

Yale Hill,
Stockbridge, Massachusetts

July 10, 1965

Dear Mr Warren:

I dont know whether this fan letter will ever reach you. Not having the Academy roster in the country, I am sending the letter to the Academy office in the hope that they will forward it to you.

I merely want to say that I have read your "Who Speaks for the Negro" with mounting enthusiasm. Your interviews with the great number of negro leaders and students are masterpieces of fair journalism in which the nuances of different philosophies and political attitudes are reported with such insights about the character of the individuals, their several backgrounds and their achievements, are clarified for me as no other book has done.

I appreciated inter alia your shrewd introduction to Adam Clayton Powell by the simple expedient of reprinting his extravagant self appraisal without batting an eyelash.

As a rigorous anti-pacifist, who nevertheless believes in the tactical value of non-violence for a minority, fighting for its rights, I also found your analysis of Martin Luther King's philosophy, and of those of his critics, very meaningful, because King's critics seem to reveal that he has not taken off the curse from pacifism, or finally succeeded in eliminating the sentimentality from the Christian AGAP concept, which must appear to the negro minority the last word in the moral pretensions of the Christian white majority.

Finally, your last chapter: "Conversation Piece" is certainly the fairest and most comprehensive analysis of white and black attitudes of various shades of hope, despair, self pity or self knowledge, as we confront each other in the continued struggle to remove the vestiges of the "American Dilemma." You know the human heart in all its variations and varieties. In short, you have produced a masterpiece.

Gratefully yours,

RNIEBUHR.

PS Please pardon all type errors. Being paralyzed on my left side I have to do these letters with one finger of my right hand. R.N.