The Holocaust and Allied inaction

By Bob Wintersman

NBC's "The Holocaust," which was shown last week on national television, was almost as popular with the American public as "Roots." This said mean a resurgence of popular interest in the Holocaust similar to the stir over genealogies and family histories caused by Alex Haley's "Roots," and the shows based on this story.

"The Holocaust" as a show has been both criticized and defended for historical accuracy and for subject matter in its depiction of the Nazis' genocide of over ten million people. One subject which has only touched on, however, is the role of the Allied powers in the Holocaust. Just how much did the "free" countries of the world help the Jews and others who were being slaughtered in Europe?

The answer, unfortunately, is too little. In too late. English and American efforts to rescue Jews during World War II were marked by indifference and procrastination. The real story of the United States' inaction in the Holocaust begins at the turn of the twentieth century, when the American Jewish community was eager for new settlers.

With the beginning of the War in Europe in 1939 and the subsequent Nazi occupation of most of Eastern Europe, most of the Jews and Slavs in these countries did not have the chance to escape. Soon after the occupation of Poland and Czechoslovakia the Nazis began the mass murder of Jews and other groups in those areas. The mass murder of Jews and other non-Moslem groups in the Warsaw Ghetto, for example, began in March 1943.

Sullivan Prins, do you little

By Peter Carlan

"Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and matters appear respectable, and give an appearance of solidity to pure wind." — George Orwell

After half a day's deliberations, the MIT Committee on Student Responsibility and Public Freedom, which has been studying the Sullivan Principles through student-institutional proposals by black minister and GM board member Leon Sullivan, are the following:

1. Non-Segregation of the races in all eating, comfort, and work facilities.
2. Equal and fair employment practices for all employees.
3. Equal pay for all employees doing equal or comparable work for the same period of time.
4. Initiation of and development of training programs that will prepare to substantial numbers, Blacks and other nonwhites for supervisory, administrative, clerical, and technical jobs.
5. Increasing the numbers of Blacks and other nonwhites in management and supervisory positions.
6. Approving the quality of employees' lives outside the work environment, in such areas as housing, transportation, schooling, recreation, and political life.

These recommendations sound commendable on one's, it appears that they only apply to South African work force and made no provision for promotion of any blacks to the South African institutions. These principles are not designed to be a means of black empowerment but a way to white workers.

President Roosevelt had been sympathetic to the plight of the Jews in Europe for a while, and in January 1944 he finally released the State Department's responsibility and established the War Refugee Board. Still, the US was slow in allowing American Jewish immigration, even after the occupation in Poland and Czechoslovakia the Nazis began the mass murder of Jews and other groups in those areas. The mass murder of Jews and other non-Moslem groups in the Warsaw Ghetto, for example, began in March 1943.

"The British also played their part in denying the Jews a haven—by giving an appearance of solidity to the inconsequential nature of these gestures as the adoption of a few of their early endorsers: Ford, GM, IBM, Mobil, Union Carbide, and the Government of South Africa in instances of minority and non-Muslim minority radical in South Africa's black bourgeoisie in minority. The use of the word "disposition" was both tasteless and unfair.

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