

# CHURCH LEADER PARLEY TOLD OF A 'NEW NEGRO'

## No Longer Considers Himself Inferior

BY RICHARD PHILBRICK

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

St. Louis, Dec. 3—The newest important factor in politics, commerce, and other fields of group activity is the radical change in the American Negro's evaluation of himself, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a leader of the



King

Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott, told churchmen today.

Speaking before visitors to the 4th general assembly of the National Council of Churches, Dr. King said organizations must remember Negroes have a new sense of dignity and a new self-respect.

The time has gone, Dr. King said, when the Negro thought of himself as an inferior and accepted injustice. The "new Negro" is engaged in a struggle against oppression in which there is no stopping point short of full freedom, he asserted.

### "Jealous of Russians"

The council's associate general secretary, the Rev. Dr. Roswell P. Barnes, said in a report to delegates on the state of the churches that Americans have "reacted out of fear and jealousy" to Russia's recent launching of satellites.

The "almost frenzied" response to the possibility that Russia is technically superior "has revealed a dangerous lack of spiritual understanding that our ultimate destiny is in the hands of God and that we are not the helpless children of historical circumstance," Dr. Barnes reported.

He revealed that last year 53 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox church bodies received a total of \$2,041,908,161, an increase in financial returns more than three times that of the rate of membership increase. New building construction of the churches for 1956 cost a record \$775,000,000, he reported.

### Crime Prosperous, Too

"While we are grateful for the prosperity of the churches," Dr. Barnes remarked, "it is well to note that Paul W. Williams, United States attorney in New York City, estimated that the yearly take of one criminal syndicate from narcotics, gambling, and extortion was \$2,280,000,000."

Another church leader, the Rev. Dr. Truman B. Douglass, executive vice president of the Congregational Christian

board of home missions, rebuked religious denominations for their failure to recognize and utilize the potentialities of city and state church councils and similar organizations.

In a plea to the churches asking them to consider entrusting some of their central and significant functions to councils, Dr. Douglass commented:

"It is difficult to imagine that with humanity facing the imminent probability of self-extinction, Almighty God is very much stirred up about a few thousand people who bet \$2 on the favorite at Pimlico." He added quickly that he regards bingo and parimutuel betting as undesirable.