

ALTAR CALL

By EMBRY G. DAVIS, D. D.
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

ACTION CENTERS

Increasingly the finger of humanity is pointing to the church and with a loud and questioning voice is asking, "Where do you stand?" It is the spirit of revolution burning in the breasts of thousands of discontented, distraught and desperate Negroes that continues to raise the issue to white America of man's essential humanity.

THE CHURCH, long supposedly dedicated to the proposition of human fulfillment to the point of near-divinity, is in many instances reacting indifferently to the accusative finger. Too few Negroes realize the tremendous role they are now indirectly playing in religion.

Those churches who would have their minister back away--or would themselves retreat from the boiling cauldron of racial revolution--ought to consider the possibility that this may be God at work in the world at this point in human history.

Interestingly enough, to those who have followed the centers of action in our civil rights revolution, they have noted how the churches have become hubs of activity. There was Brown Chapel AME in Selma, (Alabama) where little time was spent in prayer meetings since the press of demonstrations, strategies, summit meetings, etc., was of more real significance in the prosecution of the task of bringing man to man in realistic and meaningful relationship.

Then, as now, there are those churches that shut their doors in the faces of civil rights leaders who need an "army" base, as though it were irreligious to relate the church so closely with the problems of mankind.

WHAT ROLE could these churches be playing in life that could possibly be more important than reconciling man with man that man might be reconciled with his Creator? Indicative of the Calvary-like threat churches face is the fact that often the action center must be moved because of threats of destruction by civil rights opponents.

When the property of the South Side Action Center in the Chicago Freedom Movement was threatened, it was heartening to the leaders to know that instantaneously four or five other churches offered their buildings.

The day is not too far in the future when churches will be used more as Action Centers than they will be as "worship" centers. May the day hasten when, as we pass by, we hear shouts of victory over the sins of injustice to man, more than we hear the shouts of those who think they are "spiritually" happy because they momentarily feel good.

CHURCHES OF ACTION, like Altars in the wilderness of social injustice, must become the order of the day, if man with man shall live in harmony and peace.

Sweet Little Moneymakers



REV. MARION BENNETT, Mt. Zion Methodist Church Pastor, congratulates winners of the recent 'Baby Contest' staged by Mrs. Calantha Walker and the Church's Gospel Choir as a fundraiser to purchase Pulpit furniture for the new Church home of the future--From left (held by their respective mothers) are 1st place winner, Troy Smith; 1st runner-up, Jocylyn Wilson; and 2nd runner-up, Lachelle Whitney. A total of \$719.80 was raised; prizes for the winning babies were saving bonds.

Sponsors of the contestants standing behind Mothers with their darlings, in bottom photo, are from left: Alberta Smith, Almeta Moody, Alvania Harris, Ollie B. Stewart, Eldora Haye, Mattie Smith and Calantha Walker... Also from left are shown Mrs. Mary Hooks with baby Kim Juanice; Mrs. Barbara Douglas with baby Sonja; Mrs. Marcella McDowell with baby Andre Paul; Mrs. Ada Grisby with nephew Vincent Grisby; Mrs. Alma Whitney with baby Lachelle; Mrs. Gladys Smith with baby Troy; and Mrs. P. Wilson with baby Jocylyn.

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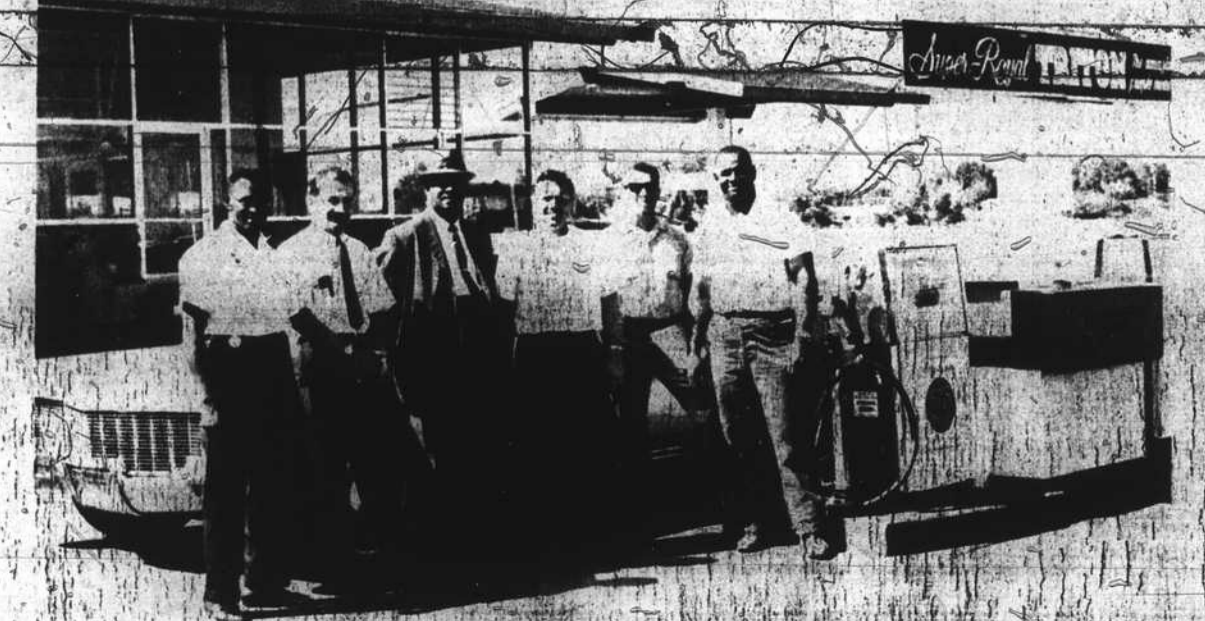
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NEW H O UNION 76 Service Center, corner Owens and Highland offer 'Complete Auto Care Service'... 'Opening Day' photo (from left) shows Eddie J. Wright, Jr., Mgr.; Bob Howser, Representative; Bishop C. C. Cox, the station's first customer; Don Trapp, Representative; Bobby Hudchins, Attendant; and James Cox, partner.