



#136/
EQUALITY

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AVERY POST, president of UCC

Dear Avery--

As you sent me a copy of your letter to J.P. Stevens' Corporate Insurance Manager Robert Tredwell, a fellow-congregant of mine in the Chappaqua NY UCC, I ask your attention to:

1. My pride in your statesmanlike response to his letter to BHM.
2. My disagreement with my denomination in the matter of me-too support for current union pressure on J.P. Stevens.
3. My hearty support of my denomination for exercising the watchdog function in the area of human rights, and having the courage to take action even when --as is generally the case--all the facts are not in, the situation is somewhat ambiguous, and the stand-taking may be costly in terms of support for our church institutions.
4. The fact that Mr. Tredwell agrees with me on all the above. Far from being a conservative capitalist oriented to open-field-running Big Business, Mr. Tredwell is a social-action Christian who left his former employment because he saw in J.P. Stevens a better opportunity to press for justice. And the evidence is that he is doing just that for 40,000 hourly workers (union and non-union) vis-a-vis worker's compensation, employee safety, and insured benefit plans (group life and medical insurance), on all of which he states (15 Mar 79 letter) that J.P. Stevens now "compares favorably with other manufacturing industries in all respects." (One instance of his concerned Christian action: During the Young Lords' occupation of First Spanish Methodist Church, he went with Loree and me into the church at a moment of real danger, in order to experience with his whole being that confrontation.)
5. My double accusation on homework:
 - (1) Reading everything UCC has put out that has come to my attention, I do not find evidence of homework on the economic-corporate side--or at least I see no evidence of fairness vis-a-vis the company's capital position (competition, capital mobility, etc.). The contexting and focusing are both narrow.
 - (2) The theological homework seems antique, and duped by slogans and the species-destruct doctrine of equality (on which I enclose my #721, #856, #857, #992, #1298, and #1356). As Theo. Roszak shows in his PERSON/PLANET, we humans are ruined if being a consumer equal to the affluent American is acted on as a right. We Christians should be more radical!

Grace and peace