No automatic, simple agenda, by partisan or positional ("conservative-liberal") politics, by religion, by race, by sex, by nation, by class—though none of these should drop out of consciousness and dialog. Hear this from the director of the N.Y. Center for Ethnic Affairs, Ralph H. Perrotta, NYT OpEd 14 Dec 72):

"The more useful questions now are

- (1) which changes can we have an impact on and
- (2) which must we accept,
- (3) which will we try to slow and
- (4) which accelerate,
- (5) who among us shall work at creating the future we want,

(6) who will nurture the past we do not want to lose,

(7) who will enrich the present?"

The arts of politics and theology converge in the process of AGENDA-SETTING: What, now, is "the world's agenda"?

14 Dec 72

RALPH H. PERROTTA

NY. CENTER FOR ETHNIC AFFAIRS

Dear Mr. Perrotta:

The attached indicates how seriously I take your excellent OpEd today.

As a center of theological education with heavy social-change concern, the institution of this stationery tries to "do theology" on the human candition, including the impediments to and enablements toward the emerging of a mora human agenda for the person, the involuntary society (the public domain), and voluntary societies (churches, etc.).

Especially if this polegical (broad sense) / theological interface is a real concern of yours, I'd be interested in talking with you about the possibility of some joint action; e.g., your teaching 2 Lay Course at the seminary or in one of our outlying centers.

In any event, BRAVO!

Grace and peace,