

Economics

Σ Elliott 1166

AF from Willis (20July78): This letter is worth studying in detail and depth as we are concerned about prejudice-oppression. For a beginning: (1) Power is schizophrenic but not unfeeling: when execs consult their upper coil, they go wronger than when consulting their lower coil; (2) The "significance" mentioned in paragraph #1 is part of the problem: *where* look for *what* meanings? (3) The "explanation" in paragraph #2 is blindly demeaning; (4) Problem ranking is relative to pain: look who's hurting more. [The "exec group" referred to is about 30 corporate presidents who meet monthly at the Am. Mang. Ass'n. hdq.]

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 17, 1978

Dr. Willis Elliott
Dean, Exploratory Programs
New York Theological Seminary
Five West Twenty-Ninth Street
New York, N.Y. 10001

Dear Willis:

Thanks for your note of July 11th. I have been tardy in advising you of the results of our meeting, however we decided that our samples were not significant enough to preserve the data or prepare any kind of a formal report.

The most interesting finding was that the executive group who voted in two ways; first, as they thought minority groups would vote, and then as they themselves felt, were much closer to the actual minority group votes on the way they felt than the way they thought they would feel. For example, both groups put energy reasonably high on the list of problems, and the executives felt the minority group would not be concerned. In most cases there were explanations, and the explanation of this one was that the minority group were concerned with their electric bills and consequently interpreted that as energy. In general, the minority group ranked problems higher than the executive group. The relative rankings, however, between the executive group and the minority group were very close if one took the executive group's actual feelings. In short, the executive group does guess wrong when they try to think like minorities, or your minority group was too close to the executive group. We will never know which.

Concerning your Midlife Exploration program, at the moment I can think of none of my friends, unfortunately, who would be interested. If one does occur, I will certainly pass on the information.

Hope you have a great Summer, too.

Most sincerely,



W.W. Simmons

WWS:jsk