

Albert Shanker

@ The question wasn't so much how widespread is anti-Semitism. The real question was that in the past, if somebody were to make a remark calling somebody a kike or a nigger or a Spic or something else, everybody else who was

respectable would stand up and would denounce it. But here, when these things were done by some people in the black community, everybody started saying, "What a beautiful expression this is of the anger of the community. The rest of you had better be sensitive to this." I mean, there have always been bigots -- people who were anti-black and people who were anti-Semitic. That wasn't surprising. They exist today, and unfortunately, they always will. The whole thing was not, "Do they exist?" Or, "Do they constitute a majority?" The whole question is, "What is the moral atmosphere of an entire community? Does it condemn this sort of thing or does it justify it one way or another?"

@ A lot of liberals and a lot of Jewish people felt, "Look. We are for human and civil rights. That's why we were in the South, and that's why we'll be anywhere else where people's rights are violated." But now, there are substantial numbers of people within the black community who say, "No. Civil rights doesn't mean that everybody has a right to a fair trial. Civil rights to us means black rights -- and Black Power." This is a thing that Bayard Rustin and I and Phil Randolph just cried over a lot. The reason I wanted Martin Luther King to come up was not to help our teachers. I wanted him to come up in order to maintain a coalition between blacks and whites. And say, "Look. Wouldn't it be wonderful if blacks rallied around a white being discriminated against because of his race?" This would solidify the civil rights movement. It would

keep it going. It was not a question of each group
supporting its own kind.