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Inequality in Retreat

To the Editor:

We agree with William Julius Wilson (Op-ed, April 12) that equalizing institutions, like public education and unions, are needed to reduce income inequality, but the patient is still gravely ill and there is little remission to celebrate.

The large income gaps of the 1980s widened in the 90s. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the incomes of the best-off Americans rose twice as fast as those of middle-income Americans. The median wealth of nonwhite Americans fell in the 1980s and is today about one-tenth of the average white family's.

We know what works; we need to finance solutions equal to the scale of the problem. If we don't reduce inequality now, in this era of unparalleled prosperity, will we ever?

Lynn Curtis
Washington, April 14, 2000

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