

# Amsterdam News I

## Black Anti-Semitism

To The Editor:

Judging from all the statements speculating about the anti-Semitism "rampant" in the black community today, one would imagine that there were no data available to gauge the level of anti-white attitudes among blacks.

For some strange reason, the numerous studies that have been done over the years on the racial attitudes of Negroes have been almost completely ignored during the current racial controversy. Virtually no concerted effort has been made by the mass media to present these findings to the public so that a more balanced perspective on this matter can be maintained.

One of the most systematic of these studies was conducted for the Anti-Defamation League by Gary Marx in the fall of 1964 after the so-called "anti-Jewish" riots in Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Rochester, New York. His study, which was based upon a nationwide sample of blacks, was published in 1967 under the title, *Protest and Prejudice*. Contrary to popular belief, he found:

- 1) That Negroes, on the whole, were less anti-Semitic than whites.
- 2) That the anti-Jewish attitudes among blacks were largely a manifestation of anti-white attitudes. And that Jews were not being singled out by blacks as scapegoats.
- 3) That the majority of Negroes failed to distinguish Jews from other white ethnic groups. But when distinctions were made, Negroes had more, not less, favorable attitudes toward Jews than they did toward other white ethnic groups.

He therefore concluded, "All in all, however, no case can be made for the prevalent notion that anti-Semitism is more widespread among Negroes than among whites, anymore than it could be shown that they single out Jews for special enmity."

Mr. Marx also stated that his findings agreed with those of six out of seven studies that had been done in the past 20 years.

A much smaller study of the racial attitudes of blacks in New York City was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Carolyn Atkinson in 1967 at Columbia University's Bureau of Applied Social Research.

The findings from this study, to my knowledge, have never been made public despite the fact that it was completed in March, 1968. Miss Atkinson's findings strongly agreed with those of the 1964 Marx study.

She concluded: "In general then, there is no evidence from our study to suggest that either black nationalism or black power has appreciably influenced Negroes' attitudes toward Jew. Nor is there any evidence to suggest that attitudes have changed substantially since the 1964 study."

I am certain that very few New Yorkers are aware of the above studies. Thus it is imperative, at this time, that these findings receive the widest possible dissemination. In fact, these studies demonstrate that it is crucial that a distinction be made between hatred and distrust.

The best evidence available suggests that — despite the UFT strike — hatred of whites in the black community is still low, but distrust of whites by blacks is high — as distrust of blacks by whites. Thus the real concern of responsible citizens and groups is not to focus upon exaggerated group hatred, but to try and transform intergroup distrust into interracial trust and cooperation.

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