

Black on Black

by Robert Brookins Gore

I left Community Church some months ago with mixed feelings. The occasion was a so-called debate between Malcolm X. and Bayard Rustin, and the topic was "Separation or Integration." Being a pacifist, a Negro, and one who has been involved in the racial struggle lately, I expected to be with Mr. Rustin all the way and against Mr. X. completely. My mixed feelings were the result of the discovery that I was applauding more for Malcolm X. than I was for Bayard Rustin.

During the debate—actually it was more a statement of position on both their parts—it seemed to me as though Bayard Rustin were taking the position of the "radical middle." (For those who wonder what the "radical middle" is, please check *The Village Voice* of January 18, and see Feiffer's delightful explanation.) I know, of course, that this is not the case with Mr. Rustin, but it seemed so as I listened. There is no question in my mind but that he presented the saner attitude, yet the amazing thing was, how eloquently Malcolm X. stated the problems which Negroes have confronted for so many years. The biggest

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difficulty about listening to him—especially for a Negro—is that he wraps the problem up so neatly that one is almost carried on into his faulty conclusions by the wealth of emotions he evokes.

World of Good

I must confess that it did my heart a world of good to sit back and listen to Mr. X. list the sins of the white man toward the black man in America. He does it well. I daresay that if I were not already convinced of the ef-

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