

'Discriminate' Use Indiscriminant

IF you don't feel "discriminated against" in some way, you may be one of a small minority. Most people could qualify.

Discrimination is felt or feared by many people on grounds of racial prejudice, national bias or religious beliefs.

Although most people may hope to "strike it rich," the wealthy and the poor often have mutual feelings of discrimination. The larger middle class may resent both, the wealthy because they have money and the poor because they don't.

Labor unions were organized because workers thought that management was discriminating against them. Now, businessmen feel that they are victims, as government sides with labor.

Women's groups claim that they are restricted in professional progress and in sports activities by male bias. Children's rights are a current topic because of abuses.

Prospective employers are limited by law in use of words in advertising that refer to age, sex, educa-

tion or experience, possibly discriminating against both applicants and hirers.

Recently, a University of Pittsburgh study revealed that average starting salaries for short people were \$701 per month, while those 6 feet 2 inches tall got \$788 per month.

Left-handed people often resent the right-handed world. Last year a drive was launched to end "discrimination against ugly people." The National Association to Aid Fat Americans has chapters in nine cities and a program to convince the public that "Fat is beautiful!"

Large people have no doubt that they are limited in comfort when they must occupy beds built for average-sized people.

A major Oklahoma issue is whether convicted felons' rights are superior to those of law-abiding citizens. Another is whether the public may be compelled to accept as normal practices that traditionally have been considered immoral.

Smokers and nonsmokers or drinkers and nondrinkers may dis-

play animosity or intolerance toward one another.

Federal agencies are continually at odds with business and industry because the latter claim they pay too high taxes for excessive regulations and needless paperwork.

Discrimination formerly was a nice word, denoting discernment and good judgment. It meant that a person had ability to choose quality over shoddiness, to prefer character over slovenliness and to seek right in preference to wrong.

Now it often has an Orwellian connotation of "Good is Bad. Bad is good. Those who do wrong are entitled to all privileges enjoyed by those who do right."

This meaning may be an offshoot of the vulgar permissive philosophy of "If you enjoy it, indulge." It is related to moral decadence and declining self-reliance that are eroding personal character, independence and national stability.

Such feelings are founded upon greed, rather than a genuine love of fellowman and generous willingness to share.