

King Gets Shunting

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U. S. Sen. James O. Eastland appearing at the Neshoba County Fair here a few days ago, told a large audience that the Negro leader, Martin Luther King, "has not gone over in the North and they are shunting him back South."

The statement came on the heels of announcements that King is bringing his annual convention of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to Jackson, Aug. 7 - 8.

Sen. Eastland, considered the leading anti-liberal in the Congress, cautioned the citizens of this area to pay as little attention to the rabble-rousings of King as possible.

It has been noted that everywhere that the "non-violent" King goes up north, death and destruction have sprouted.

Sen. Eastland told the Neshoba audience that even liberal solons in Washington "saw through" the shooting incident of James Meredith several weeks ago, and the result was a break-through for the conservative cause.

"The man with the rifle, an expert marksman according to his military record, called three times for attention of Meredith in order that the cameramen could focus," Eastland noted, "Yes, the North even saw through that, when an expert marksman used birdshot to kill."

So much for the Eastland statement . . . we are attracted to the New York Times via the St. Louis Post Dispatch this week.

GIFTS CUT

The Post Dispatch, quoting the New York paper, reprints the following which should show a turn of affairs up North . . .

The Northern Liberals, fearful of extremism, are cutting back sharply on contributions to the more militant civil rights organizations.

The big drop in donations from the liberal community is verified by top officers and former leaders of the Congress of Racial Equality, the Student nonviolent co-ordinating committee, popularly called Snick, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Money from white persons in the past has been the lifeblood of their campaigns.

In a series of interviews, officers of those organizations and civil rights donors gave three

that contributions fell significantly after a CORE officer at Mount Vernon, N. Y., denounced Jews in general at a public meeting in February.

Lynch says that about 80 per cent of his group's financial support has come from the white community "and you could say that Jewish contributions have been predominant."

RESIGNATIONS

Former high-ranking national officers of CORE recently resigned but still in close touch with the situation, say that contributions to it this year are running only little better than half of the \$810,000 total of the previous fiscal year.

Lynch denies such a severe drop but does not disclose the figures. He concedes that the deficit is between \$200,000 and \$250,000. Former CORE leaders put it as high as \$350,000.

Ivanhoe Donaldson, new director of the New York office of Snick, which operates primarily in the South but has frankly depended on white northern financial help, says "our contributions are 40 to 45 per cent less than we normally have at this time of year."

He says that the Student Committee is no longer supported "by those liberal whites who believe in integration in the South but not New York or Chicago."

Today the organization has the help of the radicals, he says.

The Student Committee talks of about \$650,000 in income in the fiscal year 1965.

The Student Committee charges the Northern press with distortions about the meaning of "black power," causing liberals to worry about "racism" and "black nationalism."

The Rev. Dr. King's conference says that 70 per cent of its financial help has come from white liberals but that contributions dropped from \$1,500,000 in the fiscal year 1965 to less than \$1,000,000 in 1966.

There are indications that much money from whites is being shifted from CORE and Snick to more conservative rights groups or to educational and legal defense organizations benefiting the Negro.

SLACKENING INTEREST

Civil Rights leaders and donors report a general slackening in Northern interest after the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and last year's voting rights law.

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snow a turn of affairs up North . . .

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In a series of interviews, officers of those organizations and civil rights donors gave three main reasons for the drop in financial support:

(1) Concern over CORE and Snick attitudes that are described by many persons as "black racist," anti-Semitic or "extreme."

(2) Worry or disgust about bitter attacks, primarily by CORE and Snick, on United States intentions and on "morality" in Viet Nam and on the military draft.

(3) A decline of enthusiasm now that the Northerner is being jostled by civil rights militancy in his own backyard.

BLACK POWER

Both CORE and the Student Committee have recently emphasized demands for "black power" in political and economic life. The Rev. Dr. King demands a "militant thrust forward" by Negroes but deplores use of the term "black power" as implying black nationalist ideas. His organization reports contributions down by more than one third in the fiscal year ending, June 30.

The Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, vice president and treasurer of the Leadership Conference, says that "black power" demands and allegedly racist attitudes of CORE and Snick have seriously affected the King organization because many whites do not differentiate among the organizations.

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A long-time CORE national executive, who wants his name withheld, sums up that attitude: "Bull Connor and his police dogs were such easy targets to hate a few years ago."

He referred to Eugene Connor, who used dogs to check demonstrators when he was Birmingham police commissioner.

Many observers and leaders of the civil rights struggle believe that it is too early to assess the full impact of the new "black power" slogan. But they point to other related factors, described as "racist" or "extremist," attitudes as having a depressing effect for many months.

Kivie Kaplan, the retired white industrialist who is president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said recently: "I know one big contributor who tore up his check when Snick started that 'Black Panther' political party in Alabama."

He referred to a new all-black party in one Alabama county.

Another, Joseph Willen, executive director of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, has switched his support to the National Urban League and to the scholarship, education and defense fund for racial equality, set up friends and staff people of CORE in 1962, but separate in operation.

CORE, he says, has apparently decided not to be an interracial group any longer, "and the opposite of that is racist." He speaks of a Negro attack "on their neighbors, the Jews."