

to add gloss to the American scene. They are needed. To postpone them, as Carol Rowan noted in a recent column from Washington, "in the interests of pursuing more vigorously this wretched conflict in Southeast Asia is to leave a dangerous social time bomb ticking in our midst". Nor is it only a problem which affects the American people. The good health of the American nation is essentially the guarantee of the good health of all the West.

The effect of the Los Angeles riots is not felt only in the United States. It ripples across the face of all Western society. The price is paid directly in America and indirectly by all of us. So, too, if the richest nation in the world cannot escape from its confinement in "blighted cities and bleak suburbs" and must live "stunted by a poverty of learning and an emptiness of leisure", then there is little hope for any of us. The search for a harmony between men and society which would allow, in the words of President Johnson, "each of us to enlarge the meaning of his life and all of us to elevate the quality of our civilization", is in the long run the most worthy aim of our times.

The United States is not the only country which has waited too long to give serious attention to the unemployed and under-educated products of its cities to the pockets of poverty and delinquency in the midst of abundance to the aged and the ill. We are all guilty.

Martin Luther King has already said that if it is a choice between guns and butter he is not prepared to give up butter. This is not a choice between comfort and national security. It is a calculated decision as to what constitutes the greatest and most important priority for modern society.

The American people will not know until President Johnson brings down his new State of the Union what has happened to "the final goal of the American dream".