

# The New York Times

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## LETTER

# Respect for the Working Class

A reader recalls a comment by John Gardner, a health, education and welfare secretary in the Johnson administration.

Jan. 28, 2019

### To the Editor:

Re “A Lack of Respect for the Working Class,” by Daniel Wasik (letter, Jan. 21):

John Gardner, the secretary of health, education and welfare from 1965 to 1968), commented on the consequences of the lack of respect shown to the working class.

“The society which scorns excellence in plumbing as a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy: Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water.”

Stephen Krashen

Los Angeles

*The writer is professor emeritus of education at the University of Southern California.*