

argument before your Honorable  
 Body, on a question that has already  
 impressed so much of public attention.  
 We ask not Social Equality. This  
 pertains to persons and always will, as  
 it should, depend on personal qualities  
 and conduct. But we respectfully  
 assume, that when the State demands  
 obligations and duties at the hands  
 of all ~~the~~ Citizens without  
 distinction, the Correlative rights and  
 privileges of all those citizens should  
 be conceded without distinction. The  
 justice, and sound policy of this  
 proposition seems to us so patent  
 as not to admit of argument.

The injustice and incongruity of requiring  
 of all citizens the equal payment of  
 taxes for the support of the Government,  
 of military service when needed,  
 of work on the public roads, and all  
 duties of citizens without distinction  
 whilst a large class of those citizens  
 are debarred from all participation  
 or voice in the Government, cannot  
 be defended as an abstract proposition.  
 It can only be defended, on the ground  
 of disloyalty to the Government on the  
 part of the proscribed class, or on the  
 ground of total incapacity of such class.  
 We will not insult the intelligence of  
 your Honorable Body by offering proofs  
 of our loyalty as a class. The history  
 of the 20000 Soldiers of African descent

*During the last four years is too fresh*

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