

# Negro Leader Seeking 'Second Emancipation'

By ALVIN JOHNSON

The position of the United States in the world and the survival of democracy in the country itself is dependent on the removal of racial segregation, according to Negro leader Rev. Martin Luther King of Atlanta, Georgia.

"If democracy is to live," he said, "segregation must die, for it is a cancer in the body politic which must be removed before the health of the nation is achieved."

Dr. King, speaking to a near capacity audience at the Temple Emanu-El last night, said that the Negro in the United States had come a long way since the days of slavery, but "had a long, long way to go" in the struggle for integration.

He said that leadership in the fight against segregation in the country had come mainly from the judicial branch, with

the executive and legislative branches lagging behind.

He also disclosed that at present he and several lawyers were preparing a document at President Kennedy's request which could form the basis of an executive order decreeing all segregation in the United States illegal.

The President could achieve the "second emancipation" of the Negro by signing such an executive order based on the 14th Amendment of the Constitution.

Dr. King, who himself has been subjected to bomb attacks and numerous arrests for his fight for integration, in the American South, declared that the Negro had moved forward "in re-evaluating his own intrinsic worth."

The automobile, the two World Wars, urbanization, rising economic and educational levels had all conjoined to make the Negro take a new look at himself and to realize his historical dignity and worth, he said.

## Upheavals in Africa

The much-travelled pastor also said that the emergence of the peoples of Asia and Africa who were declaring "in no uncertain terms that racism and colonialism must go" made it necessary that segregation in the United States end.

These countries, he said, would not respect any country which subjected its people to the evil of segregation.

Dr. King pointed out, however, that it was not only the Negro but the whole nation which had come "a long, long way in extending the frontier of democracy." Lynchings had all but disappeared; there was less use of the poll tax and at present there were more Negro voters—1,300,000—on the roll than before.

He mentioned the efforts of the "freedom riders" and the "sit-ins" and pointed to the fact that segregation in inter- and intra-state transportation had all but ended.

Civil disobedience and non-violent direct methods were being employed in the struggle because they were "a powerful weapon" which frustrated an opponent.

The leader of the famous Montgomery bus boycott of 1955 said "we will wear them down with our capacity to suffer and still demonstrate to them—hard though it is—that we still love them."

He said that "old man segregation" is dying and everything now centred on "how costly the South would make the funeral."

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Staff photo:  
David Legget



Staff Photo by David Legget

Negro leader Rev. Martin Luther King, who spoke at the Temple Emanu-El last night, answers questions prior to his address. With him is Rabbi Dr. Harry J. Stern of the Temple. Mr. King said that the U.S. Negro still "had a long, long way to go."