

Civil Rights Leader Says Nonviolence Still Needed

By ALICE MURRAY

The philosophy of nonviolence, which held together the civil rights movement of the 1960s, is still important today if the "scars of hate" are to be removed from this country, civil rights leader John Lewis told participants in the Institute on Nonviolence and Social Change Tuesday.

Speaking on the second day of a week-long institute sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change, Lewis said that although "some people say it's silly and out of date to talk about nonviolence, if we're going to remove the scars of hate from America, we must understand this discipline."

The 36-year-old civil rights leader, who currently heads the Voter Education Project in Atlanta, said that nonviolence is an "ongoing process" toward the building of a community of justice and peace.

"The nonviolent movement of the '60s was like a bridge over troubled waters. I think during the '70s we are going to have more troubled waters, and we're going to have to



'ONGOING PROCESS'
VEP's John Lewis

build strong bridges to move us on," Lewis told the 50 participants in the institute at Gammon Theological Seminary Tuesday.

He called on the participants to support "strong, courageous leaders" in this election year with the goal of "building a community of justice and peace where we can forget about race and color,

male and female, and see a person simply as a child of the King."

Tracing the events of the civil rights movement, Lewis told how demonstrators of the '60s withstood violence at the hands of police and angry mobs without responding with violence.

"Through all of that I don't recall a single act of violence on the part of the participants," he said, recalling how Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. urged the demonstrators to "understand the human condition of their attackers.

"Dr. King tried to teach us that the means and the ends are inseparable. He said if the community is to be free of hate, free of violence, then our methods must not be means of hate and cannot be means of violence," Lewis said.

The Troy, Ala., native, who is serving as director of the week-long institute, was arrested 40 times between 1960 and 1966 during his involvement in the civil rights movement. He has been director of the foundation-financed Voter Education Project since 1970.