

# LABOR OFFICIAL LAUDS CHURCH RIGHTS ROLE

Assistant Secretary of Labor for International Affairs George Weaver told the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church that "no questions are more important to the Church today than: 'Where are we going and are we headed in the right direction?'"

"I want to say to you as forcefully as I possibly can," Weaver said, "that peace in our time cannot be achieved without the fulfillment of equality in our time. This is the direction we must go, and we must never turn back."

"And I want to say something else: The Churches of America have not always led in the fight for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Too often in our nation's history its Church leaders, honest in their abhorrence of wrongdoing and 'man's inhumanity to man,' moralized and temporalized on the problems of social injustice. Their spirit of liberty lessened and just as day followed night, sound public morality declined, and wealth became more important than human rights. Too often, they repeated to their congregations, which looked desperately to them for direction, that famous phrase of Voltaire, 'I must follow the masses, for I am their leader.'"

"Although the Church oftentimes has passed leadership from the moral sphere to the political sphere, I say that I am proud to witness the militancy taken by the Churches in this present fight for human rights. No soothing balm was greater than to see the religious leaders of all faiths ban together in denouncing the campaigns of Governor Wallace in Wisconsin and Indiana as 'morally evil.'"

"But what is important is whether we are moving in the right direction. Once we have determined that, then reasonable men can dispute the question of whether the movement toward the achievement of social justice, human dignities and fundamental freedoms is too slow or

too fast, too erratic or too steady.

"But to talk human freedom is not enough. We must have the will and the determination to fight for what is rightfully ours. Human rights are ours by birth and are not given by governments. History has taught us that no government ever gives human liberties and freedom--they take them away."

"The struggle for human rights is not confined to the United States, it is worldwide and universal in intensity. Racial discrimination is not peculiar to America, religious bigotry is not confined to the United States, discrimination against Arabs in Zanzibar, against the Maoris in Australia and New Zealand, against the Indians in South America are just as much the concern of us here tonight as racial discrimination here at home is our concern."

"Let us never forget the civil rights struggle at home does have its parallel in the international arena. The indomitable human spirit

## TOP BANK JOB TO NEGRO

SAN FRANCISCO -- E. Fred Morrow, who was an administrative assistant to President Dwight D. Eisenhower, is the first Negro to become an assistant vice president of the world's largest privately-owned bank.

Morrow, a former NAACP official and author of "Black Man in the White House", was named to his new position at the Bank of America last week. The bank recently

was picketed by groups charging that it discriminated against Negroes by not hiring them for other than minor jobs.

The bank said Morrow would "undergo a bank orientation program both in New York and San Francisco before assuming administrative responsibilities."

He has been vice president of the African-American Institute, an institution for development of cooperative relationships between the peoples of Africa and the United States.

the world over is now seeking to burst out of its confinements of centuries. As we in the United States fight for the rights of one citizen here, we truly fight for the rights of all citizens the world over.

"Although the concept of human rights is as old as mankind itself, it is still the most potent force of all time; this concept of a life with dignity, equality and opportunity for all men everywhere."

"I say, freedom for the black man in Africa remains the great unfinished business of mankind. In this era of awakening, in this era of new enlightenment about the rights of man, the rights of the black man in South Africa is a topic for sober reflection."

"Despite the appeals of civilized nations, there has been absolutely no forward motion by South Africa to lift the burden of oppression. In fact, that government has intensified its efforts of enslavement and has accelerated its efforts by taking away more and more freedoms."

"The Church, above all, must lift its voice in this most terrible example of 'man's inhumanity to man.'"

"The task facing the world is enormous, far greater than speech-making and occasional resolutions passed by international organizations. The peace of the world rests with the eradication of any cancer which diminishes the freedom of any one of us."

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