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# Racial Rivals Eye Clarksdale

## Negro Groups May Team To Pump New Vigor Into Lagging Movement

By WILLIAM B. STREET

An effort to give life to the lagging integration movement in Clarksdale, Miss., may herald a new approach by Negro organizations.

A drive scheduled to get under way this week is to feature the joint efforts of at least four groups in an area which heretofore has been the jealously guarded province of the NAACP as far as integration efforts are concerned.

Plans call for the appearance here tomorrow night of Rev. Martin Luther King, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, whose success in other places has been somewhat of a thorn in the side of the NAACP.

Aaron Henry, Clarksdale druggist and Mississippi NAACP president, said yesterday that Charles Evers, who succeeded his brother, Medgar Evers, as state NAACP field secretary, will speak tonight and that Rev. King will speak tomorrow night.

He said the drive is under sponsorship of the NAACP, but with the co-operation of the Congress of Racial Equality (C.O.R.E.), the Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee (SNCC) and Rev. King's SCLC.

He shed no light on whether this constitutes a permanent change in integration tactics. "We all work together," was his comment.

It was also learned last night that at least two representatives of the National Council of Churches have arrived in the city and more are on the way, apparently with the idea of lending aid to demonstrators.

"These representatives are not here at the request of any local church. They were sent here on the word of one man—Martin Luther King," a Clarksdale minister said.

In Greenwood, Miss., a spokesman for the SNCC said his group would be represented in Clarksdale tomorrow.

Clarksdale sources said it is believed that Negroes will make a request, probably today, for a meeting with city officials. If this is denied, a demonstration would be scheduled for tomorrow.

Clarksdale and Coahoma County officers are keeping in close touch with the situation. "We understand they have about 100 to 150 ready to take part in a demonstration," one officer said. He expressed the opinion that part of the potential marchers are from out of town.

Another source said threats of major demonstrations are designed to force the city to give in on several points, notably creation of a bi-racial committee. "But it won't work at this time," he said.

He pictured the current drive as "an effort to save Aaron Henry's job with the NAACP because his cause is dragging in his home town." Efforts to stage marches in Clarksdale in past weeks have largely fizzled.

Henry returned yesterday from the national NAACP convention in Chicago which adopted a "direct action" program somewhat in contrast to the organization's past record. The NAACP has been strongly pressed for integration favor by the more militant C.O.R.E. and the SCLC in recent months.

Several observers, recalling the success of Rev. King in staging marches in larger communities, feel this may be the reason the NAACP has opened the door to his appearance in Clarksdale.

The belief will get a quick test. Rev. King's well-oiled SCLC machinery leaves little to chance. Teams of followers have appeared quickly on the scene when Rev. King decides to move in on an all-out basis.

Dr. J. P. F. Stevenson, pastor of Clarksdale's First Presbyterian Church, yesterday revealed he had received phone calls last week from Washington, New York, and one from the headquarters of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (Southern Presbyterian) asking his help in demonstrations planned in Clarksdale.

"I will have no part in such an adventure," he told his congregation.

He said he received requests to aid in such a movement from the National Council of Churches, and that he now feels that the NAACP is using the National Council to move into various communities only to cause trouble.