rights. In this bicentennial year the symbol of the continuing struggle for civil rights and for equality has become the photograph of a Boston mob attacking two black men on the steps of City Hall with a flag pole bearing the stars and strips.”

On May 17, 1976, the twenty-second anniversary of the Supreme Court decision on segregated education, President Ford met with Attorney General Levi to urge him to file a brief requesting the Supreme Court to review the Boston desegregation order which involved massive busing of black and white children.

Affirmative action programs in hiring and promoting blacks are under attack from many quarters, and the Supreme Court will likely rule on a case involving that principle in the near future.

One of several actions taken by the United Methodist Church at its recently concluded General Conference was the church’s withdrawal of commitment to Project Equality, an ecumenically funded agency that presses for affirmative action in minority hiring and in buying practices. “A $20,000 annual funding to Project Equality’s national office was cut to a token $1,000, throwing the whole future of that enterprise into question, since in recent years United Methodists were providing up to one-fourth of PE’s budget.”

There is little question that the mood of the country has changed in the last seven years. The major institutions and major political leaders have done a very good job in getting the people once again to live all too comfortably with injustice, inequality, and the absence of a community where brotherhood would prevail.

As the shadows of the past have darkened the disturbing present, so their haunting powers tend to project an uncertain future.

The Uncertain Future

The kind of future that we desire and are willing to project, tends to inform our responses to the past, and our actions in the present. The forces in control in society tend to insist upon the rate of change so that they can orchestrate the relationships for the future.

Those who are the acknowledged leaders today are contributing to and pretending to reflect, what they perceive as a so-called conservative drift in the body politic. The so-called liberals are in hiding or in disarray in almost every institution.

The bicentennial is viewed as a call for looking back and turning the clock back in the area of human relations. There is a pervading fear that any efforts to move in any aggressive way