

# The Cornell Daily Sun

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## Reverend King Speaks on Negro's Problems Cites Progress in Southern Race Relations [ARTICLE]

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### Reverend King Speaks on Negro's Problems Cites Progress in Southern Race Relations

By ROBERT S. GARRINER

"It is human dignity which we are struggling for in the South; and we still have a long, long way to go," state Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a lecture Friday night on the Negro in the South.

Speaking before an audience of 2600, King cited the elimination of the poll tax, and increase in Negro voter registration and higher wages as part of the progress attained in the struggle for equality in the South. But at the same time he solemnly added that the Negro in the South still has to cope with many more barriers thrown up by what King calls a small group of ardent segregationists.

King cited the increase in activity of the Ku Klux Klan and the White Citizens' Council as examples of barriers against further progress in race relations. The low economic status of the Negro was also added as another one of the Negro's problems in achieving a better status.

There are three ways to accept oppression, he said. You can acquiesce to it, violently fight it or use non-violence. King stressed that the underlying philosophy of the whole sit-in movement was "understanding love and goodwill" and that the struggle in the South was for "moral ends through moral means."

He cited Mahatma Gandhi's idea of passive resistance which enabled India to win independence from England, as a successful example of non-violence and "redemptive love."

King called for strong executive initiative against the existing rem-



REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING addresses an overflow audience at Bailey Hall Friday evening. King spoke about the problems of the Southern Negro now and in the future.

nants of segregation in the South especially in Federal housing.

There is no longer a solid south, he declared; it is divided among the segregationists, integrationists and "passive adherents of the status quo." This third class would adjust to a new order if their fears were not aroused by political leaders, he added.

King stressed the need for leadership and support from both Northern whites and Negroes. We don't

need a "lukewarm" liberalism we need a genuine, true, ethical liberalism towards the Negro's struggle in the South.

In concluding, King appealed for financial support for the current civil rights struggle in the South. An additional appeal by Rev. James Lowery, Vice-President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was made after King's speech. Approximately \$4500 was collected.

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## A Laudable Moderate [ARTICLE]

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### A Laudable Moderate

A quiet, mild-mannered man visited Cornell on Friday. He was, however, a man with a mission; to raise funds to continue the struggle for equal rights for Negroes. The Rev. Martin Luther King spoke to, and established phenomenal rapport with, an overflow audience at Bailey Hall. He told of the emotional torment that Negroes are going through, and of the need for financial and moral support from northern students.

The audience responded with a standing ovation, and with financial support too. Those who heard and spoke with Dr. King were very impressed by the depth and sincerity of this man. Here was a man who, although he had been threatened, tormented, bombed, insulted, and spat upon, did not ask us to hate the bigots who hold back his people's progress, but rather, implored us to have pity for racists — for they too are God's children.

In his talk Dr. King traced the progress of his race economically, socially and politically, since the Civil War. It was, indeed, an impressive chronicle of victories. He cautioned, however, that this progress was only the beginning and that the Negro race is continuing to struggle and seek freedom from the subservience of ages.

The movement for Negro equality is one of the most important of our gener-

ation. The denial of full citizenship to Negroes cannot be morally justified, nor can it be tolerated. In a world where we must deal with dark-skinned peoples we cannot afford the luxury of keeping Negroes in political, economic, and social bondage. Yet, we must not desegregate because of world opinion, but because it is right.

Under Rev. King's guidance Negroes in the South have moved forward. They can ride buses on an equal basis with whites, eat at open lunch counters, and in some really liberal areas, drink from the same fountain as the white man. Progress, however, has been painful and slow. Some Negroes have tired of Dr. King's peaceful tactics, and have sought violent methods to hasten their entry into an equal society. Fortunately the number of Negroes who have joined these more radical movements is small, and they are, in Dr. King's words, "condemned by the great mass of the Negro people."

We must however realize that unless more progress is made, the number of people joining these violent cults will increase. This must be prevented. The leadership offered by Dr. King is wise and moderate. It is moderate in the sense that it seeks to move ahead thoughtfully and calmly without any bloodshed. A failure to recognize and support the aims and methods of Martin Luther King may mean unending racial strife in America.

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