

Hungary, Alabama And Pres. Eisenhower

AN EDITORIAL

President Eisenhower sent his No. 1 traveling salesman, Vice President Nixon, all the way to Austria to see how the Hungarians were faring and to bring back recommendations as to how the free world, with particular emphasis on the United States, could help them.

The record does not show that the President sent the Vice President, or any other high official, to Alabama or Florida to see how a large segment of our own citizens was making out in the same type of struggle that concerns the Hungarians.

Both want freedom. Both are entitled to it. Both have legitimate claims upon civilized humanity.

The President is a humanitarian. He has said so himself. Certainly, he must know that charity is supposed to begin at home.

It is only just that we should concern ourselves with

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the plight of those who are being willfully deprived of their rights. This goes for Hungarians, Poles, Czechs, anyone else enmeshed in the same outrageous situation.

It also goes for American citizens, regardless of race, creed, or color.

Is it more urgent for a citizen of Hungary to attain freedom or for an American citizen to be allowed the identical privilege?

Neither is more urgent. They both have the right to make the same demand, and to have it heard and acted upon.

The vice president is back home again, all full of statistics, ideas, ideals, and suggestions for alleviating the very real plight of the Hungarian refugees.

Both he and the President have found a splendid sounding board for a civil rights plea. But why are they walking so carefully around a disgraceful mess that is right under their noses?

When President Eisenhower makes another of his frequent jaunts for a little golf, he will be even closer to the Southern imbroglio. Apparently that's as close as he cares to come.

We know the answer, of course. No one gets politically hurt by espousing the Hungarian cause. In fact, everyone gets a pat on the back, big, fat headlines, and assurances that he is doing a fine job in the cause of humanity.

The administration is aghast at the notion that Russians should fire upon unarmed Hungarians. It is strangely quiet about bullet-riddled passenger-laden buses in Montgomery, Alabama.

The President and his "team" may not like the inference, and they may choose to ignore it. Other Americans will not be quite as indifferent.

—From the Springfield (Mass.) Daily News