Robinson; the School for Golf Course Operations and the School for Landscape Operations, both a part of Lake City Junior College, Lake City, Fla., to the attention of Jerry Chessman.

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