

# ALTAR CALL

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NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

## RELIGIO-CLASS GAP

"Gappism" has emerged as a concept of separatism that keeps groups apart that should be hanging together in the many struggles existing within our society.

There's the credibility gap in international affairs and there's the generational gap on the domestic front and in family life.

May I introduce another gap?

The Negro religious leadership in the civil rights movement of the pre-riot days was largely that of the middle-class or those emerging from basically middle-class oriented churches.

Perhaps the greatest symbol of such leadership is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King uniquely commands the respect and attention of middle-class churchmen, both Negro and white.

The recent riots throughout the nation reveal that there are thousands of Negroes and some whites who are no longer following the non-violent approach to the problems of the ghetto--jobs, police community relations, housing, and recreation. It is now evident that these people are not following the Kings.

ONE OF THE reasons proffered by these "leaderless" people is that the gains made by non-violent marches and demonstrations have only made life better for the Negro middle-class, leaving the lower economic classes right where they were before it all began.

The lower economic and disenfranchised class has no religious leadership. For what it's worth, they have the Stokely Carmichaels and H. Rap Browns--non-religious by current standards of definition.

This suggests that we have a religio-class gap existing and that there are thousands of people alienated, without symbolic, visible, charismatic, religious leadership.

A frightening question is: Has religion failed to produce a leader for those alienated people?

Another: Do these people no longer trust religious leadership?

HAVING BEEN nurtured and developed in a basically middle-class church myself, I am at a loss to know the answer to either question. But, there are hundreds of ministers who are pained at the reality of it all.

We wish that some form of religion--either organized or unorganized--could reach the unreachables, and offer leadership at a time when it is so urgently needed.

If religion, as we know it, is not the answer to the aspirations of the disenfranchised, may our Creator guide some leader to bring forth such before His dark children become the residents of another Auschwitz.

"Help us, O Eternal Creator, to find the Altar for Those-Who-Are-Tired-Of-Waiting!"

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# Proud Moment For Junior Choir



SPECIAL OCCASION--Members of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church's Junior Choir recently celebrated the acquisition of choir robes for the group... Since robes were ordered, the youthful choral group's number had grown to 40 additional members who chose to wait until they, too, are properly garbed to be photographed... Talented youngsters appear every Sunday morning at 11 a.m. services and on special church occasions. Pictured with them are adult supervisors Doris Day (left) and Jessie Hester (right). Modest Choir Director is George B. Kline, fourth from right in back row. Rev. E. C. Kline is Pastor of Church.

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## Beloved Minister At Rest



MOURNED--Funeral services for the late Reverend James Proby, Sr., were conducted Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, 1240 West Adams at 11 a.m.... Rev. T. Israel of Talullah, Louisiana delivered the Eulogy and local church pastors Rev. V.C.L. Coleman, Rev. J. L. Simmons, Rev. Leo A. Johnson, Rev. N. Whitney participated in the Service of Tribute along with Rev. E. C. Kline, Pastor of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church of which Rev. Proby was a member. Directors of Bunker Brothers Mortuary handled the arrangements and interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Rev. Proby was born January 23, 1891 in Letworth, Louisiana and was called to his Rest Monday, August 14, 1967. The body lay in state at the Carver Park Missionary Baptist Church, of which he was pastor, Friday evening from 6 to 10 p.m.

He is survived by his widow, Gladys; two sons, James Jr., and Johnnie of Las Vegas; two daughters, Mary Wilson and Lillie Proby of Las Vegas; five stepsons, Edward Johnson of Pittsburg, California; the Rev. Woody Williams and George Williams of Tallulah, Louisiana; Paul Nathaniel Williams of Las Vegas; a brother, the Rev. Luther Proby; a sister, Nellie Jackson of California, and 18 grandchildren.

## Political Breakthrough

NEW ORLEANS - (NPI)--Three prominent local Negro citizens have qualified for the Nov. 8 elections for the House of Representatives. If they win, they will be the first Negroes to occupy seats in this body since the Civil War.

The three are Atty. Ernest N. Morial, the Rev. A. L. Davis, Jr., and Ellis F. Hull. Morial is presently assistant in the office of the U.S. Attorney for Louisiana, is a graduate of Louisiana State University and a top man in the Catholic Knights of Peter Claver.

Rev. Davis, pastor of the New Zion Baptist Church, is a vice-president of the National Baptist convention, vice-president of the State Baptist convention and president, Orleans Parish Voters League. Hull is the president of the Second Ward Voters League.

ALL THREE have played prominent parts in various areas of city life and are running in areas where the Negro vote is quite heavy.

Negroes during the Civil War days did have Negroes in both houses. P. B. S. Pinchback was lieutenant governor and, at one time, occupied the governor's seat during the absence of Gov. T. K. Warmouth from the state. A Negro was also at one time state superintendent of education.