EINSTEIN ON RACE AND RACISM II

DISCUSSION: ACTIVISM AND CONSEQUENCES

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THEIR ADVOCACY

Einstein
- **1931**- Scottsboro Boys (protested)
- Civil Rights Activist
- Co-chair of ACEL (American Crusade to End Lynching)
- NAACP
- “Einstein’s sharpest attack on racism- Message sent to a conference of the National Urban League “The worst disease under which our nation suffers, is the treatment of the Negro... the scorn of the principle of the Fathers who founded the United States that ‘all men are created equal.’” (Einstein)

Robeson
- Civil Rights Activist
- Chair of ACEL- met with President Truman
- CRC Leader (Civil Rights Congress-publicly defended the Communist Party)
- You don’t have to win, but you do have to keep struggling. - shared belief by Einstein and Robeson (128)
- “I must keep fighting until I’m dying.” –Robeson (128)
CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIVISM

- Placed under FBI Surveillance (both)
- Loss of career (Robeson)
“The separation of the races [segregation], he declared, “is not a disease of colored people, but a disease of white people,” adding, “I do not intend to be quiet about it” (88).
EINSTEIN IN THE MEDIA

“The mainstream media treated the address [speech at Lincoln University] by the world’s famous scientist at the nation’s oldest black university as a nonevent. Only the black press gave Einstein’s speech meaningful coverage” (90).

WHY?

What are your popular opinions on Einstein?

Why do we portray Einstein differently than the book does?
EINSTEIN AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY’S FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS

- “You didn’t have to be a scientist to be invited into Einstein’s house. He was just very down to earth. Too bad they made that absent-minded image of him ” (Alice Satterfield, 131).
- “Witherspoon walks”