

# RELIGION & RACE

By NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

## LEADERS SOUGHT

ROANOKE, Va. - (NPI)--Fears of a possible "hot summer" of disorders in the Roanoke Valley this summer has led the Roanoke Ministers conference, under the leadership of Dr. Noel Taylor, to seek out local leadership to ward off any untoward happenings. The conference has empowered Dr. Taylor to spearhead the formation of an interracial committee of business, professional, church, civic and labor leaders to explore chances of immediate help for "discontented elements" in the valley.

## GUIDELINES TO PROBLEMS

NEWARK - (NPI)--A 34-page report, published by a special committee for a group of local priests, which is an association of the city's clergy, has been issued which contains general recommendations for the Catholic Church's involvement in programs designed to alleviate problems of people living in the inner city. The report, first of a two-part study, treats with the problems in the fields of housing, health, education, anti-poverty programs, recreation, city financial needs, and employment.

## FIVE PER CENT

NEW YORK - (NPI)--A plea to the 6,945 local churches of the United Church of Christ denomination has been made by the church's executive council, to contribute up to five per cent of their local expenses for action "on the crisis in the ghettos." The request, if followed, could bring in over a million dollars annually, with the funds being used for "self-determined, self-directed" projects in rural and city slums, among Negroes, American Indians and Spanish-speaking Americans.

## MINISTER NAMED

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. - (NPI)--The Rev. Howard W. Hinson, a Methodist minister for 13 years and an alumnus of Claflin College, Howard University and the Boston University School of Theology, has been named one of 12 field representatives for the Missouri Commission on Human Rights, working out of the local office. A former director of the Wesley Foundation, Lincoln University, Jefferson City, he is also treasurer of the Jefferson City Council on Religion and Race.

## EQUALITY AIDES

CHICAGO - (NPI)--One of the newest administrators hired by Project Equality, the nationwide campaign to put the purchasing power of religious institutions behind the drive for equal employment opportunity, is Harold L. Ritchie, an alumnus of West Virginia State College currently in a degree program at Roosevelt University. Ritchie, formerly secretary for the Educational Services Department of the National Catholic Conference of Interracial Justice, will be assistant director for administration.

## NEGLIGENCE

FAIRVIEW PARK, Ohio - (NPI)--According to the Rev. Bertwin L. Frey, pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, and president, English district, Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, the recently published report of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorder has found "negligence (on the part of) white church members (for) failing to root out racism." He noted that the commission "has confirmed some of our opinions, disabused our minds of others, and underscored what many prophets have been saying in the pulpits and platforms."

# Bethel Pastor And Wife Express Appreciation



The March 10th observance of the 9th Anniversary of Rev. I. W. Wilson's pastorship of Las Vegas' Bethel Baptist Church was climaxed at the Church's Sunday morning service when members of Bethel Baptist Church showered the Pastor and his wife with gifts and a handsome Anniversary "offering".

Rev. and Mrs. Wilson have expressed sincerest and humblest appreciation for a heartwarming and delightful Anniversary celebration and, as always, have asked God's especial blessings on the church membership.

Pictured at the Sunday observance, from left, are Mrs. Odessa Bowman, Mrs. Bessie Drumbold, Mrs. Rosie Lee Brewer, (seated - Rev. and Mrs. I. W. Wilson, and Mrs. Lorraine Hall), Miss Carolyn Brewer, Mrs. Jane McClain, Mrs. Bessie Robinson, and Mrs. Rosie M. McKinley.

# April Demonstration In Contrast To '63 March

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has reportedly passed the word that he intends to go to jail, if possible, in a dramatic effort to spotlight his April 22 demonstrations on behalf of better jobs and income for all citizens.

About 3,000 volunteers from underprivileged areas throughout the nation are expected to kick off the campaign by invading the capital's 15-block mall parkway between the Washington monument and the U.S. Capitol building.

The vanguard of the march will erect tents for sleeping, cooking, offices, and entertainment facilities.

Members of the forward echelon will move from their location on the green turf to the Senate and House of Representatives buildings to "invade" the offices of Congressmen and to demand passage of key social security, welfare, and civil rights fields.

If the Senators, Representatives, and government officials do not respond to the poor people's pleas, then Dr. King's forces may stage sit-downs, lie-ins, and "takeovers" to emphasize their cause, the rights leader's aides said.

The Rev. Bernard Lafayette, march co-ordinator, said the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, headed by Dr. King, is still considering whether to ask for permission to use the mall and other government facilities during their demonstrations.

Organization spokesmen also indicated they are negotiating with key officials on tactics and strategy of the march, but are prepared to ignore ordinances and go to jail, if necessary, to achieve their goals.

Anthony Henry, assistant to Rev. Lafayette in SCLC's uptown office, in the heart of the Negro community, told reporters at the Capital Press Club that Dr. King was preparing to go to jail during the march.

HENRY AND other officials indicated that the organization would use the tactics District school teachers utilized recently when they left school and marched into Congressional offices to demand higher pay. The teachers' union which organized the march for higher pay announced it would support the poor people's campaign.

The April 22 demonstration, with its undertones of threatened law violation, stood in sharp contrast to the 1963 March on Washington, which took place with the cooperation of federal

officials.

Talk of "takeovers" and "invading" government offices made it apparent that the demonstrators saw their activities as pressure tactics, rather than as appeals to the nation's conscience--the former characteristic of civil rights marches.

Supporting the demonstrations were several religious and lay groups, both white and Negro. Organizations representing American Indians, Mexican-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Appalachian whites met with SCLC officials and expressed their interest in participating in the "Poor People's Campaign."

The AFL-CIO American Federation of Teachers said it would operate "freedom schools" for young people who are in Washington this spring to participate in the demonstrations.

The Washington Interreligious Committee on Race Relations endorsed the campaign's goals and distributed a resolution to 10,000 members of churches and synagogues in support of the march.

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