

BRADENTON HERALD

THE ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN MANATEE COUNTY

W. E. PAGE, President and Publisher

JOHN T. HAMNER
Editor

WILTON MARTIN
Managing Editor

R. P. RICHARDSON, JR.
Advertising Director

W. E. PAGE III, Comptroller

4-A

Thursday, Sept. 1, 1966

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY *But he who has doubts is condemned, if he eats, because he does not act from faith; for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.—Romans 14:23.*

* * *

All the strength and force of man comes from his faith in things unseen. He who believes is strong; he who doubts is weak. Strong convictions precede great actions.—James F. Clarke, American theologian.

EDITORIALS

Common Sense And Silliness

There have been some encouraging comments from Negro leaders in recent weeks, seeking to put common sense into the efforts for improvement of the lot of Negroes and to put an end to the mania for achievement by riot. These are keyed generally to offsetting the rougher aspects of the "black power" movement.

Out of these have come some good words of advice. Even Martin Luther King has tried to play down the "black power" business, and called off his planned march into Cicero, Ill., with what appeared to be only a face-saving agreement with officialdom, in the face of almost certain violence.

THURGOOD MARSHALL, former executive of the NAACP and the first Negro ever to be appointed solicitor general of the United States, a former federal judge and thoroughly competent lawyer, has added his weight to the common-sense talk.

Speaking to a national Negro fraternity's convention last week, the solicitor general denounced "the rock throwers and the Molotov cocktail throwers." And he added that "lawlessness is lawlessness, anarchy is anarchy. Neither race nor color nor frustration is an excuse for either lawlessness or anarchy."

IN A TIME when both whites and blacks are increasingly prone to the violent approach to problems, and in an era when Dr. King's espousal of moral law-breaking is a major

Negro precept, these are words worthy of repeating. And they are refreshing and encouraging.

But in the midst of these encouraging signs, there continue to be indications of a lack of maturity in other areas of Negro leadership, and of a basic misunderstanding of the meaning of equality of citizenship.

The Florida NAACP, for instance, has just pulled one which is best described as silly.

IT HAS ANNOUNCED that it will hold a rally, and invite all candidates for the Legislature and other state offices. "And we will campaign against any who don't accept the invitation."

Apparently, then, the NAACP leadership in Florida is not interested in what future legislators and state officials believe, what their policies for better living conditions are, what their ideas are about economic improvements which would aid Negroes as well as others. The NAACP leadership is merely interested in demonstrating its blackmail power to force candidates to come before a convention audience.

THIS IS THE poorest form of leadership for Florida Negroes sincerely interested in improving their lot, and the poorest form of political leadership as well.

If the leadership of the Negroes of Florida has no more concept of its role than it showed in that challenge, the outlook for better days for Negro citizens is not as rosy as it has appeared to be.