

# BETWEEN THE LINES

(For The Associated Negro Press)  
By DEAN GORDON B. HANCOCK

## The New Negro In Action

The goings on in troubled Birmingham fill one with profound distress. Unless the tensions are somehow relieved, matters are moving swiftly toward a fearful climax. God forbid.

Negroes have not only been denied the essentials of first class citizenship, but they are being denied the right to peaceful protest. Federal intervention is the only recourse in the premise and Federal intervention now. It is the only language that prejudiced Alabama can understand.

Like Faubus of Arkansas and Barnett of Mississippi, Wallace of Alabama is determined to defy the nation. The smoldering embers of the burnt out confederacy threaten once more to rekindle and relight the fires of the lost cause. The sooner the nation stamps out these brazen attempts at defiance, the better for all concerned.

### NEWNESS IN TALK

For many years we have been hearing the emergence of a new Negro, but our new Negro evinced his newness in talk. The new Negro in the South is evincing his newness in action. For quite two generations the manhood of the Southern Negro has been sold short on the curb of public opinion. There were even some Negroes who looked elsewhere for evidences of stalwart manhood.

But there has emerged in the South a new Negro who is ready and willing to suffer for his just cause. And when such Negro emerges he sets the world on notice that he is here and here to stay and it is going to take more than police dogs and fire hoses to turn him back. There is quite a difference between the new Negro in talk and the new Negro in action.

The world watches with bated breath to see what the new Negro in action is up to. Moreover the world is with the new Negro in action. The current earthquake in Birmingham is going to shake the bars of segregation everywhere and of this be assured. The doctrine of massive resistance is bearing its vicious fruits in the Birmingham situation. It is fervently to be hoped that Dr. King and his cohorts can keep the protest non-violent.

The extent to which irresponsible

crowds turn from non-violence to violence is the extent to which the current movement will fail. It was non-violence that broke the back of the British Empire in India and it is non-violence that will give power to Martin Luther King in his masterful leadership. Martin Luther King deserves an accolade of freedom lovers every where.

### LEADERSHIP

Here is a leader who emerged into one of the commanding figures of modern history and will go down as one of this nation's greatest sons. It is one thing to lead above the Mason and Dixon Line but another to lead in Birmingham, Alabama. It is one thing to cogitate behind a big desk with sword chair and another to face mobs of prejudiced crazed poor whites of Alabama with their police dogs and fire hoses.

When the riots broke out in Atlanta years ago and Negroes were being distressed, Booker T. Washington left the safety of New York and went to Atlanta. Great generals do not lead their armies from the vantage points of safety behind the lines, but from the battle's front. So King and his assistants are in the thick of things.

Of course what is transpiring in Alabama is spoiling the world image of our great country, but attention must be called to the fact that the evils of segregation must be exposed. The image of this country with peaceful race relations is a false image and so Birmingham gives the image not of what we would have it, but as it is. And so the struggle goes on and will go on until this country's Negroes are liberated as other oppressed peoples are being liberated around the world.

And so the new Negro has not only arrived in time but is space-in Birmingham, Alabama. More strength to the non-violent movement to break the shackles of segregation and more strength to Martin Luther King and his cohorts, for they are doing the only thing they can do and that is to peacefully protest our bonds. Through the eyes of posterity they will stand out as benefactors of mankind. The new Negro in action!



Clipped By:  
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Mon, May 16,  
2022