I see black nationalism as a dangerous thing. My son is a doctor and he was investigating these homes where they keep peoples at state expense. Nursing homes. This home was really bad and it was black-owned. When he talked about improvement, they gets a lawyer and he says, "How come you bother about a black home?" He says, "This home is not suitable for poor black peoples and I'm gonna fight it, lock 'em up." He says, "I'm not doing this because it's black, I'm doing it because of what you're doing to black people. They're not being served. I don't care if it's run by black or white, it's wrong and I'm going to fight it."

He lost the case because the big town people said: You ain't gonna shut down a black home. This is part of the whole segregation that's got to be analyzed.

I am open-minded about a lot of this thing. We had one of the peoples come to see me, and he's a good friend. I had a picture of Christ. He had a cup of coffee and he looked at the wall and say, "You mean to tell me you got a blond-head, blue-eyed Christ on your wall?" By ding, I thought, You so-and-so. Honest to goodness, I said, "I very seldom do this, but it's a good idea if you get out of my house. I don't mind you being critical, but don't come in and tell me what I got to put over my walls."

There is a gap between the Latinos and the blacks. It's what happened in our shop in the seventies when the affirmative-action program started. They had to make some changes for the blacks in all departments. They had to have black foremen, black superintendents—everything but owners. [Laughs.] This went right down the mill. They got a black and a white.

The Latinos said, look, if you're gonna get a black, you gotta get a Latino. So they centered not on the white, but on the weakest link in the chain: "If the blacks gonna get up, We wanna get up." I says, "Look, they got twenty white foremen and only one black foreman, and you arguing about the one black that come up." It's not that they're fighting the black, they're fighting for the just end, but it seems that we're fighting against each other. I'm watching the schools and it could easily turn out that the Latino principal is going to fight the black principal.

When I set up our Save Our Jobs Committee, I put two white, two blacks, and two Latinos in leadership. I did it purposely because I know working people. They want representation. When we go into the room to discuss anything, all the nationalities discuss it. The only strength we got is integrated strength.

I know one thing, there is good peoples behind all colors of skin. If I don't find it in this white guy, I'll find it in that white guy. It's there. I'm 100 percent sure of that. It's good guys in the white group, it's good guys in the black group, it's good guys in the Latino group. What we have to do is search and find them. When you're in a struggle, you can't leave a part of society out. Nobody wants to be told the story. They want to see it, they want to feel it, and they want to be there.

There's something inside a man that can make him become extra. When you read John Brown, when you read the lives of great mens, who went beyond the norm, it was something that was behind them. Something that propelled them into these things. I don't know where it comes from, but it's just something that won't let you run away from a fight. If you

The Nation.

and

The University of Michigan Law School Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild

invite you to a discussion with

ALEXANDER COCKBURN

Part of the Michigan Law School Chapter's speaking series: "Strategies for the Left"

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 7:30 P.M.

At Honigman Auditorium in Hutchins Hall University of Michigan Law School Ann Arbor

Contribution requested. No minimum. For further information, call (212) 242-8400.

TAPES NOW AVAILABLE

HOLLYWOOD & HISTORY: THE DEBATE OVER JFK

A Town Meeting sponsored by The Nation Institute and

The Center for American Culture Studies, Columbia University, in association with Writers Guild, East with panelists

OLIVER STONE, NORMAN MAILER, NORA EPHRON, EDWARD JAY EPSTEIN and

Christopher Hitchens, Max Holland, Bill Schaap, Leon Friedman

Moderated by Victor Navasky and Jack Salzman

Recorded March 3, 1992, at The Town Hall, New York City

Each two-tape set is \$20.

To order, send check or money order payable to The Nation Institute to: "Hollywood & History," The Nation Institute, 72 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.