

Annual Meeting
of the
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Martin Luther King, Jr., President

September 27-28-29, 1961

Host Affiliate

NASHVILLE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Kelly Miller Smith, President

General Headquarters

CLARK MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

Theme

THE DEEP SOUTH IN SOCIAL REVOLUTION

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is organized as a service agency to facilitate coordinated action of local protest groups and to assist in their sharing of resources and experiences. The magnitude of the problem calls for the maximum commitment of resources of all institutions in Negro life, North and South. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference seeks to cooperate with all existing agencies attempting to bring full democracy to our great nation.



FOREWORD . . .



The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, in cooperation with the Nashville Christian Leadership Council, welcomes you to our annual meeting. It is our desire in these two days that you will have an opportunity to study more thoroughly the deeper meanings of the present social revolution in the Deep South.

We invite you to be candid in your inquiries, that we may learn together, for the study of nonviolence is inexhaustive, and there are many answers we seek in the search for truth. We have chosen this community for our annual meeting because it provides the interest and activity in nonviolent direct action.

We trust that the insights and techniques developed here will be utilized in your respective communities, that before many days, a vigorous, coordinated, nonviolent, mass attack will be made on segregation all over the South.

wyatt tee walker
Director



GREETINGS . . .

It is our sincere pleasure to welcome the delegates of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to Nashville and the adjoining areas. We of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council are still struggling to be free men. Our efforts thus far have been successful due to the complete cooperation of the spirited citizens of Nashville and the adjoining areas. Our freedom one day will be a complete freedom and it shall come on the shoulders of these dedicated souls. On this day America will realize her full self-hood as intended by the founding fathers.

KELLY MILLER SMITH, *President*
NASHVILLE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Message From The President



I am convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that the philosophy of nonviolence will redeem the soul of America. There is a great temptation to accept nonviolence solely as a strategy, a device; this we must guard against. This is one of the chief aims of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference: to broadly disseminate through intensive training the heart of nonviolence, that our commitment to nonviolence will not only be a technique, but shall become for us a way of life with love and redemption as its center. The other chief aim of SCLC is in the area of voter-registration. Here again, it must be recognized that the right and proper use of the ballot is vital in our struggle for first-class citizenship. The SCLC stands ready to serve in developing and organizing grassroots voter registration programs. One of the most significant steps that the Negro can take at this hour is that short walk to the voting booth.

M. L. KING, JR.

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

208 Auburn Avenue, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia

Martin Luther King, Jr.,
President

Wyatt Tee Walker,
Director

Annual Meeting

DATE: September 27, 28, and 29, 1961
PLACE: Nashville, Tennessee
HEADQUARTERS: Clark Memorial Methodist Church,
Alexander M. Anderson, Minister
HOST: Nashville Christian Leadership Council
Kelly Miller Smith, President
GENERAL CHAIRMAN: The Rev. Claude Walker, Minister of
the Gay-Lea Christian Church.
THEME: "THE DEEP SOUTH IN SOCIAL
REVOLUTION"

PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 27, 1961

12:00 P.M. Registration *Clark Memorial Methodist Church*
1:00 P.M. Annual Board Meeting *First Baptist Church*
(Sorry, Board Members Only)
5:30 P.M. Dinner
8:00 P.M. "TRIBUTE TO THE FREEDOM RIDERS"

Benefit Concert
featuring

Harry Belafonte & The Belafonte Folk Singers
(*Ryman Auditorium*)

ADMISSION: Sponsors ten (\$10.00) dollars
(\$3.75 - \$2.65 - \$1.90)

Thursday, September 28, 1961

- 9:00 A.M. Registration (cont'd.) *Clark Memorial Methodist Church*
- 10:00 A.M. Opening Session *C. Kinsey Steele*
1st Vice-President, Presiding
- Devotions *Dr. Major Jones*
- 10:15 A.M. Formal Opening of the Annual Conference
Martin Luther King, Jr.
President
- 10:30 A.M. Annual Report *Wyatt Tee Walker*
Executive Director
- 11:00 A.M. Report From Affiliates *Mrs. Dorothy Cotton*
Staff SCLC, Leader
- 11:30 A.M. Committee Appointments
- 11:45 A.M. KEYNOTE ADDRESS *The Rev. James M. Lawson*
Staff Workshop Director, SCLC
- 12:30 P.M. Lunch
- 2:30 P.M. Afternoon Session *Joseph E. Lowery*
2nd Vice-President, Presiding
- Devotions *Dr. Milton Reid*
- 2:15 P.M. "NONVIOLENCE AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION"
Mr. James Farmer
National Director of CORE
- 3:00 P.M. Workshops
- Section I THE PHILOSOPHY AND TECHNIQUE OF
NONVIOLENCE
Leader: *Matthew McCollom*
Consultants: *James M. Lawson, SCLC*
James Farmer, CORE
- 4:15 P.M. Section II THE POWER OF THE BALLOT IN SOCIAL
REVOLUTION
Leader: *Edward T. Graham, Miami, Florida*
Consultants: *W. C. Patton, NAACP*
Hosea Williams, Southeastern
Georgia Crusade for Voters
Harry Blake, Field Secretary,
SCLC

Thursday, September 28, 1961

FREEDOM RALLY

8:00 P.M.

War Memorial Auditorium

Kelly Miller Smith, Presiding

FREEDOM SING: (7:30 P.M.)

Leader: *Guy Carawan*
Highlander Folk School

INVOCATION:

MUSIC — Audience

Star Spangled Banner

MESSAGE OF SCRIPTURE:

Grady Donald
Nashville, Tenn.

PRAYER:

C. K. Steele
Tallahassee, Fla.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Robert Frierson

GREETINGS: (2 minutes)

City of Nashville

Z. Alexander Looby

Nashville Christian Leadership Council

J. Metz Rollins

Tennessee Christian Leadership Conference

Robert E. James

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

F. L. Shuttlesworth

Special Guests

Wyatt T. Walker

SPECIAL MUSIC

FINANCIAL APPEAL

MUSIC — Audience

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

C. T. Vivian
Chattanooga, Tenn.

ADDRESS:

Martin Luther King, Jr., President
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

CLOSING SELECTION — Audience

Lift Every Voice and Sing

BENEDICTION

McCoy Ransom

Friday, September 29, 1961

9:00 A.M. Plenary Session

Samuel W. Williams
3rd Vice-President, Presiding

Devotions

Andrew Young

9:15 A.M. Workshops

Section III ROLE OF ADULTS AND YOUTH IN SOCIAL
REVOLUTION

Leader: *Virgil Wood*

Consultants: *Alice Cobb*

Paul Rilling, SRC

Diane Nash, SNCC

J. Charles Jones

Section IV CHANGING RURAL VALUES IN SOCIAL
REVOLUTION

Leader: *Mrs. Dorothy Cotton*

Consultant: *Mrs. Septima Clark, SCLC*

10:30 A.M. Business Session

1. STAFF REPORTS

Report of Director

Report of Treasurer

Report of Leadership Training

Report of Field Secretary

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Resolutions

b. Time & Place

c. Constitution Revision

d. Nomination

e. Others

3. GREETINGS

State Conference and Affiliates

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12:15 P.M. Conference Sermon

D. E. King
Zion Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

1:00 P.M. Lunch

2:30 P.M. Closing Session

C. O. Simpkins
4th Vice-President, Presiding

Devotions

S. S. Seay, Sr.

2:45 P.M. Plenary Session

Spottswood Robinson

"THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION IN
SOCIAL REVOLUTION"

4:00 P.M. Closing Business Session and Adjournment

Friday, September 29, 1961

LAWYERS FORUM AND SEMINAR

First Baptist Church

319 8th Avenue, North

Benjamin Hooks, Esq., Presiding

10:00 A.M. Greetings

*I. M. Augustine, Esq.
New Orleans, Louisiana
General Counsel for SCLC*

INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

10:30 A.M. "LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FREEDOM RIDE
TRIALS TO INTERSTATE TRAVEL"

*William Kunstler, Esq.
Civil Liberties Union
New York, N. Y.*

11:30 A.M. Discussion Group

1:00 P.M. Lunch

2:30 P.M. Afternoon Session

*C. O. Simpkins
4th Vice-President, Presiding*

Devotions

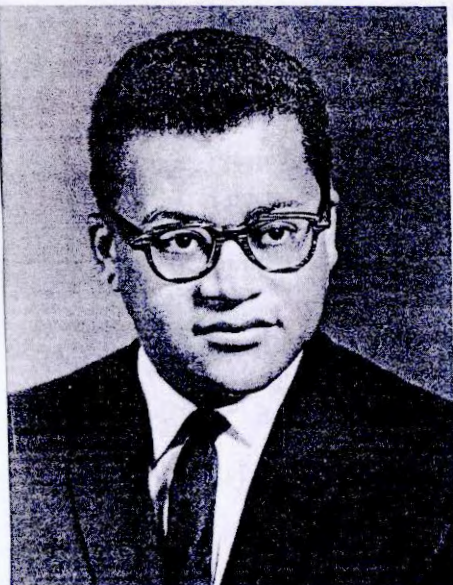
S. S. Seay, Sr.

2:45 P.M. "THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION IN
SOCIAL REVOLUTION"

*Spottswood Robinson, Esq., Dean Howard
University Law School, Member
Civil Rights Commission*

4:00 P.M. Closing Business Session and Adjournment

GUEST SPEAKERS



James M. Lawson, Keynoter, Nashville



*Spottswood Robinson, III, Dean Howard
University Law School, Member Civil
Rights Commission*



William Kunstler, ACLU lawyer and author



James Farmer, National Director CORE

Lift Every Voice and Sing

FIRST STANZA

*Lift every voice and sing, til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty,
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song, full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun, of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.*

LAST STANZA

*God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way,
Thou who has by thy might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in Thy path we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,
Lest thy hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,
Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand
True to our God, true to our native land.*

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

OFFICERS

President

*MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Atlanta, Ga.

First Vice-President

*C. K. STEELE
Tallahassee, Fla.

Second Vice-President

*J. E. LOWERY
Mobile, Ala.

Third Vice-President

*SAMUEL W. WILLIAMS
Atlanta, Ga.

Fourth Vice-President

C. O. SIMPKINS, D.D.S.
Shreveport, La.

Secretary

*F. L. SHUTTLESWORTH
Birmingham, Ala.

Treasurer

*RALPH D. ABERNATHY
Montgomery, Ala.

Chaplain

*KELLY MILLER SMITH
Nashville, Tenn.

Historian

L. D. REDDICK, Ph.D.
Baltimore, Md.

STAFF

*WYATT TEE WALKER
Executive Director

JAMES R. WOOD
Director, Public Relations

DOROTHY F. COTTON
Educational Consultant

JAMES M. LAWSON, JR.
Staff Consultant

*HARRY BLAKE
Field Secretary

EXECUTIVE BOARD

I. M. AUGUSTINE, Esq.
New Orleans, La.

*HENRY C. BUNTON
Memphis, Tenn.

*A. L. DAVIS
New Orleans, La.

*W. A. DENNIS
Chattanooga, Tenn.

R. L. DREW
Clarksdale, Miss.

*EDWARD T. GRAHAM
Miami, Florida

*WALTER L. HAMILTON
Norfolk, Va.

*W. L. HALL
Valdosta, Ga.

AARON E. HENRY
Clarksdale, Miss.

CLARENCE HENRY
New Orleans, La.

*B. L. HOOKS, Esq.
Memphis, Tenn.

*D. E. KING
Louisville, Ky.

*M. L. KING, SR.
Atlanta, Ga.

I. S. LEEVY
Columbia, S. C.

*MATTHEW D. MCCOLLOM
Orangeburg, S. C.

*S. S. SEAY, SR.
Montgomery, Ala.

*R. B. SHORTS
Atlanta, Ga.

W. E. SHORTRIDGE
Birmingham, Ala.

*NELSON H. SMITH
Birmingham, Ala.

*ROLAND SMITH
Little Rock, Ark.

*DANIEL B. SPEED
Tallahassee, Fla.

*MELVIN CHESTER SWANN
Durham, N. C.

*R. G. WILLIAMS
Petersburg, Va.

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

208 AUBURN AVENUE, N.E.

ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA