

A Brave Mayor Battles Mr. Hyde of Civil Rights

ATLANTA

This is a story about the activities of an organization and about a man. The organization is the former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), known as Snick. It now is committed to violence and anti-white hatred. The man is the mayor of Atlanta.

"I'll say this," said a Negro man on the outskirts of the recent riot in Atlanta, "that Mayor Allen is a sure enough man."

Mayor Ivan Allen was one part of the unhappy and unnecessary story. Impeccable, bareheaded, distinguished looking, he walked literally into the midst of fighting groups where angry and bitter men were embroiled. He was shaken from the top of an automobile where he was standing to address them. Bricks and bottles were being thrown. Violence was being urged by Snick's leadership through use of loudspeakers.

Yet Mayor Allen, brushing aside those who feared for his safety—and the danger was very real—stayed with his chief of police and his men. He set the police an example of calm assurance in the face of ugly provocation. He endured the dangers that were about them all. No other mayor of any city experiencing the trauma of riots has so behaved. The mayor stayed there for some seven hours until order was restored. He was not an observer; he was where the action was and in the midst of it. Even the more angry and bitter could not fail to respect him.

The story of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is a sad one. During the years of freedom rides and sit-ins, SNCC had a magnificent record. It could be said of the young white and Negro students who worked in it that they included some of the sweetest, bravest people of those days. They now are out. SNCC is no longer a student movement. It is not now a civil-rights

organization. It is openly, officially committed to a destruction of existing society. It now is known, with some truth, as the "Non-Student Violent Committee."

The chronicle of Snick's change is a variation of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Snick now attracts those who hate the white man.

The truth of the transformation of Snick is not yet fully known. As of last fall SNCC was without funds. A meeting was held in New York. Quick action followed. SNCC suddenly had a great amount of money. It was able to either purchase or take a long lease on a building in Atlanta, to buy automobiles, and to equip headquarters.

A white attorney, Charles Morgan, whose career in Alabama had been destroyed because he had defended Negro clients in civil-rights cases, summarily was dismissed from the legislative case of Julian Bond by a New York attorney who walked into the Atlanta office and fired him. This New York attorney, Victor Rabinowitz, is registered in Washington as an agent for the Castro government in Cuba. SNCC's president, John Lewis, was re-elected, then fired, and Stokely Carmichael elected.

In civil-rights circles it is said that Havana money "took over Snick." No one knows if "Havana money" is Castro's or if it comes from elsewhere. Whatever the source of the new money, the Mr. Hyde process began with Carmichael's proclaiming an anti-white policy and a program to destroy today's society.

In a recent attempt to batter down a door at the Army induction center in Atlanta and to prevent entry of inductees, Snick's pickets were shouting Castro slogans. So, just what SNCC really is today can only be judged by what it says or does. If it is out to destroy society, it cannot expect society to remain passive under attack.