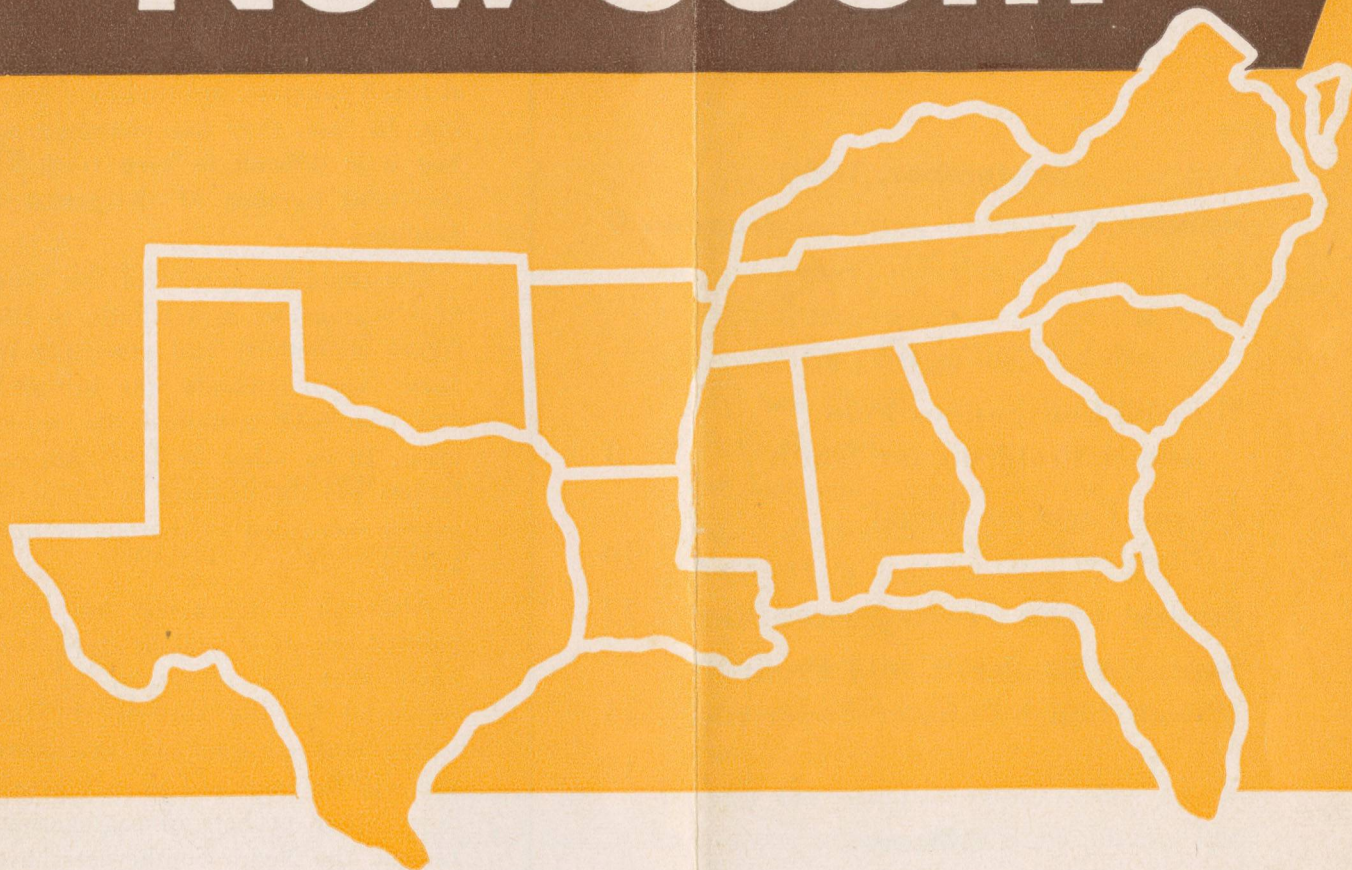


# New South



- ✓ **Biracial Conventions and the South**
- ✓ **Facing Facts on Racial Problems**
- ✓ **Student Drive Proves Successful**
- ✓ **Southern Leaders and Lunch Counters**

*Albert Paul Brunson*

SEPTEMBER

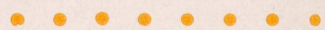
1960

# New South

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**SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL**

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## New South Notes

Policy and practices at eating facilities in the South, especially those at lunch counters, are rapidly changing. In fact, they are changing so fast it is difficult to keep track of the total number of desegregated facilities.

The rapid-fire spread of this type of desegregation is a tribute to the Negro community and especially to those Negro students who initiated and who have sustained the movement. In no other field of race relations has the demand for desegregation succeeded so thoroughly and swiftly.

Although it repeatedly has been pointed out, it is well to emphasize again that the successful method employed by the students in the sit-ins will continue in this area and will be employed to help break down other pockets of segregation. Indeed, the Negro Southerners have announced this intention to white Southern leadership.

Although by the time this reaches the readers, the total number of localities undoubtedly will have risen, SRC reprints a survey of lunch-counter desegregation along with the possible portent for the future.

This issue also includes a survey of Southern cities in regard to facilities for biracial conventions. The survey reveals a disappointingly small number of such facilities. But, from the comments of some associations with big yearly conventions, this is another problem the South needs to face and face quickly if it hopes to continue to attract such groups. It now is expedient for the South to take stock and to change.

# Biracial Conventions Pose Added Problems for South

Compiled

by

*Southern Regional Council*

*Research Department*

In the Winter and Spring, 1960, SRC attempted to compile a directory of convention facilities available in the South for biracial groups. The response by hotels and convention bureaus to our mail questionnaire was disappointing, and therefore no comprehensive directory can be prepared at this time. Much interesting information was, however, obtained. It is presented here both because of the help it may provide to biracial groups seeking places to meet, and because of the further light it sheds on the shifting patterns of racial relations in the South.

In the course of the survey, letters were sent to several associations known to have biracial membership, asking that they indicate what their experiences had been in finding accommodations in the South. Some of the replies are reproduced at the end of this report.

Names of hotels are used only when

information has come directly from them. In addition to the other sources of information mentioned in the report, we would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, and South Carolina Councils on Human Relations.

Widespread opinion to the contrary, public accommodations in Southern states are not generally required by law either to segregate or exclude Negroes. Virginia does by statute require segregation in "any place of public entertainment or public assemblage," although the specific applications of the law seem not to be wholly clear. Tennessee, and perhaps other states as well, has an administrative regulation prohibiting whites and Negroes from being served food together in hotels and restaurants; the regulation has so far been ignored in the desegregation of lunch counters in Knoxville and Nashville. A number of cities and towns have ordinances prohibiting non-segregated meetings; no compilation of such ordinances has been made. The prevalent pattern, however, both in state and municipal legislation, is not outright prohibitions (which raise directly the issue of state-action and therefore of constitutional rights); it is rather to leave the hotel proprietor legally free to select his guests. The proprietor remains, of

## Biracial

(Continued)

course, subject to the restraints, or assumed restraints, of community custom.

There are, of course, a number of non-commercial conference facilities available. These include many Negro colleges, and a smaller number of white colleges, throughout the South. Certain urban churches and synagogues, even in Deep South states, allow meetings and occasionally provide for feeding interracial groups. Some YMCA and YWCA facilities, exclusive of lodging, are available in the Deep South. Church conference centers sometimes offer accommodations; however, often their

"And I want local committees formed in this state. I appeal to those communities—all communities—here and now to establish among your citizens biracial committees that can take up and consider grievances of a racial character and that can honestly and sincerely and with a determined effort try to find solutions to these difficulties.

"Now the fact that your community has not had any difficulties should not deter you in moving to form this committee because sooner or later you will. We are confronted with a great need in our state to intelligently and reasonably act and to do that I must have the cooperation of the people."—Governor LeRoy Collins of Florida in a TV-radio address.

policy excludes use by outside groups. At least two special conference facilities, Penn Community Center at Frogmore, S. C., and Holly Knoll in Virginia, do offer complete accommodations; the former can serve groups of 100 while the latter can accommodate at least 40 persons.

### ALABAMA

*Birmingham:* Although a few years ago racially mixed groups were served in private dining rooms in some hotels, this is apparently no longer true. Prospective convention groups are now carefully checked; if Negroes are included no invitation is extended.

In response to the SRC survey, the reply of the Chamber of Commerce's convention bureau was uninformative. Questions were said to require research of City Ordinances and the Alabama Code. Birmingham has had an ordinance requiring segregated facilities.

### ARKANSAS

*Little Rock:* At least four of the leading hotels have been known to provide private rooms for meetings and dinners of interracial groups, both small and large. Robinson Municipal Auditorium is also available for interracial assemblies.

### FLORIDA

*Jacksonville:* Hotel Seminole, 225 rooms, reports that biracial groups are accommodated in meeting rooms only. No limit is placed on the number of Negroes within the group.

*Hollywood:* One of the city's two largest hotels recently offered completely desegregated meeting, eating, and lodging facilities for conventions of the

biracial Southern Sociological Society. Two thousand people can be accommodated in the largest meeting room, 1,500 in the largest dining facility, and there are 1,500 guest rooms.

*Miami:* Conditions influencing the acceptance of Negroes are vague and unclear. Although some hotels are known to offer non-discriminatory eating, meeting, and lodging facilities, negotiations must be undertaken anew each time.

A few hotels have reportedly adopted the policy of lodging Negroes, "very reluctantly," when they make up no more than 3-5% of the delegates to a convention. Meeting and private dining facilities are generally open in any hotel in the city.

Two auditoriums, the Bay Front Park Municipal Auditorium (seating capacity: 3,000) and the Dinner-Key Auditorium (seating capacity: 14,000) are open to any group. The Dinner-Key has facilities for light meals.

*Miami Beach:* The 385 hotels are open to conventions which include Negro delegates; hotel eating facilities are also open. A central auditorium, which seats 1,500 people, is available. The policies and practices of the hotels seem generally to be unfavorable to all-Negro meetings, but some exceptions have been reported.

*Tallahassee:* The Floridan Hotel reports that biracial groups are not accommodated in their absolutely segregated operation.

### GEORGIA

*Atlanta:* The convention bureau reports it knows of no facilities available for lodging and feeding biracial groups, although on occasion a limited number

of Negro delegates are allowed to attend business and educational sessions and to view technical displays.

It is the policy of two leading hotels as reported in the *Atlanta Journal*, to accept, after consideration, meetings of certain groups in which a few Negroes are included among the delegates; however, Negroes are required to eat in separate rooms (in a room ordinarily used by Negro hotel employees, in a recent case at one of them.)

*Macon:* The Hotel Dempsey stated it could give no help in accommodating biracial groups, and made reference to the policy of all leading hotels in Georgia.

### KENTUCKY

*Louisville:* The Sheraton, with 500 rooms, reports that Negro members of conventions are accommodated in meeting rooms, eating facilities, and guest rooms. Two other leading hotels are reported to offer similar accommodations without discrimination. All three reportedly have opened all their facilities to Negro convention delegates, and their accommodations were made available to an all-Negro group several years ago.

One seemingly authoritative report has it that lodging is provided in all Louisville hotels but one, along with eating in hotel restaurants, "if they don't have too many Negroes," and as long as convention badges are worn in public.

*Berea:* A commercial facility on the local college campus, student operated but open all year, accepts Negro guests for food and lodging. It has only 75 rooms.

*Mammoth Cave:* There is no discrimination at the Mammoth Cave Hotel be-

## Biracial

(Continued)

cause of race, religion, color, or national origin; however, it is hotel policy (as it is in most other national park hotels) not to accept group meetings between mid-June and mid-September. Approximately 85-90 persons may be accommodated for meetings, 150 may use dining facilities at one time, and lodging is offered in 86 rooms and units, including some cabins.

*Ashland, Frankfort, Lexington, Paducah:* At least one principal hotel in each of these cities has been known to accept biracial groups for meetings and to serve them banquets and private dinners; it appears, however, that Negroes are not served in the publicly used dining rooms and coffee shops, nor are they accommodated in guest rooms.

### LOUISIANA

*New Orleans:* Hotels have been known to permit Negro delegates to attend closed sessions of meetings; no food service or lodging is offered.

### MISSISSIPPI

*Jackson:* The King Edward and the Heidelberg report that no facilities are available for biracial groups.

### NORTH CAROLINA

*Chapel Hill:* No accommodations are available for biracial eating, meeting, or lodging, the local Merchant Association reports; however, the Carolina Inn is known to have lodged Negro transients connected with University of North Carolina projects. One or two restaurants in town will serve Negroes.

*Durham:* The Washington Duke Hotel provides meeting and private dining facilities for biracial groups in two mezzanine ballrooms. Each ballroom seats 500; 350 diners may be accommodated in one room, 450 in the other. Negro delegates are not lodged or served in public dining rooms, and are restricted to use of mezzanine restrooms. It is preferred that they constitute not over 25% of the total group.

*Other North Carolina cities:* Hotels in the larger cities are reported to serve mixed groups in special private dining rooms and to offer them meeting facilities if there is a relatively small number of Negroes.

### OKLAHOMA

*Oklahoma City:* One major hotel (the Biltmore) offers eating and meeting facilities plus lodging to groups in which Negroes number not over 5%; Negroes are also served in the public coffee shop, the Oklahoma City Urban League reports.

*Tulsa:* The Tradewinds, a motel, reports that eating, meeting, and lodging facilities are available if Negroes are a small minority of the group. Negro delegates must not eat singly, and must consider the lobby, patio, and swimming pool "off limits." Meeting and eating facilities accommodate 350 persons; 75 motel rooms, including family rooms, are available. Tradewinds' management notes it regrets so many restrictions "but we are slowly crawling right now."

Hotels generally permit biracial meetings, banquets, and dinners any place above the first floor, the Tulsa Urban League observes, with no apparent re-

striction on the number of Negroes within the group. Negroes may not eat in public hotel facilities and they are not lodged. A few of the larger and more modern motels will accommodate mixed groups for meetings; a smaller number offer lodging and permit Negroes to eat in main public facilities.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

*Charleston:* Individual requests from biracial groups are considered on their own merits, the Chamber of Commerce reports. On occasion, a small minority of non-white delegates have met with white delegates for business and technical or professional discussions, but the Chamber knows of no lodging or eating facilities available to groups which include Negroes.

*Greenville:* Two hotels, the Poinsett and the Greenville, report biracial meetings are not allowed.

### TENNESSEE

*Chattanooga:* The city's largest hotel, the Read House, reports facilities for lodging or feeding biracial groups are not available; however, it is not clear whether this hotel may allow biracial private meetings, which are also reported as permissible in another large hotel.

*Gatlinburg:* The city and its hotels and motels welcome all groups, according to a representative of the local hotel association. The Chamber of Commerce states, however, in a promotional brochure, that convention groups are welcomed only during the tourist "off-season" following Labor Day and extending into late spring. A total of 6,000 persons may be accommodated in the city's

four hotels (300 each) and 92 motels. Three thousand people may attend meetings in a civic auditorium, and 300 people may meet together in each of the four hotels. Eating facilities are available for 6,000 people. There are no restrictions on the use of any facilities: swimming pools, taverns, etc., are all open to Negro delegates.

A report from one of the larger hotels (the Riverside) states that the question of limits on the number of Negroes in the group "has not come up in the past and we have therefore had no previous experience with it." A second large hotel, the Mountain View, replied that no limits are placed on the number of Negro delegates.

*Memphis:* Leading hotels permit private biracial meeting and dining, though restrictions as to number are reported to limit the latter. Permissive policy applies to meetings, provided there is not a large proportion of Negroes.

*Other Tennessee Cities:* Some leading hotels in Knoxville, and Johnson City are understood to make meeting rooms and private dining rooms available to biracial groups. One downtown Nashville restaurant will accommodate Negro or mixed groups by advance reservation; it has space for 150-200.

### TEXAS

*Austin:* Biracial groups may meet in a centrally located auditorium (capacity: 5,000) or in hotel ballrooms (capacity: 1,000), according to the Chamber of Commerce, if these places are hired exclusively for the meeting. Biracial banquets for up to 300 people may be held in private hotel dining rooms, but bi-

## Biracial

(Continued)

racial lodging is not available. No limits are placed on the number of Negroes.

*Beaumont:* The Chamber of Commerce reports that it cannot give "a satisfactory answer to question three" (biracial lodging). No further information was provided.

*Dallas:* Hotels are said to provide space for meeting and eating but not lodging, to biracial groups, although large groups and groups in which there is a large percentage of Negroes have been known to meet some difficulty.

*Houston:* One 175-room hotel, the Plaza, reports neither meeting, eating, nor lodging of biracial groups is permitted. According to the Chamber of Commerce, as a general rule biracial groups may use private meeting rooms and dining rooms, but lodging is not available.

*San Antonio:* Two leading hotels, the Menger and the St. Anthony, report they do not accommodate biracial groups.

### VIRGINIA

*Norfolk:* The Chamber of Commerce reports: "Here in Virginia we do have a State law which prohibits public meetings of the mixed races. There is no accommodation for any public biracial activity at all."

*Portsmouth:* No biracial accommodations of any type are available, according to the Chamber of Commerce.

*Richmond:* The Chamber of Commerce indicates it has in the past worked with

interested parties in an effort to meet their particular needs. "We would be happy to continue this policy," the Chamber states, noting that it is virtually impossible to outline a general policy.

*Roanoke:* If Negroes do not exceed 10% of the total group, meeting facilities and private dining rooms are available, but biracial lodging is prohibited by law, the Chamber of Commerce states. 1,000 persons may be accommodated by the three hotels jointly.

One hotel, the Roanoke, with 12 meeting rooms seating groups of 25 to 100, reported the same policy, including the 10% limitation.

*Colonial Williamsburg:* All hotel facilities are available regardless of race, creed, or color. Convention groups are welcomed provided they do not conflict with the basic purpose of accommodating visitors to the Williamsburg restoration. A number of meeting facilities are available for gatherings of up to 400 persons. Banquet and dining rooms of varying sizes are offered; 325 may be served in the largest banquet room. A total of 535 guest rooms are available in the area's three hotels.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Excerpts from Letters from Associations

Let me say first of all that our Association in recent years has held a number of successful regional conferences in the South under conditions that were reasonably satisfactory to all persons involved.

We have a regional conference scheduled for next October in Miami Beach under a promise that there will be no discrimination on a racial basis for hotel

housing or meals. In a few instances we have been willing to hold such meetings on college campuses where integrated sessions and even private meal functions could be accommodated but with housing left entirely as the responsibility of each and every individual. We would have considerable favorable sentiment in our Association to hold one of our national conventions in a southern city such as Dallas or perhaps Atlanta but this we cannot do according to our present policies until we can be assured that there will be no racial discrimination.

I might add that my estimate of the attendance by Negroes to our national conventions probably would not exceed 5 per cent in a total of 2,000 persons. I appreciate, of course, that this figure might run larger if we were able to schedule an integrated convention in the South.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our last meeting in the states mentioned was our national meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Because of discrimination shown, it was decided not to hold future *national* meetings in that area until the situation is rectified.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have not held any meetings of our Association in the South in recent years. The main reason has been that there are almost no facilities available to accommodate a meeting as large as ours on a nondiscriminatory basis. We certainly would consider the South if such facilities were available.

\* \* \* \* \*

The only state in which we have had any experience is Louisiana where we

held meetings as long ago as 1940. At that time, the race question and integration presented no difficulties. Our membership contains a few Negroes, but the few who did attend were treated, as I recall it, civilly and respectfully. So far as our eating and meeting arrangements were concerned, no one seemed to be conscious of the existence of such a thing as the race problem.

Our pleasant experience in New Orleans in 1940 prompted us to plan another meeting there during the Christmas holidays in 1960. However, state segregation laws since passed and the emotions of both whites and blacks prompted our Executive Committee to cancel the meetings in New Orleans in favor of St. Louis.

\* \* \* \* \*

The [organization] for a number of years has had an inflexible policy that it will not hold one of its annual conventions in any hotel in which discrimination of any sort against any of its members would be practiced. In effect this means that the members will be housed and fed regardless of color or any other considerations.

As a result of this policy, we have obviously not been able to hold conventions in the South. Our Executive Committee has long ago decided, however, that as soon as an opportunity for a break-through should come, a convention would be scheduled in a southern city. We have now made a definite commitment to meet in Miami Beach in 1962.

Our conventions range in size from 2,000 to 5,000 or more.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have a regular schedule for our

## Biracial

(Continued)

annual meetings—a six-year cycle: twice in the East, twice in the Middle West, once in the South, once in the Far West.

Our Board will not go to any city where not all of our members will be perfectly welcome in the hotels where we have our meetings; this will include eating facilities and so on. Up to this time this means that we have been able to go only to two places in the South: Miami Beach and Louisville, Ky.

\* \* \* \* \*

We shall be meeting in Miami Beach, Florida in 1962. Our preliminary investigations have indicated that biracial groups will be permitted to meet, to eat

and to lodge in any hotel in Miami Beach.

Non-racial discrimination is one of the conditions affecting the choice of location for the Annual Meetings of this professional society.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is our practice not to hold segregated conventions.

A year ago in Dallas we did hold an Annual Meeting in which the only restriction was related to the assignment of hotel rooms. It was not possible for the Negro participants in the convention to have sleeping rooms in the headquarters hotel. There were no other restrictions. This single restriction, however, resulted in misunderstandings and hard feelings, so that I am sure we will not consider a meeting with any restrictions whatsoever attached in the future.

## Facing Facts on Racial Problems

From St. Petersburg Times

May 31, 1960

(Note: Florida Governor LeRoy Collins, early this year, established a state-wide committee to work toward better race relations in the state. The following is an editorial based on the first public statement of the committee and includes pertinent items from that statement.)

A careful study of the first report issued by Cody Fowler, chairman of the Governor's Commission on Race Relations, certainly reveals the necessity

for such an agency, and the level-headed approach the Commission is taking.

Almost more than anything else, the report shows that there are no easy answers to Florida's racial problem. There is no quick solution.

The Commission candidly faces the legal reality that segregation is on its way out. Through consultation with religious leaders of Florida, the members have become convinced that a moral, as well as a legal and political, issue is involved.

At the same time, the Commission

acknowledges that the resistance to integration, based on 100 years of custom, is deeply rooted and not to be lightly disregarded. The report notes, however:

"The whole history of mankind boldly and brilliantly declares that customs are not permanent, that life is change, and that the love of understanding is the most dynamic and the most inspiring possibility that mankind has ever approached."

It is how to bring about this change—how to improve the understanding which will avert ill-will and violence during the era of change—to which the Commission has addressed itself.

The very fact that citizens as highly regarded as the members of this Commission would subscribe to as thoughtful a report as this, is in itself a tremendously important step toward such understanding.

Mr. Fowler is a former president of the American Bar Association. In addition to himself and Pinellas Sheriff Don Genung, vice-chairman, the members include two clergymen, one woman and two other outstanding citizens of Florida.

No one is apt to accuse this body of radicalism, or call it names. And that, as Mr. Fowler's report points out, has been one of the great handicaps toward creating a climate of mutual confidence in which orderly solutions may be worked out.

The crude labeling of members of biracial committees as "Uncle Toms" on the one hand, or "integrationists" on the other, is grossly unfair, the report points out.

Such name-calling, it continues, "can

be a mask for allowing childish prejudices and impatience to destroy . . . deliberations of reason."

The report bluntly calls for an end to such unfair attitudes, and urges the support of the whole community for biracial committees such as Governor Collins has urged the mayors of Florida cities to appoint.

The report cites 12 factors which it feels must be recognized by Floridians in arriving at orderly solutions to the problem. Some of these bear reiteration:

✓ A recognition rather than a denial of the problem.

✓ The economic cost and disorder resulting from racial antagonism.

✓ Our responsibility to the peaceful ethical and cultural growth of our children.

✓ America's leadership and prestige in a changing world which is more than two-thirds non-white.

✓ Florida's particular situation of wealth, population growth and enormous tourist trade.

✓ The recognition that the business establishment depending substantially on Negro trade has a responsibility and obligation to maintain policies of service and employment that do not unjustly discriminate against Negroes.

Finally, the report stresses the one essential point which must be understood by every citizen—"That people of the Negro race must have a feeling of dignity and pride in themselves and their community."

When that fact is grasped and accepted by everyone, a large part of the worst problem will have been solved.

# Student Drive Proves Successful

(NOTE: Since SRC released the following report, lunch-counter desegregation has been reported in Daytona Beach, Newport News, Asheville, and Raleigh; and the Bus Terminal Restaurants, Inc., has initiated an open policy in its restaurants in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Maryland, and Florida.)

Twenty-eight Southern cities and counties have opened lunch counters to all customers in recent months as a result of pressure exerted by the Negro community. This total represents an increase of 20 since June 6, when the Southern Regional Council last reported on desegregation of eating facilities.

The 28 places are Miami, Fla.; Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Concord, Durham, Elizabeth City, Greensboro, High Point, Salisbury, and Winston-Salem, N.C.; Frankfort, Ky.; Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Nashville, Tenn.; Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Galveston, and San Antonio, Texas; Alexandria County, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Hampton, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Williamsburg, Va.

The Southern Regional Council's report showed desegregation had also taken place in at least four drug stores in a predominantly Negro section of Richmond; in one drug store near the Virginia State College campus in Petersburg, Va.; and in one store in Houston, Texas.

Shortly after the Council's report, executives of Kress, Woolworth, and Grant chain stores told U. S. Attorney General Rogers that racial segregation has been ended at lunch counters in their stores in 69 Southern cities.

Attorney General Rogers quoted the executives as reporting that in 70 per cent of the localities desegregation occurred without sit-ins by Negroes and largely without publicity.

Further elaborations indicated that these 69 cities were in border states and the more liberal Southern states. The report stated that none of the cities involved was in the Deep South states of Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

In contrast to the majority of the cities reported to Attorney General Rogers, merchants in the 28 desegregated localities reported by the Council were reacting for the most part to student pressure and "selective buying" campaigns by Negro communities. These localities did desegregate, however, with a minimum of publicity. Negroes have generally cooperated with the merchants by first patronizing the newly-opened facilities singly or in small groups.

As in earlier cases, much of the recent desegregation was facilitated by interracial committees working with merchants, city officials, and representatives of the Negro community.

One notable instance of desegregation during the period was that of Greens-

boro, N. C., where the current wave of sit-ins began in February of this year. North Carolina, along with Virginia, also led the way in the total number of cities opening lunch-counter facilities. There were nine in each during the period surveyed.

In Virginia, most of the localities desegregated about the same time—late in June—with the largest number in Northern Virginia. In Arlington, the first desegregation by a well-known chain of restaurants occurred. Five branches of the Hot Shoppes, a chain of medium-priced eating places, desegregated following the move by the drug and variety stores.

Sporadic sit-ins have continued in other localities which have failed to desegregate, as a skeleton crew of students manned the campaign during the summer.

In Atlanta, several attempted sit-ins resulted August 3 in suits filed in Federal District Court seeking an injunction against cafeterias in the State Capitol, the Atlanta City Hall, and the Fulton County Courthouse.

The following points seem to the Southern Regional Council noteworthy:

1. The lunch-counter desegregation reported took place within only six months after the beginning of the student protest movement. This shows that, given effective leadership, Southern communities can eliminate racial discrimination speedily, without long periods of litigation, uncertainty, and accumulating tension.

2. The changes to date have resulted in no incidents of disorder, and none of the merchants affected has reported any loss of business as a con-

sequence. On the contrary, in the cities surveyed by SRC, many merchants have expressed relief that the step has been taken, and pleasure in its success.

3. These 28 cities provide impressive evidence that the fears inhibiting lunch-counter desegregation elsewhere are largely illusory. Where public officials, businessmen, and other community leaders unite behind the change, there is every reason to predict orderly and successful desegregation.

4. The majority of these changes have occurred since the student bodies of the Negro colleges dispersed for the summer recess. Contrary to the expectations of many, student protests and "selective buying" campaigns have continued, with demonstrated effectiveness. This is convincing testimony to the seriousness and persistence of the protest movement, among both students and adults in the Negro community. It also suggests that protest activity will be renewed on a much larger scale when the students return to the college campuses in the fall.

Encouraged by the success of their efforts thus far, Negro Southerners can be expected to increase their economic and moral pressures for equal treatment by business and government. As the Southern Regional Council has said many times before, the amount of good will and fair-mindedness among white Southerners has almost always been underestimated by our leadership. So too have been the good sense and good manners of Negroes seeking equal rights. The successful experience of these 28 Southern cities has, once more, given proof of these hopeful factors. Wise leadership will not ignore it.

# Southern Leaders Could Profit from Lunch-Counter Experience

From  
*Christian Century*  
May 25, 1960

Quietly lunch counters in some cities in the South are abolishing their racial restrictions and Negroes are sitting down to eat where they have never sat before. The Diamond, leading department store in Charleston, West Virginia, under pressure from the Congress of Racial Equality and from various citizens' groups for several years because of segregation at its lunch counter, is now accepting all patrons in all departments on an equal basis. Six department and variety stores in Nashville have now desegregated their lunch counters following the sit-in demonstrations by Negro students and the near-riot which resulted when white hoodlums tormented the demonstrators. During a cooling-off period the transition in Nashville was carefully planned at conferences between representative Negro and white leaders. News of the agreements reached, the plan of operation, and the date for putting the plan into effect were kept from the general public through the cooperation of the

store managers and all media of communication. On "D-day" (desegregation day) Negroes in small numbers sat at the lunch counters during the slack hours of the afternoon, placed simple orders, were served, and left quietly after eating and paying their checks. One store official commented: "There was no reaction whatsoever from our white customers." Thus easily can the new day replace the old. It is regrettable that Negroes have had to win freedom-from-insult by protests, but we can be grateful that they have resolved to resist wrongs peacefully. They are not responsible for the turmoil which ensues when they assert their dignity as persons. The acceptance of the Nashville and Charleston actions proves what good may come when the rightful claim of the Negro to be treated as a citizen and a human being is met with kindness and in good faith by responsible white leaders. Other cities should profit from the examples set in Charleston and in Nashville. In the end Negro citizens will ride desegregated buses, eat at desegregated lunch counters, use desegregated municipal swimming pools, worship in desegregated churches. Why do white people continue to degrade, torment and afflict themselves by humiliating and depriving the Negro?

## Noteworthy quotes from the press and periodicals

# . . . Unquote

"The merchants probably thought it [students' protest] was just a panty-raided type of thing and believed it would blow over as soon as school was out for the summer."

Robert Gore,  
Johnson C. Smith University  
student, following Charlotte  
lunch-counter desegregation  
Quoted by Associated Press  
July 9, 1960

. . .

"We went to them [Negroes] with no pressure at all. We wanted it [desegregation] done quietly and without confusion. Everything went smoothly."

Greensboro, N. C., manager  
of desegregated lunch counter  
Quoted by Associated Press  
July 26, 1960

. . .

"Persuasion is more effective than coercion, but creative, instructive tension is necessary for the birth of a new society and the growth of a new nation."

The Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker,  
Executive Director,  
Southern Christian Leadership Conference  
Quoted in *Atlanta Journal*  
August 5, 1960

"The South has not nearly seen yet what it will see. We're going all out to end segregation."

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Quoted in the *Atlanta Constitution*  
August 6, 1960

. . .

"The protest at Glen Echo [Amusement Park] had no motivation but conscience. The students who marched there inaugurated their demonstration with prayer and carried it through with complete dignity, order and respect for law. They served the community's interests and expressed its best values—and they did so in a tradition which has an honorable place in American political action. They want to share their pleasures with their fellow-Americans."

From the  
*Washington Post and Times-Herald*  
July 2, 1960

. . .

"Books should be open to everyone. The ends the white man is trying to gain are not worth the means he's using to get them [closing of libraries to prevent desegregation]."

William Faulkner  
Quoted by Associated Press



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