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# NEWS

## Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Martin Luther King Jr., *President*

FOR RELEASE:

"SOCIALISM FOR THE RICH, FREE ENTERPRISE FOR THE POOR"

ATLANTA, GA. Feb. 1 (SCLC)--Civil rights leader Andrew Young today said the American economy has developed into a system of "socialism for the rich and free enterprise for the poor."

He said the idea that the Civil Rights Movement is "dead" is as much a myth as the idea that "God is dead." "As long as there is a little boy going hungry in Atlanta, and slums in our cities, and inferior education in crowded classrooms, and other injustices, there will be a Civil Rights Movement," he declared.

Rev. Young is Executive Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a close associate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., SCLC President.

In a luncheon speech to the Hungry Club at the Atlanta YMCA, Rev. Young said the struggle for human rights and self-determination in America and throughout the world is becoming a contest between "haves" and "have-nots."

He told his integrated audience: "You must decide which side you are on."

Rev. Young said resistance to the Civil Rights Movement is stiffening because poor people now are demanding political and economic power, and "when you come to grips with established powers in society, you have no friends. People do not readily give up power. But we have faced challenges to freedom before, and we accept the new challenge

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for economic reform now. We must reshape economic values in America. "

The speaker, a veteran in SCLC's non-violent direct action campaigns, said that many individuals and institutions who complain about "subsidies" to the poor receive huge subsidies themselves. "We shouldn't forget that we are spending billions now in the space industry to get a man to the moon, and a five-year program to go 'beyond the moon' will cost \$70 billion. The private aircraft industry receives \$160 million per year in subsidies. The merchant marine receives \$500 million. Large factory farms which over-produce are paid \$100 million a year. Basic industries such as steel, transportation and oil are subsidized. Rich individuals are subsidized by loopholes for avoiding taxes. "

Rev. Young said the Civil Rights Movement, despite progress made through non-violent action, has not been popular in the past and rights leaders do not expect their programs in the future to be popular at first.

He said an example of the present "value structure" in America was the "ironic and tragic" decision to build an \$18 million stadium in Atlanta in the middle of one of the worst slums. "And in order not to offend visitors at the stadium, all that was done about the slum was to put a coat of white paint across the front of the little shanties there. "

Rev. Young charged that the war in Vietnam is a "catastrophe. " "The practical economic reality is that this war is a threat to our own domestic war on poverty," he said. "Although we have money enough to wage war in Vietnam and on poverty, when billions are poured into war, the tragic fact is that other problems are neglected. Ever since the war was escalated, President Johnson has said almost nothing about civil rights. You can't very easily fight a moral battle in Mississippi and at the same time see people in Vietnam denied their right to self-determination--whether by the Viet Cong, the Ky government, or American military intervention. "

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The SCLC Executive Director urged his listeners to "identify yourself with the masses, with the little boy who is hungry. From 1954 to 1966, those who benefited most from the Movement probably did the least. The children who went to jail in Birmingham are still poor. The middle class has made some progress. Now we must work together for the masses of the poor people."

Rev. Young concluded: "The Civil Rights Movement is not dead because God is not dead."

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