



- Commemoration overview May 2013
- Jack Claiborne remembers May 1963
- Articles in Charlotte & national newspapers
- Letters exchanged by Brookshire and Hawkins
- Photos of Brookshire and Hawkins

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## FROM SIT-INS TO EAT-INS: COMMEMORATING CHARLOTTE'S 1963 DESEGREGATION

Charlotte made national headlines in May 1963 when Chamber of Commerce members led by Mayor Stan Brookshire voluntarily joined with African American leaders to go two-by-two and desegregate Charlotte's leading restaurants. This "eat-in" came three years after the sit-in movement had opened lunch counters. It helped set the stage for the nation's landmark 1964 Civil Rights Act which decreed that segregation in all "public accommodations" must end.

Charlotte Civil Rights activist Dr. Reginald Hawkins triggered the action, leading a march on May 20, 1963 from Johnson C. Smith University to the old Mecklenburg County Courthouse and declaring "We shall not be pacified with gradualism; we shall not be satisfied with tokenism. We want freedom and we want it now." His call echoed a spirit of revolution honored in Charlotte history when on May 20, 1775, forefathers signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence declaring freedom from England. Restaurateur James "Slug" Claiborne suggested Brookshire's response and former Davidson College president Dr. John Cunningham, leader of what is now Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Relations, organized the activities.

The successful desegregation on May 29-31, 1963 pushed Charlotte into the national spotlight. The city's progressive action contrasted sharply with the massive resistance then going on in places such as Birmingham, where police chief Bull Connor turned fire hoses and police dogs on young Civil Rights protestors that same month. It was a key turning point in Charlotte's emergence as a major Southern city.

### **Groups across Charlotte are joining together in May 2013 to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

Organizers include Levine Museum of the New South, Mecklenburg Ministries, The May 20<sup>th</sup> Society, Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Relations and Merts Heart & Soul. With assistance from Charlotte Center City Partners, Charlotte Chamber, Queens University, Johnson C. Smith University, Community Building Initiative, Special Collections at UNC-Charlotte's Atkins Library and the Carolina Room of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

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## SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Sunday, May 19, 2013, 2:30pm – History Makers panel discussion.** 1963 Participants & historians share their stories. Organized by Levine Museum of the New South at 1<sup>st</sup> United Presbyterian Church, 201 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St.

**Monday, May 20, 2013 at 10:30am - March from Johnson C. Smith University to County Courthouse** reenacting May 20, 1963 march led by Dr. Reginald Hawkins demanding desegregation.

**Monday, May 20, 2013 at 11:30am – Annual Noon Commemoration of Mecklenburg Declaration** in uptown including cannons, reading of declaration, and a celebration of Mecklenburg County's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Monday, May 20, 2013 at 7:30pm – The May 20<sup>th</sup> Society 8th Annual Speaker Series featuring Pulitzer Prize author Isabel Wilkerson, *Warmth of Other Suns*, who will connect her research on 20<sup>th</sup> century African American history with the Charlotte 1963 history.** 7:30 lecture, McGlohon Theater in Spirit Square.

**Wednesday May 29, 2013 – "Eat-in" Event** for media in late morning will mark the historic desegregation, featuring some of today's civic leaders. It will kick off two days in which Charlotteans are urged to invite someone of a different race to lunch. Coordinated by Mecklenburg Ministries' "Friday Friends" program.

**Thursday evening May 30, 2013 – "From Sit-ins to Eat-ins" Community Festival** hosted by Mecklenburg Ministries' "Friday Friends" at Levine Museum. Music and munchies set the mood on 1963. Participants in the 2013 Eat-in reflect on history, share what they've learned and suggest hopes for future. 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

**Throughout May** – Mecklenburg Ministries encourages churches, temples, mosques and other faith organizations to draw upon this history in sermons and other communications.

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SIT-INS to EAT-INS

## History Makers panel discussion

Sunday, May 19, 2013, 2:30pm

At 1<sup>st</sup> United Presbyterian Church, 201 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St. FREE.

Charlotte's "Sit-ins to Eat-ins" commemoration will kick off with a History Makers panel discussion 2:30pm Sunday May 19 at First United Presbyterian Church, 201 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Charlotte, organized by Levine Museum of the New South. FREE.

Panelists will offer perspectives on the May 1963 desegregation of Charlotte's leading restaurants. Protests organized by Dr. Reginald Hawkins spurred Mayor Stan Brookshire to accept a proposal by young restaurateur James "Slug" Claiborne: Charlotte's Chamber of Commerce and Community Relations office arranged for white and black leaders to quietly eat together, opening the restaurants to all. The success made national headlines, a year before the 1964 Civil Rights Act required such desegregation -- an important turning point in Charlotte rise as a leading New South city.

The discussion will include questions and remembrances from the audience.

*Info: Levine Museum of the New South (704) 577 - 5103*

### Panelists:

**Reginald Hawkins Abdullah Salim, Jr.** Marched alongside his father as a teen in 1963, experienced the bombing of his family's home, became the first black youth to integrate Charlotte's YMCA, and helped launch the Black Student Movement at UNC Chapel Hill. Now an attorney based in Maryland.

**Jack Claiborne** Covered Civil Rights in the 1960s, a long-time reporter and editorial writer for the *Charlotte Observer*. Author of *Discovering North Carolina: A Tar Heel Reader* and *The Crown of the Queen City: A History of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce*. Brother of "Slug" Claiborne.

**Evan Faulkenbury** Author of a UNC-Charlotte MA thesis on Reginald Hawkins' Civil Rights activities culminating in Hawkins' pioneering 1968 run for Governor of North Carolina. Now completing his history Ph.D. dissertation at UNC Chapel Hill.

**Patricia A. Albritton** Board Chair of Charlotte Mecklenburg Community Relations Office. Sharing perspectives on its early desegregation work in the 1960s – and on the challenges that Charlotte still faces today.



*Jack Claiborne, who covered Civil Rights for the Charlotte Observer, recalls the context of Charlotte's 1963 desegregation of leading public accommodations:*

In 1963, the year that Alabama Gov. George Wallace pledged to defend "segregation today, segregation tomorrow and segregation forever, the year that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote the eloquent "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," the year that Birmingham Police Commissioner "Bull" Connor turned dogs and fire hoses on marching black children, the year that the Kennedy Administration sent to Congress a massive civil rights bill calling for equality in public accommodations and hiring, in that year Charlotte voluntarily desegregated its hotels and restaurants. Here's how it happened.

On May 20, about 65 African Americans, most of them students at Johnson C. Smith University marched from the Smith campus through midtown Charlotte, clapping and singing on their way to the Mecklenburg Courthouse where they staged peaceful fifteen-minute demonstration. The students were led by Dr. Reginald A. Hawkins, a Charlotte dentist and Presbyterian preacher, who spoke from the courthouse steps, saying: "Segregation is a sin and we cannot compromise with this sin." He warned Charlotte leaders that if something wasn't done to end segregation, future marches might not be so peaceful. Noting that May 20 was the day Mecklenburg declared its freedom from British rule, Dr. Hawkins said, "There is no freedom as long as all of us are not free."

In response, Charlotte Mayor Stan Brookshire called a meeting of Chamber of Commerce leaders and urged them to coordinate a voluntary desegregation of hotels and restaurants. Eleven of the Chamber's fifteen-member executive committee approved a resolution to that effect. The next day a resolution asking that all businesses serving the general public be open to people of all races, creeds and color, was approved by the Chamber's 39-member Board of Directors.

Chamber leaders immediately began meeting with hotel and restaurant operators seeking their compliance. Among white restaurant operators there was concern that serving blacks might drive away their white customers. James W. "Slug" Claiborne, a 30-year-old cafeteria operator, stood up to suggest that the Chamber use sit-in tactics: Let every Chamber director invite a black counterpart to lunch, disperse themselves evenly across the city, and do it all on the same day. That would leave no place for offended whites to flee. His proposal was adopted and on May 29 and 30, teams of white and black lunched at hotels and restaurants throughout the city without a whiff of public protest. The action won Charlotte rave reviews from the Kennedy administration and from other cities in the country.



## Key news coverage: Charlotte Observer and national press

Charlotte articles courtesy of Carolina Room of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

National articles courtesy of Special Collections, Atkins Library at UNC-Charlotte

Provided by Tom Hanchett of Levine Museum of the New South  
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Observer Photo by James Denning  
Marchers On East Trade Street

## J. C. Smith Students March Across Town

By JAMES K. BATTEN  
Observer Staff Writer

A spirited but orderly band of singing, hand-clapping Negro students marched through downtown Charlotte early Monday afternoon in the first public protest against segregation since August.

The demonstrators, most of them from Johnson C. Smith University, walked the four miles from the campus to the Mecklenburg County Courthouse and back without incident. About 65 people participated.

Led by two boys carrying the American and Christian flags, the procession arrived at the steps of the courthouse about 1:45 p.m. and cheered as a Ne-

gro leader asserted that the time for action had come.

"We are not going to cooperate any more with segregation," shouted Dr. R. A. Hawkins from the courthouse steps. "Segregation is a sin and we cannot compromise with this sin."

Hawkins, a dentist who also is an ordained Presbyterian minister, wore a clerical collar for Monday's demonstration. He organized the parade and did most of the talking at the courthouse.

The youngsters and a few Negro adults greeted his words with approving choruses of "Yeah!" and "No!"

At one point, the Negro speaker warned, "We shall not be pacified with gradualism; we shall not be satisfied with tokenism. We want freedom and we want it now."

Hawkins chose the anniversary of the signing of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence in 1775 for the city's first anti-segregation demonstration since last summer.

The theme of the 15-minute rally at the courthouse was that Negro citizens had not shared in the freedom demanded by Mecklenburg residents from the British nearly 190 years ago.

"There is no freedom as long as all of us are not free," Hawkins told the crowd, which

See J. C. Smith, Page 4B, Col. 1

# J. C. Smith Students March

Continued From Page 1-B

stood in the courthouse square festooned with flags of the states of the old Confederacy.

Both the courthouse and City Hall were closed for the Mecklenburg Independence Day holiday, and only a few by-standers gathered to watch the proceedings.

Upon returning to the Smith campus, Hawkins promised a resumption of last summer's demonstrations. He refused to say exactly when the protests would begin, but indicated that it would be quite soon.

Dismissing his student followers, Hawkins said: "We will keep you informed of day-to-day activities. Any day might be D-Day . . . They can either make this an open and democratic city or there is going to be a long siege. They can choose which way it's going to be."

Throughout the round-trip march, the Negroes stayed in a column of two's, carefully obeying traffic rules and ignoring spectators, as instructed by Hawkins.

City police cars and plain-clothesmen in unmarked cars saturated the Trade Street parade route. On several occasions, police held up traffic at intersections as the Negroes moved along.

City Manager William Veeder and Police Chief John S. Hord stayed close to the demonstrators in an unmarked car.

The marchers attracted relatively little attention as they tramped across the city. On the sidewalk in front of Uncle Charlie's Place, 1033 W. Trade St., six white checkers players and kibitzers hardly looked up as the singing Negroes brushed by.

As the procession wound out of sight, one old man looked up and growled, "They oughta arrest every damn one of 'em." The game continued without interruption.

In front of the Post Office, an old Negro man watched the marchers walk by and shook his head. "Punks. . . that's all they

are — punks," he muttered disgustedly. Noting that Johnson C. Smith is a church college, he added:

"That's who's raising hell all over the country — church people."

As the Negro youngsters strode down the sidewalks, they sang continually the songs of protest that have become a part of the civil rights movement.

Among them were "Freedom," "We Shall Overcome," and "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The singing was accompanied throughout by rhythmic clapping.

A sprinkling of older Negroes, most of them ministers, walked in the procession. One large woman in a bright yellow dress had trouble keeping up with the youngsters' rapid pace, and finally gave up, riding in a car to the courthouse.

At the courthouse ceremony, two elderly white women moved up and stood with the Negro crowd. Afterwards, they declined to give their names.

"We're very proud to be identified with this group," said one, "but we're concerned about crank calls."

# The Charlotte Observer

JAMES L. KNIGHT, *President and Publisher*

J. E. DOWD, *General Manager* C. A. McKNIGHT, *Editor*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1963

## Charlotte Needs No 'D-Day' To Combat Discrimination

Charlotte's first anti-segregation demonstration since last summer, a march from Johnson C. Smith University followed by a 15-minute rally at the courthouse on Mecklenburg Independence Day, was concluded by a Negro spokesman's statement that "any day might be D-Day" for an intensified protest movement here.

"They can either make this an open and democratic city or there is going to be a long siege," declared Dr. R. A. Hawkins. "They can choose which way it's going to be."

Let us hope that the kind of experience that has come in recent days to Raleigh and Greensboro, though far less abrasive than that in Birmingham, is not going to be Charlotte's lot.

Now is the time to link reasonable patience to sincere effort by white and Negro leaders to remove sources of racial discrimination to the degree that they can be removed by compliance with law and voluntary action.

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Dr. Hawkins' use of "they" refers, by his own definition, to the political and economic "power structure" in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. This is a force which has had and will continue to have a great amount of influence in shaping community acceptance of change.

There has been a great deal of orderly progress in lowering racial bars here in recent years. More needs to be done, but it will be in the interest of the entire community if further advances are achieved with a minimum of friction and misunderstanding.

The immediate goal of Hawkins and those who support his campaign is the acceptance of Negro patronage in businesses catering to the general public, including theaters, restaurants, hotels and motels. He is also asking non-discriminatory policies of admission and treatment in hospitals, and geographical assignment of children to the public schools.

Some Charlotte eating places have already adopted a policy of serving patrons without regard to race. There appeared to be a breakthrough in the hotel and motel field during the Trade Fair,

but this agreement was reported to have collapsed with charges of "bad faith" on both sides. There has been a relaxation of segregation practices at Memorial Hospital and a first step toward school assignments on a geographical basis.

None of these advances satisfy the demand by Monday's marchers for "the elimination of all segregation" in public facilities or places of business serving the public. The political and economic "power structure," even admitting its strength, runs head-long into private property rights in trying to obtain a uniform policy of non-discrimination.

Hawkins would have the city council pass a city ordinance, using its licensing and permit power to forbid racial discrimination in all places of public accommodation. He cites Baltimore and St. Louis as cities among 70 or so in the country adopting such an ordinance, and says Charlotte should do the same.

Here, however, the Supreme Court itself has hesitated to abrogate one traditional right to serve another. The city council has been understandably reluctant to take such action. Such an ordinance would be a poor substitute, at any rate, for voluntary action that would not merely paper over the problem of discrimination, as is the case in most cities with such a law on the books.

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Certainly, resolutions from the Chamber of Commerce, the Charlotte Merchants Association and other civic groups would be helpful, as in Raleigh and Greensboro, in setting the general tone of the anti-discrimination movement. Meanwhile, the Mayor's Community Relations Committee must use all of its persuasive power to gain agreements that will maintain this community's progress and equilibrium.

Charlotte has managed, peaceably, to be a leader in this part of the country in desegregating schools, libraries, and recreational and other public facilities.

Our people have accepted and followed wise and moderate leadership. There is no evidence that they are any less ready to follow it now.

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MAYOR STAN BROOKSHIRE and Dr. John R. Cunningham, right, are shown as they announced to representatives of various news media Wednesday that

the first steps had been taken during the day toward desegregating a number of Charlotte hotels and motels. (Observer Photo by David Nance)

## U.S. Loses Huntsville School Suit

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (UPI) — A key ruling in Birmingham Wednesday on a federal integration suit and a battle between police and pickets in Philadelphia underscored the nation's snowballing racial crisis.

In the Birmingham ruling, U.S. District Judge H. Hobart Grooms dismissed a government suit seeking integration of public schools near the nation's space flight center at Huntsville, Ala.

"Except in the field of voting rights, the Congress has granted the government no authority to bring a suit such as this," Grooms commented.

The ruling went right to the heart of an issue now under study by the Kennedy administration — whether to seek congressional enactment of legislation that would permit the attorney general to initiate court suits to protect civil rights.

A Justice Department spokesman said Groom's ruling would be appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

The Philadelphia clash took place at a school construction site and involved 300 police officers and pickets protesting alleged racial bias on the part of the board of education.

Eight policemen and two pickets were injured in the skirmishes that flared when the pickets tried to prevent construction workers from reporting to their jobs.

## 'Girl, 10, Returns Phone Jackpot

MADISON, N.J. — (AP) — When 10-year-old Allison Grimes stepped into a telephone booth to call her mother last week, she found \$1 littered with nickels, dimes and quarters, all spilling over from a coin return slot.

Allison scooped up \$6.30 worth of change. Then, after dialing the operator, she fed it back to the phone company.

"I never thought of keeping it," Allison said. "After all, a lot of people worked for that money."

Allison got a luncheon and a tour of the New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. exchange at Morristown Wednesday as a reward for her honesty.

## 8 Hotels, Motels Will Desegregate

By JAMES K. BATTEN  
Observer Staff Writer

Small groups of prominent white and Negro leaders lunched together at five leading Charlotte hotels and motels Wednesday as a prelude to complete desegregation of these and other establishments this weekend.

Wednesday's development, announced at a 4 p.m. press conference at City Hall, climaxed six days of intensive negotiations between white leaders and representatives of at least eight hotels and motels.

According to the terms of the agreement the identity of the establishments involved will not be announced until Friday.

Mayor Stan R. Brookshire, who made the announcement along with Dr. John R. Cunningham, who heads the Mayor's Community Relations Committee, had this to say:

"This community is voluntarily facing up to what it thinks is right and in the best interest of continued progress, prosperity and racial harmony. This action represents acceptance of the principle that discrimination based on the color of a man's skin is legally and morally wrong and economically un sound."

As Brookshire and Cunningham explained it, the agreement would work this way:

Negro and white citizens, in groups of two to six, were to lunch together on Wednesday, today and Friday at five se-

lected hotels and motels that have restaurants on their premises.

On Friday three other motels that operate no dining facilities will join with the original five in declaring publicly that, beginning Saturday, they will be open to all persons regardless of race.

Both Cunningham and Brookshire said they hoped that more motels and hotels would add their names to the desegregated list before publication Friday.

The new agreement came less than a week after the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution last Thursday urging managers of places of public accommodation to open their doors to Negroes.

Meetings between white leaders and the hotel and motel managers have been held almost daily since Thursday.

Among those involved in the bargaining, in addition to the mayor and Cunningham, was J. Ed Burnside, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

While Wednesday's announcement stressed the voluntary nature of the desegregation move, it was no secret that community leaders had been gravely concerned by the prospect of Negro demonstrations in Charlotte.

While other cities in North Carolina and the South have been plagued this spring by demonstrations and racial violence, Charlotte has had only one indication of impatience by local Negroes.

That came on May 29 when Negro leader Dr. R. A. Hawkins led a youthful crowd of about 45 Negroes on a two-mile march from Johnson C. Smith University to the Mecklenburg County Courthouse.

Hawkins praised Wednesday's announcements as "a step in the direction we have been asking for," and said that demonstrations would be held if the city failed to desegregate.

The first steps had been taken during the day toward desegregating a number of Charlotte hotels and motels. (Observer Photo by David Nance)

On Friday three other motels that operate no dining facilities will join with the original five in declaring publicly that, beginning Saturday, they will be open to all persons regardless of race.

See 8 MOTELS, Page 2A, Col. 6

## Greensboro Racial Truce Is Extended

From Observer Wire Reports

Negro students in Greensboro voted Wednesday to extend their racial truce with the city indefinitely.

William Thomas, chairman of the Greensboro chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and a student at North Carolina A & T College, said the situation in Greensboro was changing from moment to moment. He said that no further protest demonstrations would be held at the present.

At Fayetteville, Superior Court Judge Raymond Mallard signed a restraining order forbidding anti-segregation demonstrations pending a hearing there June 11.

At Greensboro, more anti-segregation demonstrators were called to trial on charges of trespass as a result of recent protests.

Municipal-County Court Judge Herman G. Enoch Jr. found five of the first six Negroes called guilty of trespass charges. They were fined \$1 each and court costs. One defendant was declared innocent while another did not appear in court.

Witnesses in the Greensboro court testified Wednesday that they recognized five of the first six Negroes called to trial. The defendants were convicted of blocking a fire exit at the city's Mayfair Cafeteria on May 18.

Frederick L. Battle, 19, an A&T College student told Enoch that the defendants were "staging a demonstration, we were trying to get arrested."

About 200 still remain to be tried on charges growing out of the demonstrations.

Mallard signed the restraining order in Fayetteville after attorneys for the Miracle Theater filed a petition asking \$5,000 compensatory and \$25,000 punitive damages from 43 persons and the NAACP. The theater has been an object of integration efforts in Fayetteville.

## Truce Reached In High Point

HIGH POINT — (AP) — Negro and white civic officials reached a two-week truce agreement in this industrial city Wednesday night, preventing a possible outbreak of racial violence.

The truce was announced by

# State Bill

## U.S. Tuna Boats Held In Ecuador

### 21 Are 'Arrested' On Poaching Court

QUITO, Ecuador — (UPI) — The Ecuadorian navy said Wednesday that its warships have "in custody" all 21 tuna boats in a U.S. fishing fleet from San Diego, Calif. They are accused of poaching in territorial waters.

The claim, by Navy Chief Capt. Ramon Castro Jijon, put a new light on the fishing war that erupted Saturday when the Ecuadorian patrol ship Jambelli "arrested" the tuna boats White Star and Ranger.

The Jambelli called for help when the other 21 ships in the U.S. fishing fleet prevented it from shepherding the White Star and Ranger into the nearest port, Puerto Esmeraldas.

Castro Jijon said it was "absolutely false" the White Star and Ranger had been released, as reported in an earlier navy statement from Guayaquil.

He also said that it was "untrue" there was any agreement between the U.S. and Ecuador — "at this moment" — with respect to a solution of the problem.

(Manuel Cintas, master of the tuna vessel Hornet, was reached by ship-to-shore telephone aboard the vessel Nautilus, which was proceeding toward Miami, Fla.)

"We want strength from the State Department," he declared. "A verification of the facts... We want somebody with authority, with plenty of authority, to represent us..."

"This has been going on for five days. We are still waiting for help."

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk said he had cabled Ecuadorian Foreign Minister Benjamin Peraila urging the immediate release of the White Star and Ranger on grounds that the two governments have agreed to seek a satisfactory solution to their dispute over territorial waters.

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## Anderson Hi Proposes Fair

## Aid Triumphs Over Aesthetics As HST Joins Immortals In Greece

# 8 Motels, Hotels Will Open Rooms, Restaurants To All

Continued From Page 1A

strations planned for Friday had been canceled.

While talks have been in progress with restaurant and theater owners, there apparently has been no agreement. Cunningham said in his prepared statement, however, that "progress seems likely" in both areas "in the near future."

Dr. Rufus P. Perry, the president of Johnson C. Smith University, was one of the Negroes who lunched Wednesday in a local hotel with three clergymen.

"I don't think anybody even looked at us," Perry said. "Nobody paid any attention; I imagine some people never saw us."

The college president said his lunch of shrimp and crab in cream sauce was "very good."

"It would compare favorably with those I've had at the Waldorf-Astoria and the Hilton chain," he said.

Both Brookshire and Cunningham, a noted Southern Presbyterian leader, joined mixed groups for lunch Wednesday. Cunningham estimated that about 30 whites and 20 Negroes would be involved over the three-day period.

The text of the mayor's statement follows:

"This community is voluntarily facing up to what it thinks is right and in the best interest of continued progress, prosperity and racial harmony.

"This action represents acceptance of the principle that discrimination based on the color of a man's skin is legally and morally wrong and economically unsound.

"I commend the earnest and effective efforts of the mayor's biracial Community Relations Committee, under the able guidance of Dr. John Cunningham, for establishing a climate of understanding and good will which makes this progressive step possible. I am appreciative of the efforts and patience of our Negro leaders and the splendid manner in which they have cooperated. I applaud the wisdom and courage of those business firms in their actions in dropping the bars of discrimination among our citizens.

"I am also appreciative of the splendid support of business, civic, and church leadership of our city as represented by recent action of the Chamber of Commerce board.

## Atlanta Firms Handed Appeal

ATLANTA — (UPI) — The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce asked businessmen Wednesday to discard segregated practices and Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. announced that the city's swimming pools would open in June on an integrated basis.

The board of directors of the chamber issued a "policy declaration" in which it appealed to all Atlanta business firms to solicit customers "without regard to race, color or creed . . . as expeditiously as good judgment will dictate."

## 200 Negroes Stage Goldsboro March

GOLDSBORO — (AP) — About 200 Negroes, mostly of high school age, staged an anti-segregation march through downtown Goldsboro Wednesday night.

"I sincerely hope and believe that our community will accept and support the measures that have been taken here to provide equal rights and opportunities for all of our citizens.

"I urge all citizens to accept individual responsibility as the price that must be paid for the benefits of a free society."

### Dr. Cunningham's statement:

"As of today a group of five of the leading hotels and motels of Charlotte began a program of desegregating both their rooms and dining rooms according to a plan which had previously been agreed upon by the managements of these establishments and the Mayor's Committee on Community Relations and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. These groups represent a broad cross section of the businesses, educational groups and churches of the city.

"In addition, three leading motels which do not have restaurants are opening their facilities along with the other establishments to the patrons of both races after the conclusion of an initial three-day plan which is to terminate on Friday, May 31st. During this three-day period white and Negro business and Church leaders are lurching together at the five establishments.

"These developments have had the cooperation and leadership of the Mayor's Committee for the past three years. This is the latest in a series of steps which have led to the desegregation of buses, public libraries, public parks, swimming pools, lunch counters, public hospitals, the police force and a number of churches in the community.

"Talks are continuing at the present time with the restaurant

owners and operators of the picture shows. Progress seems likely in both of these fields in the near future.

"Special credit is due Mayor Stanford Brookshire who has given sincere and constructive leadership to these efforts at every level for the past two years during which he has been in office. Action taken last week by the executive committee and the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce, under the leadership of the president, Mr. J. E. Burnside, was also a major factor."

## 19 Arrested In Jackson Race Protest

JACKSON, Miss. — (UPI) — Police arrested 19 racial demonstrators and broke up crowds of whites Wednesday in an effort to prevent further violence in this racially tense city.

Four of those arrested were Negro girls who tried to enter a downtown restaurant. The others were pickets carrying signs urging Negroes to boycott segregated stores.

Four of the pickets sat down on a curb when taken into custody and had to be lifted bodily into a police van.

The Negro girls walked into the downtown restaurant late Wednesday afternoon and were stopped at the door by the manager, who asked them to leave. When they refused, police stepped in and made the arrests.

Downtown store managers had closed their lunch counters in the wake of a sit-in Tuesday that resulted in three integrationists being beaten and doused with catsup and mustard.

## Show Of Troopers Nips Mass Rally In The Bud

BATON ROUGE, La. — (UPI) — Fifty helmeted state troopers surrounded the Louisiana capitol Wednesday in anticipation of a mass segregation protest, but

Negroes heard about the plans and staged only a token display.

Thomas Burbank, state director of public safety, said troopers were deployed as a precautionary measure to quell any violence stemming from a demonstration. He said 300 other troopers were put on a standby basis.

Instead of a promised 1,000 demonstrators, only about 20 pickets, led by Rev. Arthur L. Jelks, appeared briefly in front of the Baton Rouge Municipal Building and later at the capitol. No incidents were reported.

Jelks, president of the local chapter of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), attempted to enter the cafeteria at the municipal building but was told it was closed for the day.

The Negro integration leader then walked through the building lobby, took a drink of water at a water fountain for whites and rejoined his pickets outside to go to the capitol.

From the steps of the municipal building, he said the Negroes did not want to create a disturbance but would do so if they did not get action on their integration demands by June 7.

Jelks' group decided to demonstrate because local government refused to accept their recommendations for membership on a biracial committee.

## 400 March In Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — (AP) — Racial tension mushroomed Wednesday night as 400 chanting, clapping Negroes marched through downtown Tallahassee demanding an end to segregation.

About 500 white spectators thronged streets within a block of a white movie house that was being picketed.

Three dozen police officers, highway patrolmen, city deputies and constables patrolled with night sticks to prevent hecklers from starting violence.

Three Episcopal chaplains mingled among the white spectators urging everyone to be calm.

There was no violence. "Freedom! freedom! freedom! freedom! freedom! freedom!" sang the block-long march of Negro youths.

Storekeepers stood on the curb, traffic slowed and a little girl clutching a Confederate flag cried, "Look, Mommy."

## 5 CHARLOTTE INNS INTEGRATE DINING

### Desegregation Also Planned for Sleeping Quarters

CHARLOTTE, N. C., May 29 (AP)—Negroes and white sat in public dining rooms of five Charlotte hotels and motels for the first time.

The five hostalries are also beginning a program of opening their sleeping accommodations to both races. This was announced by Dr. John R. Cunningham, chairman of a biracial committee named by Mayor Stan Brookshire.

Dr. Cunningham did not identify the five establishments. He said that selected groups of whites and Negroes would patronize them for three days of "adjustment" and that the places would be identified on Friday.

Three additional motels, which do not have restaurants, are also beginning a program of opening their rooms to both races, Dr. Cunningham said. He did not name them.

The integration came only six days after directors of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce unanimously recommended that businesses dealing with the general public serve "all customers without regard to race, creed or color."

#### Mayor Hails Move

Mayor Brookshire declared:

"This community is voluntarily facing up to what it thinks is right, in the best interests of continued progress, prosperity and racial harmony. This action represents acceptance of the principle that discrimination based on the color of a man's skin is legally and morally wrong, and economically un-

Asked how the Negroes were received in today's integration moves, Dr. Cunningham quoted one of them as saying, "Not a soul seemed to pay any attention."

Dr. Cunningham said management personnel "met us at the door" and there was no adverse reaction from other patrons.

## Race Barriers Rights Drop Quietly Laws Across South Pushed

**Businesses, Local Governments  
Act Voluntarily To Bring Peace**

Against a background of racial violence at Birmingham, Ala., Jackson, Miss., and Philadelphia, Pa. — in both the North and the South — there is an undercurrent moving for peaceful settlement in the turbulent stream of racial trouble. Here is a look at the quieter side of the struggle to end racial discrimination.

By JACK STILLMAN  
By The Associated Press

Quiet moves to bring about racial peace have brought a lowering of segregation barriers in many communities. In some areas the change is hardly noticeable. But in others, especially in the Deep South, the lowering of racial bars comes as a shock to some.

In Atlanta the Chamber of Commerce asked all businesses serving the general public to open their doors to all without regard to race.

The chamber's directors emphasized that they could not presume to deny any proprietor the right to conduct business as he chose but that the city's future depended on a continuation of racial harmony.

Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. congratulated the directors "for having the courage to face up to the obvious problem that has confronted this country for the last eight years."

Although some of the city's motels have opened facilities to Negroes, major downtown hotels in Atlanta have balked at earlier appeals for desegregation.

### Charlotte Action Shows Trend

The underlying trend was emphasized at Charlotte, where eight major hotels and motels agreed to drop racial barriers.

The biracial Mayor's Committee on Community Relations announced that small groups of whites and Negroes were being served in the five hosteleries that have restaurants as a prelude to their complete desegregation this weekend. Three other motels taking part in the desegregation program have no restaurants.

The Charlotte move was one of the first systematic programs of integration on a large scale in the South.

Officials at Memphis, Tenn., acting under a court order, agreed to desegregate all recreational facilities but said that operation of public swimming pools would be suspended for the time being.

The action followed the U.S. Supreme Court decision Monday that struck down Memphis' 10-year plan for gradual desegregation of public facilities.

About a dozen restaurants at Lynchburg, Va., opened their doors to both races voluntarily less than a month after drugstore lunch counters took the same action. One of the drugstores was the scene of prolonged sit-in demonstrations.

Major motion picture theaters at Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., are admitting Negroes.

### Break-Through In Nashville

At Ocean City, Md., scene of racial demonstrations last summer, a biracial committee was appointed, and spokesmen said that almost all restaurants in Maryland's only seaside resort had agreed to drop racial barriers.

Some industries in Nashville, Tenn., are hiring Negro secretaries — a major break-through for Negroes in the white-collar category of jobs.

A large motel in Nashville that accepted Negroes for the first time during a convention about a year ago now accepts them regularly. There has been no public reaction.

Nashville's biracial committee, appointed earlier this month, has been working on the desegregation issue involving downtown facilities, but no progress has been announced.

More than 2,800 persons have signed petitions at Knoxville, Tenn., calling upon businesses catering to the public to open their facilities to all persons regardless of race.

At Pine Bluff, Ark., scene of 43 arrests for anti-segregation demonstrations since Feb. 1, white and Negro leaders met secretly earlier this month and

See WHITE, Page 2A, Col. 2

**Work Intensifies  
On Legislation**

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The Kennedy administration, convinced it faces a grave national crisis over race relations, moved with new urgency Thursday to seek peaceful desegregation of schools and public facilities.

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy passed up a Memorial Day holiday and showed up at his Justice Department office along with many other officials concerned with civil rights.

Work progressed on preparation of legislation designed to outlaw segregation in almost all hotels, theaters, restaurants and stores.

Other proposals under administration scrutiny were reported to be aimed at integrating schools in every city and town where racial barriers remained.

President Kennedy was said to have been urged by his advisers to take dramatic action to head off violence and to intensify the administration's efforts to combat race restrictions in employment and access to public places. This might include a special address to the nation.

The chief executive was reported to have directed top priority attention to a search for steps that would bring equal rights for Negroes in the North as well as the South.

In the legislative field, the Justice Department is considering two main approaches to desegregation of public facilities.

One would take in all establishments involved in interstate commerce. The other, based on the 14th Amendment's command for equal protection of the law, would outlaw racial restrictions in stores licensed or regulated by states.

As for schools, consideration is being given to reviving the proposal to allow the attorney general to file desegregation suits for Negroes. Other action to allow legal short-cuts in drawn-out litigation over school integration also is being weighed.

Congress in the past has refused to allow the Justice Department to start suits. But many

See Administration, Pg. 2A, C. 2

### Durham Opens Municipal Pools To All Citizens

DURHAM — (UPI) — All five city-owned swimming pools, four for whites and one for Negroes, will be integrated when they open for the season, the City Council ruled Thursday.

The council, acting on the recommendation of the City Recreation Advisory Committee, approved the action without debate or dissent.

However, the council instructed the City Recreation Department to keep it informed of attendance figures at the pools. This was the result of a proposal by Councilman Luther Barbour that any pool not able to pay its own way be closed.

Two of the pools will open Saturday — the Duke Park Pool, previously all-white, and the Hillside Pool, previously all-Negro. The other three will open within the next 10 days.

## DEAD Senate R Suffers



### Watching His Da

Young John F. Kennedy Jr. had a lot of fun on Memorial Day. He went with his Dad to Arlington National Cemetery. Young John rode in his own separate automobile with his father plus the Unknown Soldier.

## Kennedy Sunken T Honors Found, N War Dead

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — President Kennedy, like many another American, went to a cemetery Thursday to pay his respects and remember the hosts of the nation's military dead.

Kennedy, himself a veteran of sea battle in a great war, silently led the country's annual Memorial Day observance by placing a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Then, following the formal ceremonial at the tomb, the President motored to the grave of James Forrestal, first secretary of defense.

A multitude who had come to the cemetery to decorate the graves of their own dead or who were tourists visiting the wooded hills, lined along curving drives and stood nervously to watch the brief ceremony at the tomb.

They glimpsed the President, and four of them met him. By chance, they happened to be near the Forrestal grave. As he left the grave, he stopped and shook hands with each of the surprised four, three of them in a family from Mexico City, the other man from Detroit.

John Jr. was the only member of the first family to go with the President to Arlington. The younger rode in another car.

NORFOLK, Va. — (UPI) — A ruptured section of the hull of the nuclear submarine Thresher which sank April 10 with 129 men aboard was clearly photographed Thursday on the floor of the Atlantic, a civilian search official said.

Dr. J. Lamar Worzel, assistant director of the Lamont Geological Observatory, said photographs taken by the Lamont research vessel Conrad showed both the Thresher's rail, diving plane and sail area.

The photographs were being rushed to Boston aboard the Conrad, Worzel said, where they will be flown to the Navy Court of Inquiry at Portsmouth, N.H., which is conducting the investigation into the loss of the Thresher. The Conrad estimates her arrival in Boston at about 3 p.m. today.

Navy officials at Atlantic fleet headquarters here said the bathyscaph Trieste is standing by in Boston and will proceed to the scene, about 220 miles east of Boston, if the court should require further photographic evidence. There are no firm plans at the moment, the Navy emphasized, for the Trieste to leave her Boston mooring.

Concentrating her search in a 700 - by 200 yards area, the Conrad obtained the photographs

May 20 and the Tide Turns

# How Charlotte, N.C., Desegregated Quietly

ON Monday, May 20, Charlotte, N. C., citizens observed in various ways a traditional holiday known as Mecklenburg (County) Declaration Day.

Some citizens spent the day having fun.

Some—like Dr. R. A. Hawkins, a Negro dentist, and like Charlotte Mayor Stan R. Brookshire and Chamber of Commerce President J. Ed Burnside—spent the day doing something they considered more constructive.

Dr. Hawkins, whose civil rights demonstrators had forced desegregation of lunch counters in 1961, led a peaceful march of 75 Negroes in Charlotte.

The mayor and Mr. Burnside spent the holiday planning something big. At least they hoped it would turn out to be big—big enough to affect nearly every businessman in town.

The two men had talked quietly the day before about the racial troubles elsewhere in North Carolina . . . about civil rights protesters being carried out of the Greensboro mayor's office by police . . . about arrests in Raleigh and Durham and other protests in Wilmington, Lexington, and Fayetteville.

And there was the horrible example of Birmingham, Ala.

Almost no public accommodations—hotels, motels, theaters, or restaurants—in Charlotte accepted Negroes as patrons. With the winds of change blowing steadily, North and South, with Dr. Hawkins' marchers on the streets again, the next move was clearly up to Charlotte's leaders.

\* \* \*  
EARLIER this month, L. M. Wright, city editor of the Charlotte Observer, who retraced events since that Monday in May, wrote in his paper, "While Negroes paraded, staged sit-ins, actually fought battles elsewhere in the country, many of Charlotte's public accommodations firms quietly desegregated.

"It was done thru a highly organized plan. The arrangements had been worked out carefully behind closed doors . . . white leaders and Negro leaders, by prearranged schedule, began having lunch together. Negroes, on schedule, began going to downtown movies . . ."

Here, according to The Observer, is how it all came about.

\* \* \*  
THE executive committee of the 4500-member Charlotte Chamber of Commerce met at the urging of Mayor Brookshire and Mr. Burnside after Mecklenburg Declaration Day.

"We went into the meeting without anyone knowing what was coming off," Mr. Burnside said. "I had used no one for a sounding board. It went around the room. They all said how they felt. I was surprised. It was unanimous . . . Finally, Dwight Phillips said, 'Why don't we go ahead and do it?'"

Then on Thursday, May 23, the Chamber's full board of directors met.

"If I had had to bet," said Mr. Burnside, "on the day before, I would have bet on some opposition. Maybe two or three votes at least."

Twenty-four of 39 directors showed up. Names of most present had long been associated with Charlotte's leadership.

Three executive committee members had drafted a resolution, reading, "We, the directors of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, recommend that all businesses in this community catering to the general public be opened immediately to all customers without regard to race, creed or color."

Mr. Burnside asked for a discussion, but there was none and the board's approval was unanimous.

"This means," Mr. Burnside said, "that every man

in this room thinks we have taken the right step." He said later he had made this statement to encourage dissent, that he wanted members to be sure they understood what they were doing.

Now came the knotty problem of how, where and when to desegregate. Within hours of the board meeting, Chamber leaders were talking the situation over with four theater men, a spokesman for restaurant owners, three or four hotel and motel operators, and other businessmen.

Mr. Burnside told the businessmen he thought it (desegregation) was "the right thing to do," and mentioned the economic perils of delaying too long.

One man at the meeting said he was most impressed by Mr. Burnside's reminder that Little Rock, Ark., had gotten no new industry for a long time after its 1957 racial troubles.

THE businessmen talked freely in the closed session. Altho all favored desegregation in some degree, there were worries.

One man who was there said, "It was all fear. The operators seemed afraid to act alone because they didn't want to be criticized individually . . ."

Hotel and motel men met again with Chamber leaders on Friday, May 24, then held separate meetings to discuss fears that the change could cost them customers.

Within a week, the hotels had quietly agreed to desegregate (dining rooms were to be first). Five places had dining rooms: The Manger, the Queen Charlotte, the Sheraton-Barringer Motor Inn, the Heart of Charlotte, and the Downtowner."

On May 29, 30, and 31, the white directors of the Chamber of Commerce and other local white civic leaders took Charlotte Negroes to lunch.

Mr. Burnside and three other white men took Negroes Dr. G. A. Lowe and James K. Polk to lunch at the Sheraton-Barringer. Mayor Brookshire and Dr. John Cunningham, head of the mayor's Committee on Human Relations, ate lunch at the Manger with Fred Alexander, an apartment manager, and Moses Belton, public relations director for Johnson C. Smith University.

For three days, in groups of from two to six, whites and Negroes had lunch together at the various dining rooms—without any publicity. When an out-of-town TV cameraman tried to take pictures for a national show at a restaurant, the Chamber switched its scheduled diners to another restaurant.

WHAT was the biggest problem?

"They didn't really know each other," Chamber Executive Vice President Charles Crawford told Observer City Editor Wright. Mr. Crawford said this fact came home to him when he took Negro Dr. E. L. Rann and banker A. E. Spears to lunch.

"I knew Mr. Spears, but I had never met Dr. Rann," said Mr. Crawford.

The names of the five hotels with newly-desegregated restaurants were announced in early June. Their rooms and those of three motels were also opened to Negroes.

Theaters were next on the Chamber's schedule, and some Negro and white leaders thought theaters would be tougher to desegregate than restaurants.

Theater men wanted no publicity. They agreed to accept Negro patrons by appointment and reservation for a while and watch what happened.

The trial period ran from mid-June to July 1. After the first week, some theater managers admitted Negroes without reservations. There were a few complaints from white customers, but no incidents. Now the eight downtown theaters admit Negroes without restriction.

Charlotte leaders have had slower going in opening up restaurants, possibly because there are 466 licensed food handlers in Mecklenburg County, ranging from fine restaurants to hot dog stands, and nobody around can speak for all of them.

Two years ago, students from Johnson C. Smith University, aided and occasionally led by Dr. Hawkins, demonstrated against Charlotte restaurant segregation. The newly-formed Mayor's Committee helped open most downtown lunch counters to Negroes.

It should be noted that Dr. Hawkins was not included in this year's negotiations that brought important changes to the city. Mayor Brookshire said he didn't want people who held extreme viewpoints on either side on his Human Relations Committee.

WITHIN a few days of the Chamber resolution of May 23, about 20 restaurant owners had been asked their feelings. They said they would open their places up the minute the city's S & W Cafeterias desegregated.

Frank O. Sherrill, who was having demonstrations at the S & W Cafeterias in Greensboro and Durham, later announced his chain would desegregate as fast as community problems in each area could be worked out.

Altho they had no organization to speak of, Charlotte restaurant owners on July 19 said they would accept Negroes at three S & W Cafeterias, the Barclay Cafeteria, two Bailey Cafeterias, and two Shoney's restaurants and drive-ins.

The Chamber turned to drive-in restaurants. Negro members of the mayor's committee patiently tried to persuade owners to go along with the program. Some owners agreed, then changed their minds.

On Monday, June 24, Negro groups showed up at the city's drive-ins, but were turned away at 11 places.

At one drive-in, there was a minor incident. A white boy had apparently insulted a Negro in a car, and a waitress passed the remark along to the manager.

The story was magnified to include false reports of guns in a car and threatened assault on Negroes in the car.

The incident made many drive-in operators skittish about opening their businesses to Negroes.

Chamber leaders meanwhile, tried to broaden the base of the frail organization representing restaurant men in the segregation discussions.

About 130 restaurant owners were invited to a meeting. Only seven, including six who had already desegregated, came.

As of now, it is believed, fewer than half of the city's restaurants are serving Negroes. But the city leaders are optimistic about further progress.

MAYOR BROOKSHIRE recently told The Observer, "I think our consciences have been pricked . . . the people have a tremendous pride in Charlotte . . . people just don't want (trouble) to happen here . . ."

He believes future demonstrations are possible, but hopes the city has done enough so far to avert them.

A Negro leader said, "Without a resolution, it (desegregation) could not have come as fast . . . This could have been another Birmingham. It wasn't . . . this, to me, is just good, sound leadership."

"I would like to say that there were moral motives. I can't. There is some interested Christian leadership. But for most . . . they were looking at this thing cold turkey, good business sense.

C. A. McKnight, of The Observer, said, "Pride in this community . . . is important . . . it's important that this community understand that there are Negro leaders, responsible and sober . . . who can get something done."



# Letters between Dr. Reginald Hawkins & Mayor Stan Brookshire

In April of 1963, Mayor Stan Brookshire brokered the desegregation of key restaurants and hotels as Charlotte hosted an International Trade Fair.

But once the national press was gone, the businesses reverted to segregation.

Civil Rights leader Dr. Reginald Hawkins, who had worked with African Americans to call off protests, wrote a strongly worded letter to Brookshire on May 11, 1963: "...Negro citizens are not for talk and promises alone, they are demanding action now. The affront by the innkeepers to you, the Community Relations Committee, myself, and all others concerned in attempting to desegregate the hotels and motels is the very type of bad faith the Negro citizens warned me of during the meeting that was held to postpone the demonstrations."

He continued: "...unless we come to a full realization and act we shall continue to have demonstrations led by me or someone else."

Tom Hanchett of Levine Museum of the New South provides these copies of the letters, from the Mayors Committee on Community Relations papers, Carolina Room of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

[tom@historysouth.org](mailto:tom@historysouth.org) (704) 577 – 5103

May 10, 1963

C  
Dr. Reginald A. Hawkins  
1218 Beatties Ford Road  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dear Dr. Hawkins:

O  
My King called me yesterday to tell me that you were considering legal action against the Manger Inn on the basis of a North Carolina Inn Keepers' Law, which of course is your prerogative.

Both you and the Inn Keepers of Charlotte have cried "foul" over the agreement reached on April 23. In the interest of continuing racial Harmony and progress here, let's examine the facts.

P  
Y  
If you will re-read Dr. Cunningham's statement of that date you will note that a group of hotels and motels which wished to remain un-identified agreed to accept registrations for the Trade Fair without restriction or discrimination, which they did. Mr. Sunshine clearly stated at the time that he and his group would agree to a public statement on this only if the text of it, prepared by my office or by Dr. Cunningham, was first approved by you and him and that it be given minimum publicity. Unfortunately the news media played the story up, including statements by both you and Mr. Jones.

Out of what seemed to be accord, and I want to give you full credit for calling off the threatened demonstrations during the Trade Fair, there is now apparently developing an atmosphere of hostility that threatens to put a stumbling block in the way of further progress.

My understanding is that bi-racial conventions are continuing to be booked in Charlotte, and although this is less than you have demanded it is a forward step.

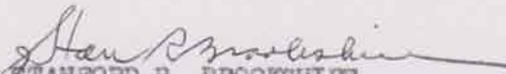
Dr. Hawkins, recalling the agreement a year or so ago in my office when you and the then president of Johnson C. Smith University student body agreed with a sub-committee from our Community Relations Committee that you would in the future handle complaints through this committee, rather than take direct action, I want to ask you to leave this matter with the committee for the present.

Dr. Hawkins  
Page 2

This I consider a reasonable request and in the best interests of both racial harmony and the attainments of your objectives. I am convinced and Gov. Sanford believes that progress in solving inter-racial problems can best be made by cooperative efforts in an atmosphere of understanding and goodwill. As I have said to you before, we cannot cooperate and fight at the same time.

The vote on Tuesday expressed a minimum protest to the progressive program under way here. My return to office, I think, is an endorsement of our moderate and constructive approach to peaceful progress in race relations. I appeal to you for your complete understanding and full co-operation.

Sincerely,

  
STANFORD R. BROOKSHIRE  
Mayor

SRE/t

cc: Governor Terry Sanford  
Mr. Ray King  
✓ Dr. John Cunningham

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O  
P  
Y

May 11, 1963

Honorable Stanford R. Brookshire, Mayor  
City of Charlotte  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Sir:

Following many conversations between you and myself concerning racial progress and methods in Charlotte, North Carolina, I think you will agree that there has been an honest disagreement.

As to the events leading up to the statement of desegregating the hotels and motels and all of their facilities in the city of Charlotte, I was the one who suggested that your committee would release the announcement. It was also our agreement that we would only call off the demonstrations if these hotels and motels would desegregate their facilities beginning with the trade fair and not limited to bi-racial conventions and that this practice was to continue with the hope that the other hotels and motels would follow.

This agreement for the hotels and motels to remain anonymous, it seems, was nothing but a trick, and I stated such during the negotiations. You stated that you would not be a party to a trick. We checked these hotels and motels immediately following the release of the statement and it is my opinion that those who agreed, with exception of the Sheraton-Barringer and the Hotel Queen Charlotte, never intended to admit Negroes as individual citizens and were acting in bad faith.

You mentioned in your letter of some agreement between the sub-committee from the Community Relations Committee, the student leader and myself to handle all complaints through the committee. With all honesty, Mr. Mayor, it is not possible that we could have agreed to such, for during the very discussion I accused the committee of being a reactionary committee rather than one who sought out these problems. This is not to dispute you, but there have been three demonstrations in Charlotte since this meeting in December of 1961 which I have personally led against this practice of segregation and discrimination and I feel it my duty to continue until this evil is removed from our national scene. I will not and can not in good conscience compromise with this unchristian and unconstitutional practice. But as a member of Governor Sanford's Good Neighbor Council, I am dedicated to work with any committee and people acting in good faith for the best of our State and Nation.

After having stated this incident involving Attorney Wyche and myself at the Manger Motor Inn with you, Mr. King and Mr. Whittington, we agreed that we would wait until after the election and then attack this lack of good faith on the part of these hotels and motels, which is a great affront

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because it took place during the North Carolina International Trade Fair.

I have discussed with you the legal and moral responsibilities of these innkeepers to all citizens and have asked that the City of Charlotte even take legal action through an ordinance to make our great city an open and democratic one. By this legal action that now has been taken, we feel that we have given the City and the State an opportunity to rid themselves of this continuous embarrassment that is happening all over the South.

Again in all fairness, let us re-examine the facts. I have attempted to keep the lines of communication open in Charlotte and throughout the state and I have always informed you before any action has been taken. But Negro citizens are not for talk and promises alone, they are demanding action now. The affront by the innkeepers to you, the Community Relations Committee, myself, and all others concerned in attempting to desegregate the hotels and motels is the very type of bad faith the Negro citizens warned me of during the meeting that was held to postpone the demonstrations.

As a good citizen, I shall continue to furnish the type of leadership I think is best for all concerned and I honestly know that unless we come to a full realization and act we shall continue to have demonstrations either led by me or someone else.

Very sincerely yours,

R. A. Hawkins

RAH/ch

cc: Governor Terry Sanford  
Mr. Ray King  
Dr. John Cunningham

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# Photos of Dr. Reginald Hawkins & Mayor Stan Brookshire

Collection of the Carolina Room of the  
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

Provided by Levine Museum of the New South  
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