Tension bound to grow

On the one hand is a Negro minority, squeezed into narrow, segregated ghettos despite its phenomenal growth in size, and demanding an equal break. On the other is a white majority showing signs of yielding slowly — if at all — to the Negroes' militant drive to correct injustice.

That, says Professor Wilson Record, has become the central problem in Bay Area intergroup relations. It will, he predicts, be accompanied by conflict in the arenas of propaganda, politics, the courts and even by physical clashes as Negroes and other minorities seek to solve their needs for housing, employment, education, civil rights and social welfare.

Professor Record, a Sacramento State College sociologist, made his study in "Minority Groups and Intergroup Relations in the San Francisco Bay Area" under auspices of the University of California's Franklin K. Lane Project on Bay Area problems.

HE EXAMINES the problems of other minorities — Mexican-Americans and persons of Asian descent—and finds them somewhat similar. But he says of the Negroes' segregated plight and their struggle against it—"The presence of these enclaves of color, pressing against their retaining walls, has become the central fact in intercultural relations, the central problem . . . ."

The failure of the Bay Area community to act and assimilate Negroes has its counterpart elsewhere with the same patterns of residential segregation with accompanying job and educational discrimination, he notes.

This, he says bluntly, "suggests that America is a civilization whose dominant traits and values have been shaped as much by racial differences and sensibilities as by any other force. It underscores the extent to which contemporary American behavior derives from and is guided by race consciousness."

HE FINDS no planning to avoid tensions during the two decades of great increase in the Bay Area's Negro population. He cites "the fact that not a single city in the Bay Area had, or tried to develop, plans for easing the movement of Negroes or for directing inescapable conflicts into affirmative civic channels."

Housing is the area with the sharpest and most sustained conflicts, he declares, and stubborn housing segrega-

tion against Negroes is closely tied to their educational opportunities which in turn have close relationship to their ability to get and hold jobs.

Neither urban redevelopment nor public housing offers Negroes much chance to escape private housing segregation, Professor Record declares. The former too frequently supplants substandard housing with dwellings too expensive for disadvantaged Negroes. Public housing has been segregated in fact if not by policy.

SO, HE PREDICTS direct action — picketing and mass demonstrations against discriminatory sellers and renters—as well as the slower means of court action and support of candidates who pledge to attack housing bias.

In education there are signs that authorities are beginning to recognize the need for special compensatory education for children from discriminated-against, culturally deprived groups, the study finds. But in this field as elsewhere there can be sharp conflict as minorities challenge four sets of educational practices.

These are attendance boundaries concentrating minority children in a few schools, assignment of the least able personnel to schools with heavy minority student populations, failure to offer minority students challenging and rewarding courses and failure to offer compensatory guidance and counseling.

"IT IS SUGGESTED," Professor Record writes, "that schools, of all public agencies, should be most energetic and inventive in seeking to break the chain of poor education, poor employment, poor family life, poor life chances."

Already discriminated against in employment, minorities — again Negroes especially — face a heavy threat from automation layoffs since where they have been employed they are usually low men on the seniority ladder, Record predicts.

With a Bay Area jobless rate of between 5 and 6 per cent, Negro unemployment is at least 10 per cent—double the over-all percentage, the study declares. Record quotes the Council for Civic Unity's comprehensive survey which found wide racial restrictions on San Francisco employment — more severe for Negroes than against workers of Asian descent.

WHILE UNIONS and employment agencies have important roles in the

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![Average Income of Men By Education and Color 1961](image-url)