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Dennis Brack from Black Star

'Still a Brother'

What are the attitudes of the middle-class Negro in America? "Still a Brother: Inside the Negro Middle Class," a 90-minute report by National Educational Television, will be shown locally on Channel 13 tomorrow at 9 P.M. Horace Morris, associate director of the Urban League in Washington, D.C., recalls a personal experience in the following excerpt from the program.

LAST summer the entire nation was made aware of the violence that erupted in Newark. I happened to be attending a National Urban League conference in New York. My family still lives in Newark, and so I decided to visit them on my way back to Washington. I visited with my stepfather for about a half-hour or so, and then we decided to visit a sister of mine.

As we were about to get into the car, about three carloads of police came around the corner. Without warning and, to my knowledge, without any provocation from us, they opened fire on us and a group of about 40 or 50 people who were standing on the stoop. My stepfather was mortally wounded. One of my brothers was wounded twice and required an operation and extensive hospital care. We were under fire, I would say, for approximately 10 minutes by the Newark police. They said they were looking for a sniper on the roof or the upper floors of the apartment building, but they were still firing at ground-level range.

And once I had an opportunity to collect my senses and really evaluate and think this thing through, it came through to me in stark reality that regardless of how far up the economic ladder any Negro goes, there's still this oppressive thing of prejudice that he is subjected to from the point of the white man here in America. And I realized that I was extremely fortunate not to be killed myself. And that even though I possessed two degrees, even though I had played football for Syracuse, even though I was an elementary school principal who had educated white children, even though I work with white people in the Washington Urban League, even though there are white people that I consider close friends, I realized that — as the boys say — when it gets down to the nitty gritty, right down to where it really matters, you're still a Negro and you're still identified with every other Negro in America, be he in a ghetto or in a suburban neighborhood. You're still a brother.