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Just about twenty-five years ago I bet a friend one hundred dollars that in ten years time I would still be involved in the struggle for social equality and against racism and imperialism. Well, I remember the bet, but I’ve lost touch with my friend, for I most certainly could collect. Most recently I helped organize a march in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, against racism and for multiracial unity. I teach in a Brooklyn public high school, and shortly after the violence between blacks, Jews, and police in Crown Heights, the Los Angeles riots had a big effect. We had everything from walkouts to class discussions. It is somewhat disappointing to me that in the nineties we still face so many unsolved problems from the sixties and that the rich have gotten richer and the poor, poorer. But my students invigorate me with hope every day. They are the best.

To relax, I play some tennis and volleyball, and I also do some coaching. I’ve coached hardball, basketball, and bowling, but now I’m concentrating on volleyball. That’s probably in part due to the fact that both my son and daughter play volleyball, both in high school and now in college.

Actually, this September (1993), both our kids (Tina and Michael) will be away in college, and my wife Kathy and I will be “on our own.” I’m wondering what that will be like. I’m also wondering about the future for young people. That brings me back to the struggle for social equality...