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## The Jaundiced Eye:



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## Poitier, M. L. King Attend SRC Meeting

Dykes High School is located in northwest Atlanta at the corner of Powers Ferry and Jett Roads across from Chastain Park. The fact of its location is insignificant as is the fact of its existence except that the institution serves to provide needed educational facilities to the immediate surrounding area.

What is significant is the fact that few Negroes attend the school. Of course the reason for this is that very few Negroes live in the neighborhood serviced by Dykes. Thus the important point is that very few Negroes live on the northside of Atlanta—in the social area known to readers of the hate sheet, the Northside News, as **THE NORTHSIDE**.

Now it is not suggested that any person should particularly want to live in that area or to partake of its so-called benefits: debutantes, snobbery and other pleasantries. But it is a very beautiful neighborhood with rolling lawns, large estates, much green and, thanks to fine influence with the city, well-paved streets. In fact, the best possible in city services, in school, in all the things that go to make for gracious living are provided to the needy residents living there. Need a telephone installed, be right out, none of this crap about party-lines. Garbage collected regularly and streets, even the most out of the way ones, cleaned with little delay.

Yes, on the northside lives the wealth of Atlanta. The decision makers are there—the presidents of the companies, the senior partners of the law firms, the doctors who claim that status brought by Piedmont Hospital. This is "Driving Club" land. And there are no Negroes. Read the social pages of the Atlanta newspapers: no Negroes ever have parties, get married, or give birth to children. In fact none of this goes on anywhere but the northside—if one trusts these newspapers.

Meanwhile the Biltmore Hotel was the host last week to the annual meeting of the Southern Regional Council. At the banquet last Thursday the people mixed—colored and white, gentile and Jew. There were northsiders there. Several weeks earlier the Regency Hotel was the site of the annual meeting of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Sidney Poitier, Mrs. Rosa Parks, and Dr. Martin Luther King lead the dignitaries. Mayor Allen was among them. And there were many northsiders there.

These annual meetings are important for two reasons. They indicate that there are those among the leadership of Atlanta who do not hold the normal views of the northside. These are the people who have been instrumental in developing the policies and programs that have given Atlanta the progressive image that it has today and who have elected or seen to the elec-

tion of the proper persons to carry out the policies and programs.

The annual meetings also would indicate that the organizations sponsoring the meetings exist. The fact that the SRC and the SCLC still exist is a comment on our time. It is not that they should have been wiped out by waves of Southern bigotry, but that there is still a need for their continuation.

The comment is this: 1) it has been 12 years since 1954 and the **Brown** decision; 2) it has been over 100 years since the end of the revolt of the Southern states; 3) it has been almost 200 years since these words were written—"We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal. . . ."

The facts are these: in Atlanta, schools are still segregated in fact; Negroes must live in one particular section of town; no major law firm has yet to hire a Negro lawyer; no major company has hired Negro executives, the jobs left open to Negroes are menial and low paying for the most part; no social club will accept Negroes as members; Negro neighborhoods are on the bottom in city services and assistance provided by private companies; schools in these neighborhoods are the oldest and most crowded; in the slums landlords and loan sharks prey upon the ignorance created by white bigotry and do so unregulated by the law; for the most part pure racism governs the sale of houses and the rental of apartments in the better areas of Atlanta preventing a Negro's moving there even if he wanted to and on and on and on.

Perhaps this situation makes the point more clearly: in the Commerce Building, home of the organization that developed and stands for "Forward Atlanta"—the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, is located the Commerce Club to which no Negro is welcome as a guest or member, not even the Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Atlanta has begun to take the faltering steps to treat all its citizens as the minimum demanded by human decency—as human beings. Yet before the smugness settles too deeply in these homes on the northside where not much is seen beyond the country club, these people, who see the resolution of the problems of Detroit and Los Angeles and New York and Atlanta as better police protection, should recognize what lip service to progress really means. It means nothing. And too much depends on immediate action to be satisfied with it.

The change that will come will not come overnight, but as one Southerner, Judge Wisdom of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, commented in the Jefferson County case:

The clock has ticked the last tick for tokenism and delay in the name of "deliberate speed".