

Lack of Acknowledged Leader Said Hurting Negro Cause

By LYLE C. WILSON
UPI Correspondent

It is the misfortune of Negroes that in this moment of greatest need for self discipline that they have no acknowledged leader.

Thousands of Negroes are enrolled as privates in the mass armies involved in demonstrations, sit-ins and, occasionally, street violence. The number of brigade commanders accredited to and variously directing these maneuvers is beyond number.

What the Negro's lack is

a five-star generalissimo. The Negroes need a leader who can arouse their armies or send the armies home and off the streets and away from the jails.

Most especially, the Negroes now urgently need leadership which can persuade them against mass demonstrations in the capital of the United States while Congress is debating the Kennedy civil rights bill. One of the Negro brigade commanders is the Rev. George Lawrence of the Southern Christian Leader-

ship Conference. Some days ago the Rev. Lawrence promised that Washington, D.C., would be the focus of a massive, militant and monumental sit-in this summer unless Congress acted fast to assure full equal rights for the Negro now.

He said any Southern filibuster against civil rights legislation would touch off massive acts of civil disobedience all over the United States. What the Rev. Lawrence will touch off if he carries out his program is pretty

sure to be more racial bitterness, more violence and much less sympathy among Americans for the pending civil rights legislation.

The Southern Christian Leadership conference is one of many more or less militant Negro organizations, any one of which probably could match the Rev. Lawrence in mass demonstrations. There appears to be no Negro group of Negroes, however, competent to control the civil rights demonstrators by directing their activities into

channels more likely to help than to harm their cause.

The leadership situation, in fact, is worse than that. It is not merely that there is no acknowledged Negro leadership, but that the various brigade commanders are competing with each other for prestige and privileges and, perhaps, for money.

Roy Wilkins is executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. NAACP long was the muscle and brains of the Negro effort for

civil rights. In a speech recently in Alexandria, Va., Wilkins complained that other Negro organizations provided the noise and got the publicity while NAACP provided the manpower and paid the bills.

Wilkins named some Negro mass demonstration outfits and said "Don't go giving them your money when it should be given to us." There is considerable money available, too. A Negro educator from Jackson, Miss., spoke in Washington last week. It

was estimated that the audience of 600 persons contributed \$2,000 when the hat was passed. A lot of money.

There is evidence that some Negro leaders now feel compelled to participate in or to inspire mass violence to compete with others who promote street disorders. The idea seems to be that the street riot leader will get more followers than the pacifist. How much violence will there be and what will it do to the cause of civil rights are two unanswered ques-

tions. James M. Nabrit Jr. is president of Howard university, Washington, D.C. The San Juan, Puerto Rico, Star quoted him a fortnight ago as predicting violence, including the wholesale killing of people in the United States, unless Congress acted immediately on civil rights.

Women of voting age outnumber men of voting age in the U.S. population by 3.5 million, according to the 1960 census.

Phoenix Woman Is Held for Shoplifting

Medford city police Wednesday arrested Nora Pearl Stroud, 67, Phoenix, on a charge of shoplifting from a local supermarket.

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