

NEWS from  
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BIRMINGHAM, Ala.---The Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth announced that he plans to retire as president of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR) in September or October.

The announcement was made at the 10th-anniversary meeting of ACMHR here. The organization was founded by Mr. Shuttlesworth and others on June 5, 1956, when the NAACP was outlawed in Alabama.

At that time Mr. Shuttlesworth declared: "They may outlaw an organization but they cannot outlaw a people determined to be free." The NAACP has since been restored to legal operation in Alabama after a long fight in the courts.

Mr. Shuttlesworth said he will continue his leadership in the Southern civil-rights movement through his positions as president of the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), based in Louisville, Ky., and as secretary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Atlanta, Ga.

"I have kept the faith so that now the Movement can see victory in the distance," Mr. Shuttlesworth told the anniversary rally at 17th Street A.O.H. Church of God.

"You now see the Promised Land just across the river of a little more sacrifice. I believe that you will now allow me to step down from the role of leadership and turn it over to the capable hands of others who are now trained for that purpose.

"I have discussed this with the board and the very subject causes heaviness as we discuss how we struggled together through the dangers of the past."

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The minister, who formerly pastored a church in Birmingham, recalled that the ACMHR was founded in a "most difficult, dangerous, and unhealthy climate" in this city. "Good white people were kept silent because of fear and circumstance. The voice of brutality, violence, and dynamite was loud in the land," he said.

Mr. Shuttlesworth remembered how he and his family were stabbed and beaten when the Shuttlesworth children tried to enroll at the Phillips High School before it was integrated. Later their home was blown to pieces with dynamite.

The civil-rights leader also recalled the upsurge in Birmingham in 1963 which resulted in passage of the civil-rights act of 1964. He said the late President Kennedy told a meeting of civil-rights leaders: "Gentlemen, but for Birmingham and what happened there we would not be here today."

Thousands of demonstrators, including Mr. Shuttlesworth, were hosed and jailed during the Birmingham protest. The minister was injured when he was thrown against a building by the force of water from a fire hose.

He has also achieved the distinction of having fought and won more cases in the U.S. Supreme Court than any other man in history.

Mr. Shuttlesworth is now pastor of a church in Cincinnati. He has been president of SCEP since 1963 and secretary of SCLC since he and Dr. King founded the organization in 1957.

It is expected that some appropriate ceremony will accompany Mr. Shuttlesworth's formal retirement as head of the ACMHR in the fall.

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