

The Revolution of 1963--Part I

# Right To Use Public Accommodations One of Negro Issues

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The social revolution touched virtually every section of the nation in 1963. Negroes demonstrated by the thousands, and this upheaval, accompanied by bloodshed and death, was only the beginning. Negro leaders said, "What was accomplished? What lies ahead?" On the basis of reports, interviews and assessments from all 50 states, a UPI team of Al Kuetner, Nicholas C. Chriss and H. L. Stevenson has prepared five dispatches on the '63 revolution. The following dispatch, the first, deals with the issue of public accommodations.)

By AL KUETTNER

United Press International  
In Birmingham, Ala., one morning last May, a 23-year-old Negro awakened her teen-age sister. They had breakfast, got

their toothbrushes and headed for the 16th St. Baptist Church. The meal was a hearty one because they realized it might be their last for a while. They took toothbrushes because they had a good idea they would be in the city jail that night. Before the day was over, the two girls, along with hundreds of fellow sympathizers in a bold campaign to break down the segregation barriers in the Alabama steel center, faced policemen and marched into waiting patrol wagons. They were part of an army of Negroes who made 1963 the year of upheaval in the nation's racial struggle. With variations the scene was repeated across the Southland and into the North, East and West. One of the main targets: The right to the use of restaurants, lunch counters, motels, hotels, recreation facilities and every

other public accommodation that is open to any other person in the nation. Other targets: All brakes off on public school integration, voter registration, job opportunities and housing.

What He Wants  
What does the Negro want? One of them answered this way: "You ask me what I want. I ask you what you want. That's what I want. Nothing more. Noting less."

A massive study by United Press International of the action, the demands and gains of the 1963 integration turmoil shows small but significant advances. But the cost has been terrific: 11 deaths, scores of injuries, heavy property damage, church bombings, riots, vandalism and thousands of arrests.

According to Justice Department figures, a total of 1,814 civil rights demonstrations hit the nation between May 20 and late October. They occurred in 40 states and the District of Columbia. Of the total, 1,159 were directed at least in part against the denial of service to Negroes in restaurants, hotels, theaters and other public places.

Pace Slackens  
The demonstrations that struck the nation like exploding grenades from last spring through mid-autumn went into a lull last month.

A Justice Department official said this lull is due in part to the realization by Negro leaders that protest marches had created resentment among whites and did not eliminate the basic problem. The assassination of President Kennedy further slowed the effort.

Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy has warned that the lull may be only temporary unless Congress adopts a civil rights law dealing with discrimination in public facilities. No action is likely in that quarter this year.

"Our leaders have aroused the nation to the need," said the Rev. M. A. Givens, a Negro minister in Boise, Idaho. "But at the same time they have caused ill feelings. There needs to be a cooling-off period."

Opinions Split  
Is the Negro moving too fast in his demands for wide open facilities? "Yes," says a white telephone installer in Chicago. "There

wasn't a nationality here that wasn't discriminated against at one time or another. But they didn't go around with posters and lay in front of bulldozers."

That reaction was echoed by 42 other white persons in the non-South and 29 in Dixie interviewed in a sampling of public opinion. But 43 non-South white persons and 21 from the South felt the Negro is not moving too fast.

"I admire them for what they are trying to do," said William Price, a 39-year-old Charleston, W. Va., calculator serviceman. "Even in Hawaii, where the local NAACP branch concentrates on troubles in the mainland

are almost non-existent, progress of the integration drive is closely followed. As for the nation's newest state, one Negro explained: "I can walk into the Royal Hawaiian Hotel and get the same kind of service as other people. Me fight for integration? In Hawaii? We've got it made here."

Makes It Illegal  
The currently debated civil rights bill would make it illegal to discriminate in a public place affected by interstate commerce. But 30 states have had public accommodations laws for years without ending discrimination.

Yet, progress in breaking the "lunch counter curtain" has been a significant gain, as happily pronounced by Isaiah (Skip) Gantt, the only Negro at the McCauley (parochial) School in Joplin, Mo. "Things could be worse," Gantt said. "It used to be a Negro couldn't go any place. But in Joplin, I'm free as a bird."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who initiated public demonstrations during the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott and has been

involved in scores of others since then, has totalled up more than 300 eating places that have agreed to admit Negroes during the current wave of demonstrations.

In Birmingham, Ala., where King led demonstrations that became enmeshed in riots, bombings and death, there has been a small start toward restaurant desegregation. Aside from a tear gas incident in a department store that had opened its tea room to Negroes, the transition has been without incident.

Only in Mississippi has there been no breakthrough in integrating public places.

The biggest drive to open public services to Negroes has been in the South where, until a few years ago, a visiting Negro almost needed a guide to find a place that would serve him. But the discrimination has been far from limited to Dixie.

It happened in Anchorage, Alaska, where a food store was picketed because it refused to hire Negroes. . . . in Phoenix, Ariz., where a Mexican restaurant became a minor sensation over sit-in demonstrations. . . . in Wilmington, Del., where a Negro boy emerged in tears from a drug store that served his white companions ice cream

but turned him down. . . . and in Spokane, Wash., where a barber refused to trim the hair of a Nigerian student at a Jesuit university.

Next: The political aspects of civil rights.

STRIKES IDLE 160,000 WORKERS IN OCTOBER  
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## 11 Pay Extreme Price In Civil Rights Fight

By United Press International  
Eleven persons have died in civil rights related incidents during 1963.

The list:  
April 23—William L. Moore, 35, a white postman from Baltimore, shot near Gadsden, Ala., while staging a "freedom march" to Mississippi.

June 6—Fred Link, a white automobile mechanic, slain by 22-caliber rifle bullet fired into a crowd of whites at Lexington, N.C., during a race riot.

June 12—Medgar W. Evers, Mississippi field secretary for the NAACP, shot by a sniper as he returned home from an integration meeting.

Aug. 10—Serina Taylor, a 14-year-old Negro girl, killed by a wild shotgun blast fired by a white man in Jersey City, N.J.

Sept. 4—Negro John D. Coley, 20, killed by a stray rifle bullet during the rioting that broke out following a bombing in Birmingham.

Sept. 15—Four Negro girls killed during Sunday School classes when a bomb exploded and shattered the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. They were Denise McNair, 11, Cynthia Wesley, Addie Mae Collins and Carol Robertson, all 14.

Two Negro teen-agers, James Robinson and Virgil Ware, shot to death the same day in Birmingham in unrelated incidents and in widely separated points.

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