

To the Editor:

In the unlikely event that New Yorkers in a proportion of twenty to one have really expressed their approval of the construction workers' vendetta during the demonstration for peace on May 8, as Peter J. Brennan, president of the Building and Construction Trades Council put it, I would like belatedly to add my voice to those who did not.

A group that would deliberately set out to "break heads" knows far less about the concept Mr. Brennan calls Americanism than the young people under attack for exercising the democratic right of dissent.

That the attackers should be members of a union is only sad evidence of how far we have slipped from the time when unionism meant striving for human decency and social justice. (But now the construction workers have got it made, haven't they, and the social justice they care about comes in a pay envelope and woe to anyone who rocks their well-padded boat.)

That a union official like Mr. Brennan should condone, let alone applaud, black-shirt tactics is further evidence, in case we needed it, that we get the leaders we deserve.

Of course the thing so easily overlooked by Mr. Brennan is that in this sorely beset country it would not have taken much of a shake of the melting pot and those dead students at Kent State could have been the sons and daughters of Mr. Brennan's union members—or their victims.

LAWRENCE ELLIOTT  
New York, May 12, 1970

To the Editor:

Happiness to a patriotic American is Spiro Agnew and the hard-hitting New York construction workers. Both are like a breath of fresh air.

SHIRLEY SPELLERBERG  
Miami, Fla., May 11, 1970

To the Editor:

I'm glad that the students downtown are beginning to appreciate what it means to have a little law and order. As a student myself, I discovered its importance a year ago when I was living in the South Bronx. There the failure of law and order, both in the streets and in the schools, was driving the middle class away, as well as destroying any real possibilities of racial integration.

As head of a building committee in the South Bronx, I wrote many letters of appeal to Mayor Lindsay and other poli-

ticians, explaining the situation. From their responses and from what was done about it, I drew the conclusion that the city just can't afford the cost of racial integration.

Now, at least, I hope there will be fewer students going around belittling law and order as something only for conservative politicians and their followers.

DWIGH9 HOLBROOK  
New York, May 9, 1970

To the Editor:

Your accounts of the organized attacks by construction workers on peaceful student demonstrators in the Wall Street-City Hall area on May 8 indicate that various construction workers, and possibly officials of their unions, planned those activities the day before.

Since it is clear to anyone looking at the license plates of automobiles parked at construction sites in lower Manhattan, many construction workers came to the city on May 8 from New Jersey. It is also probable that many telephone calls involving interstate communication facilities would have been made in organizing their activities.

This interstate travel and/or use of interstate communication facilities bring into play the provisions of the Federal Anti-riot Act.

Putting aside serious questions as to the constitutionality (and wisdom) of that act, since the Attorney General of the United States has used that act to investigate almost every recent student disorder and has obtained indictments under that act all over the country, we shall soon see whether his administration of the act is based on a genuine concern for "law and order" or whether it is being used to further partisan and repressive purposes of the incumbent Administration.

The act contains an unusual provision which calls for the Attorney General to report to Congress any case in which the United States fails to prosecute under the act conduct which in the opinion of the Attorney General or his delegate violated the act.

Assuming the accuracy of The Times's accounts and the accounts appearing in several other newspapers, members of Congress should demand such a report from the Attorney General if no Federal indictments of the instigators of the construction workers' riot are forthcoming.

JOHN F. HUNT Jr.  
GEORGE VRADENBURG, 3d  
New York, May 13, 1970

To the Editor:

I wish to extend my most heartfelt congratulations and thanks to the construction workers of New York City for the great job they did on May 8. I am proud to see someone finally standing up to the long-haired hippies claiming to be the voice of America's college students.

As one of America's college students I want to proclaim my support for President Richard M. Nixon and our great nation. The only criticism I have of President Nixon's policy in Southeast Asia is his apparent lack of faith in the military winning the war should he allow them to fight the war as it should be fought.

God bless the hard-hats. God bless America.

GARY J. CHESTER  
South Euclid, Ohio, May 10, 1970

To the Editor:

The Patrolmen's Benevolent Association charge that 'inadequate preparations and inconsistent directives in the past from the Mayor's office' kept the police from stopping the construction workers' attack on

antiwar demonstrators is sheer nonsense.

Since when do policemen need directives and special orders to protect the lives of the citizens they serve?

A more plausible explanation is that the patrolmen approved of and condoned the excesses of the construction workers, and deliberately allowed their attacks to continue because they felt the demonstrators "needed a lesson."

ELAINE GORDON  
Roslyn, L.I., May 11, 1970

To the Editor:

I would like to salute the gallant construction workers who struck a blow for freedom the other day in what was once a great city.

Hats off to them, and may their tribe increase. Other loyal citizens should join them in their efforts to keep a motley gang of misfits from destruction in their huge temper-tantrums that they call protest.

A few more such instances, and New York might again be a city people like to visit—and can visit in safety.

VIRGINIA C. MEEKS  
Rocky Mount, N.C.,  
May 13, 1970

To the Editor:

Since the antiwar movement has received so much adverse publicity because of the adherence of the hippies, it is only fair to hang the appropriate albatross around the necks of the opposition.

I am referring to the Nazi storm troops at City Hall May 8, and I defy anyone to explain why the designation is an exaggeration. I don't care if every trooper had three American flags in each hand; if they are representative Americans, I'll take hippies.

I shall watch with interest the comments of Vice President Agnew on this incident.

NELSON WEISER, M. D.  
Wilkes Barre, Pa., May 8, 1970

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