I' going to give the speakers a minute to gather their thoughts for a summation statement, and Professor St. Antoine you will go first with your summation statement, and then Professsor Allen.

Prof. St. Antoine:

I can be very brief. I really do agree with the principles that Dr. Allen is espousing. We want a colorblind society. I simply think that we've had a non-colorblind society for two or 300 years, and we must face the reality that this has greatly handicapped many, many African-Americans. There are exceptions, but I think we have to look in dealing with any societal problem at the greater numbers. As to the greater numbers, I think they need that extra boost. They need the help that we can give them by taking into account this special handicap that they have endured as a means of overcoming them, providing a little extra weight on the scales. I make no apologies about that. Our Constitution talks about equal protection, but I don't regard it as equal protection when we have unequal situations to be dealt with. We must deal with the situations of the realities that we face, and that is why I so strongly support the concept of affirmative action.

Dr. Allen:

I suppose I must at least say before giving a concluding comment that I would be flattered to be thought of as an exception if I weren't one of a family of 12 -- and not the brightest among them -- and from a community in which there are many other people, not unlike us. I think therefore the real question is, what will it take to see that reality and to escape a history of prejudice and distorted views that create the impression that some broad social conclusion about black people ought to be the basis for policymaking, as opposed to leaving people free to make their own way. Well, I suppose there is one practical way to talk about practical things and not principles in order to get the problem solved: that's not to allow the people who continue to use these assumptions, and these prejudiced assumptions, to govern and to set policy; to have them to step aside and turn it over to those of us in whose names they are doing it -- to let us do it ourselves. If they give up their positions and turn them over to us, then they would no longer have to worry about it. And we can assure that everyone is treated fairly. In a more serious vein, I would say, there's no such thing as setting principles aside for the moment while we solve problems. The principal problem is to sustain freedom in a country committed to freedom. You don't suspend freedom for a moment, with the thought that you're going to pick it up and enjoy it prosperously later on after you've worked out the kinks of your own opinions and attitudes. If freedom doesn't work; if this is not a progressive society, which we can expect to continue to be progressive as it has been in its history, then we have to give up altogether. There is no compromise with freedom and with equality. Calling them principles does not make them dispensable; calling them principles make some central.