century was the problem of the color line. A recent article in *The Christian Century* stated that blacks and whites are growing further apart. The definition of integration offered by a black educator to the writer of that article might explain why the gap is wider than ever before. “It means whites controlling the traffic and selecting the vehicles.”

The same issue of *The Christian Century* carried an article entitled “The Rise of Symbolic Racism.” Symbolic racism is the successful attempt to block further black advances by basing their resistance on cherished values of fair play and a sense of what is proper. “Symbolic racism thus replaces overt racism and permits a white majority to ignore the damage racial discrimination inflicts on society.”

“All is quiet on the Western Front” might well be the appropriate description of what has happened to the movement for justice in an open society. For the first time in more than a generation, none of the political candidates seeking nomination to high office feels it necessary to discuss civil rights, or what their position is in regard to the concerns which gripped the country in the pre-Nixon years.

Most of the organizations that were committed to significant societal changes in the past decade have either folded their tents and quietly gone away, changed their posture or, in fact, have become something else in order to continue to get support.

IFCO (Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization) recently sent out a call for a National Organizers Conference to be held in June, 1976. Out of the seventeen (17) workshops choices offered participants on the registration form, not one in clearly recognizable as dealing with racism.

The Supreme Court, by a 5-3 vote has restricted the reach of the 1965 Voting Rights Act which required southern states to get federal approval before changing their election procedures. In other ways, the Nixon-Ford court seems determined to return to the pre-Warren court years.

Julian Bond’s testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights reflects a growing mood in the black community. He said:

Political scientists don’t usually think of courts as the most democratic institutions in a society, but to blacks for a generation, the courts have been the essence of our democracy, the main symbol of the fact or our belief—that we were finally becoming a part of this nation. Today that sense is going fast.

In a speech at the 1976 Commencement of North Carolina Central University, Vernon Jordan, Director of the National Urban League, stated: “After the activist years of the 1960s, the United States is in a repressive period with regard to civil