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Bill Russell comments on social problems

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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BILL RUSSELL
COMMENTS ON
SOCIAL PROBLEMS

MISSOULA---

Bill Russell, former basketball player-manager for the Boston Celtics, lightly told a large audience at the University of Montana Wednesday (Dec. 3) that "draftees should be limited to large corporation employers and to holders of public offices."

In his humorous address loaded with serious implications, Russell said, "Draftees should not make less than \$15,000 a year and should be at least 40 years old."

Russell urged his audience to become concerned with people and issues by "not becoming a part of the silent majority."

Calling up issues as pollution and narcotics, he said "They're not right for anybody until they're right for everybody."

Russell asked if we should spend \$24 billion on the moon shots while problems of integration still exist. "Should we be technological giants while we are moral midgets?" he asked.

He asked how the Vietnam War and organized crime fit in with "law and order."

Concerning the blacks, Russell said, "If you're smart enough to get through college, you're smart enough to help the blacks." He added that "helping" means recognizing the blacks for what they can contribute to society.

"America should not be a melting pot but a huge pot of soup with all elements contributing," he said. "Welfare involves loss of respect."

He added, "Education would be accelerated if everyone went to school together."

Having joined the Celtics for the 1956-57 season, Russell led his team to 10 world championships in 12 years.

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