

FLORIDA CITY "MOST LAWLESS" - DR. KING

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla.--This oldest city in the United States, founded in 1565 by the Spanish, was described by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as the "most lawless" community he has ever encountered following revelations of threats against his life here last week.

Dr. King made the statement after a renewal of violence and threats against other civil rights demonstrators. A retired Negro railroad worker told police he had been fired upon while driving home from a rally at which Dr. King spoke.

Vegas Editor Staunch Civil Rights Supporter

Bryn Armstrong, executive editor of the Las Vegas Sun, has demonstrated with his editorials over the past four months that he is sincere in his conviction that the fruits of democracy must be shared equally by all citizens. Bryn Armstrong has emerged as one of the stoutest allies in the camp of minority groups. This courageous editor concurs completely with the Las Vegas VOICE that Congressman Walter Baring must be retired from public life.

The VOICE rejoices in having Bryn Armstrong as an ally and reprints some of his blasts at Baring...

"Nevada voters have the chance in November to remove the blight against the state's good name by ousting from his seat in the House of Representatives Rep. Walter S. Baring, a Democrat who is a captive of the far right..."

"Baring, because of his voting record in the recent congressional session was classed among the most "Southern" of the Northerners in the House..."

"When he voted against the Civil Rights Bill, Baring turned his back on 20,000 Nevada citizens who were asking for justice and equal education and job opportunities.

He voted to keep them in the bondage of second class citizenship and condemned them to the shadows of enforced inferiority..."

"Rep. Walter S. Baring has cost the residents of Reno at least \$400,000 as was explained here earlier, but the rest of the state hasn't escaped the deleterious effect of his presence in Washington..."

"The picture of Baring as an "aginer" has been pretty well established in recent years as he has turned his back on many of the people who gave him their confidence and were responsible for his political success.

It has long been apparent to many that Nevada just can't afford this man. He should be retired to private life where he can no longer harm the state..."

"Baring has now served long enough to take advantage of the federal pension the members of Congress thoughtfully voted for themselves.

As expensive as that will be for the taxpayers, it will cost far less to put Baring out to pasture this year than to leave him in the position where he can block the measures that must be passed if this state is to grow and prosper."

After receiving threats against his own life, Dr. King said he had appealed to Federal authorities for protection for all racial demonstrators here. At the same time, the crusading Atlanta minister told local white leaders they could prevent a resumption of widespread demonstrations this week by acting against discrimination in "good faith."

Dr. King has picked St. Augustine as the focal point of the summer campaign, contending that the city refuses to end bigotry and hate 400 years after its founding.

He returned to the city last week after a speaking tour in California and told a cheering audience of 350 Negroes, "We are determined this city will not celebrate its quadricentennial as a segregated city."

"There will be no turning back," he said.

Dr. King called attention to sporadic violence by whites during marches last week. He said that while he was in California a threat to take his life had been made to other conference leaders here.

"Well, if physical death is the price that I must pay to free my white brothers and sisters from a permanent death of the spirit, then nothing can be more redemptive," Dr. King said. One of those attending the meeting was Roose-

velt James. He was returning to his home in the city with his 14-year-old son, James said, when shots were fired into the rear of his car.

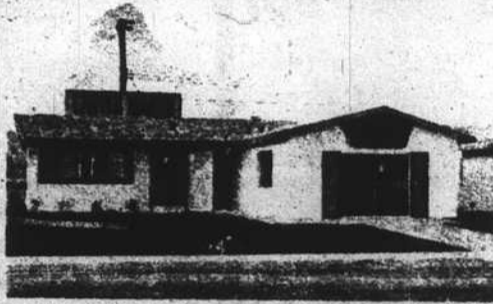
Dr. King told a news conference that he had advised the White House last week of what he termed a breakdown in local law enforcement. He said he had received assurances that Federal and state authorities would see that demonstrators were protected.

"We have worked in some difficult communities, but we have never worked in one as lawless as this," Dr. King said.

Attorneys for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which Dr. King heads, charged in Federal Court earlier this week that the St. Johns County sheriff, A. L. Davis, had recruited special deputies to handle racial trouble from the ranks of the Ku Klux Klan.

Dr. King distributed copies of the letter he had sent to leading businessmen and the City Commission suggesting steps that could halt further street demonstrations.

They included desegregation of all hotels and restaurants, hiring of Negroes by the city, forming a biracial committee to deal with Negro grievances, abandonment of charges against sit-in demonstrators and making jobs available to Negroes.



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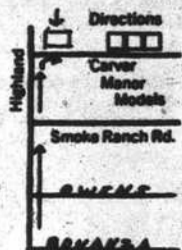
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