

South's New Negro Capable Of Decisive And United Action

Bus Boycott Leader Cites Great Gains By Southern Negro

NEW YORK, N. Y.—A new Negro has emerged in the South today, a Negro capable of decisive, united action, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of the Montgomery bus boycott, stated at the United Negro College Fund symposium in Hunter College Assembly Hall, Tuesday night, Dec. 11.

The Hon. Chester Bowles, former United States Ambassador to India, was the principal forum speaker. Dr. King was one of four Negro leaders who took part in a panel discussion, "The Negro Southerner Speaks."

"The Negro in the South has taken a new look at himself," Dr. King said. "With his migration to urban centers and the improvement of his educational and economic status, he has re-evaluated his position. No longer cowed by threats and intimidations, his attitude is a reflection of the sense of dignity being gained by colored peoples throughout the world today."

Bowles likened the 27-year-old Dr. King's successful leadership to that of Mohandas K. Gandhi, in his address on some international aspects of race relations.

"As Gandhi appealed to the basic decency, honesty and democratic spirit of the British, so great new Negro leaders will now appeal to the conscience and the decency of their white neighbors throughout the South," Bowles said. "Eventually the day

will come, and I do not believe it is now far distant, when American law will protect all Americans against discrimination on the basis of race, or creed, or color, and we may live with each other in understanding and peace.

"When this great day comes, it will be the courageous, democratic spirit of Gandhi and such men as Luther King which has made this new freedom possible, and it will have been achieved in the finest tradition of the human race," Bowles stated.

Dr. Rufus E. Clement, of the Atlanta Board of Education, the first Negro elected to public office in Atlanta since Reconstruction, emphasized that the Negro has made all his gains in this country within the framework of the law. President of Atlanta University, one of the Fund's 31 member schools, Dr. Clement was a member of the Forum's discussion panel.

Dr. William J. L. Wallace, president of West Virginia State College, the first fully-integrated state college in the South; and John H. Wheeler, Negro attorney of North Carolina, who has argued segregation cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, also served as panel discussants.

August Heckscher, director of the Twentieth Century Fund, Quincy Howe, ABC commentator, and Carl Rowan, Negro author and staff writer for the Minneapolis Tribune interviewed the panel members.

The symposium was the eighth in a series inaugurated by the United Negro College Fund in 1949. Whitney North Seymour, former president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, headed the volunteer committee. Sponsors, in addition to the Fund, included the New York City clubs of twelve college groups: Barnard, Bennington, Bryn Mawr, City College of New York, Mt. Holyoke, Oberlin, Radcliffe, Sarah Lawrence, Smith, Vassar, Wellesley; and the American Association of University Women.