

Ferdie J. Deering

JUN 26 1979

Something to Be Said for Inequality

AFTER attending a reunion of his World War II military unit, columnist John Causten Currey wrote that he was proud of having been associated "for once in my life, with heroes."

His pleasure is justifiable, but such an experience may become rare. If social reformers who clamor for a classless, unisex society have their way, the future will produce no more heroes.

Everybody will be equal. All will be brought down to the lowest common denominator of mediocrity. No one would be allowed to be smarter or richer, or to accomplish more than others.

Thomas Jefferson was one of the great heroes of this nation. Yet he made a terrible slip when he wrote into the Declaration of Independence the phrase that "All men are created equal," without explaining that they shouldn't have to stay that way.

There seems to be a widespread notion nowadays that independence, opportunity and equality are syno-

nymous. They are not.

The government doesn't owe anybody a living, but it is a proper function of government to provide a climate of peace and freedom wherein everyone has an opportunity to earn his own living.

Under the guise of seeking equality, the goal of equal opportunity has been turned into a sort of witch hunt. Individuals, organizations and government are on the prowl to demand preferential treatment for any who, for whatever reason, falls short of his wants.

Such activists are not really advocating equality, because they reserve to themselves the right to determine which minorities should be favored, which is not equality.

It's not possible to have a rich country without rich people, but there are some who would like to achieve their concept of equality by total redistribution of wealth. They rely upon the old Robin Hood rationalization for stealing by "taking from the rich (via taxation) and giving to the poor"

When there are no more heroes, there will be no rich people, either. Everybody presumably will be equally poor.

Years ago, Stephen Vincent Benet wrote a piece called "Creed for Americans." In it he stated: "We believe that every man should have a free and equal chance to develop his own best abilities under a free system of government, where the people themselves choose those who are to rule them and where no man can set himself up as a tyrant or oppress the many for the benefit of the few."

Neither the Declaration of Independence nor the Constitution says that just because we are born equal that we must remain on the same plateau for the rest of our lives.

The theme of liberty is that people should have opportunities to better themselves, to achieve more, to contribute more to society, to provide leadership and to help others, to become heroes in war or peace.

The "equality" advocated by pressure groups would limit our liberty, our achievements and our wealth.