

# Kennedy Held All-Out For Open-Cafe Law

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President John F. Kennedy will push hard for his controversial "public accommodations" legislation, the executive director of the Southern Regional Council said here Monday.

Dr. Leslie W. Dunbar said this was the impression he received at a recent White House conference with Kennedy. Between 30 and 40 leaders of civil rights organizations attended the meeting.

"I went into the meeting not believing the administration really thought they could pass public accommodations legislation," Dunbar said, adding that President Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson effectively "argued their sincerity in this."

Dunbar spoke at a dinner meeting of the Greater Atlanta Council on Human Relations, one of several Atlanta speakers to report on the recent series of White House conferences on race relations.

From 25 to 30 Atlanta citizens were invited by the President to attend the special meetings.

Dr. John W. Letson, superintendent of Atlanta schools, said

that school "drop-outs" pose a serious racial problem because drop-outs and, later, the "impact of unemployment," fall much "more heavily on the Negro proportion of the population."

Educators attending one White House meeting, he said, recognized the need for a "better guidance program."

The Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Atlanta minister and an official of the Southern Leadership Conference, said that President Kennedy "did not seek to evade the issues" at a meeting of religious leaders.

President Kennedy urged religious leaders to serve on bi-racial committees in their own communities, the Rev. Mr. Abernathy said.

The Rev. Vincent Harding, who also attended the meeting of religious leaders, noted that there was almost "too much of the public relations aspect to these meetings. There were too many people for him (President Kennedy) really to talk to the people there."

# Void Inn Barriers, Rights Senator Asks

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WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, R-N.Y., introduced Monday a civil rights amendment to outlaw all state and local ordinances compelling or fostering segregation in public accommodations.

It was one of three amendments introduced by Keating to the Kennedy administration's civil rights package.

Keating said in a Senate speech that the administration's public accommodations proposal relies primarily for enforcement on the interstate commerce clause in the Constitution.

He said his amendment would make the proposal applicable to all state and local segregation ordinances by basing enforcement on the 14th amendment to the Constitution as well. That amendment guarantees equal protection for all citizens.

"The best way to assure the

broadest coverage of the bill is to rely on both standards and this is exactly what my principal amendment would accomplish," Keating said.

The other amendments would outlaw discriminatory advertising and spell out that all public accommodations, not just ones specifically mentioned in the bill, would be covered.

# Protests Not Red Inspired, Wilkins Says

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## NAACP Secretary Speaks Before Rights Hearing

WASHINGTON—(UPI)—NAACP leader Roy Wilkins Monday disputed claims that the Negro protest movement is Communist inspired.

Testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee on behalf of President Kennedy's civil rights program, the executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said:

"Wherein is a demonstration against police brutality, against discrimination in employment, against exclusion from voting booths, lunch counters and public recreational facilities judged to be un-American or subversive?"

In recent testimony before the committee, Govs. Ross Barnett of Mississippi and George Wallace of Alabama charged that the mass Negro demonstrations were following a Communist pattern.

Wilkins also took issue with those who have said that Negroes were hurting their own cause by continued demonstrations.

He commented: "How can a cause—which has been betrayed by every possible device, beaten back in the crudest and most overt fashion, and distorted in high sounding misrepresentations by suave kinfolk of the mob—how can a cause in such condition be hurt by crying out of those who suffer...?"

He told the committee that if Sen. Richard Russell, D-Ga., leader of the southern opposition bloc in Congress, "had to swallow our treatment for 24 hours, he would be on a picket line in the next following 20 minutes."

"When Americans are stepped upon or pushed around," Wilkins said, "they protest and demand corrective action."

"They protested the tax on tea," he added. "They protested their lack of representation in the English Parliament, just as Negroes today protest their lack of representation in the Mississippi or South Carolina legislatures."

"In truth," the Negro leader continued, "the resolute determination and action of our Negro citizens upon the civil rights issue constitute exemplarily American conduct."

"If we desire to kill off such conduct and to fashion a nation of cautious crawlers," he said, "we should cease the teaching of American history."