



The Exception to the Rule

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Our nation is currently concerned with the initiation of peace discussion with Vietnam, but soon someone must give attention to the saboteur on another front—the racial situation here at home.

Many of our thinkers among white people are just recovering from the wholly unexpected shock of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They never thought that a white fanatic would be so foolish as to destroy the man in whom millions of blacks and whites believed.

The non-thinkers, of course, were not thrown off their stride. They simply turned on the patter they have learned by rote. Martin Luther King, they said, had reached the end of his productive service to the Communist cause and was, therefore, liquidated. His time was up.

These non-thinkers had said the same thing about President Kennedy: He had been slain because (a) he was an obstacle to the progress of communism or (b) he was no longer useful to the Communists. Somewhere along the way, in the several hundred thousand theories on the JFK slaying, an innovator switched from the Communists to LBJ. He became the plotter. It fits, of course, into the anti-LBJ hysteria, but it proves, also, how fickle some of our white folks can be.

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Here we are now, faced with solving a cowardly sniper killing of the best known Negro leader in the nation by a white man. Sections of white America are still trembling over the finding of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders that white racism is a basic cause of tension and explosions between the races in urban centers.

These legions, shaken by the King thing, tell sputteringly to one and all that it just isn't so about white racism. They wail about black racism.

What about black rioters? What about those lazy Negroes on relief, eating all honest, hard-working, tax-paying white people out of their homes? What about those black mothers of illegitimate children, those women of low morals, living with men and having children by first one and then another, all for Uncle Sam to support?

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Enter now Linda LeClair, free, white, pretty and 20. She is a student at Barnard College in New York City, located cheek by jowl with Columbia University. Linda has just been slapped gently on the wrist by a hearing tribunal which considered the non-startling charge that she had violated the college housing rules. This seems innocuous enough, but the proper language really meant that Linda had moved into the apartment of her boyfriend off-campus and was living with him in what my grandmother would call "sin."

In their enthusiasm for a pretty face and its defiance of establishment house rules to vindicate privacy and individual freedom, these supporters fail to see that Linda has undercut the whole immoral bit relied upon for so long by certain whites in their high dudgeon attacks upon the black minority.

What now? Obviously a summit conference is indicated. Linda is no hippie and her boyfriend does not wear a beard. So, on these counts, white people will not be able to dismiss Linda & Co.

If Linda (and her sisters over the country) are doing—essentially—what black mothers of out-of-wedlock children are doing, then either the Lindas must be halted or disowned or a new anti-black argument devised.

LBJ, Prime Minister Wilson and Prime Minister Gandhi may be having their problems within their own ranks, but these are as nothing compared to the problems of ultraconservative American whites with the gay but devastating Linda.