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RIGHTISTS ACTIVE IN ALABAMA FIGHT

Party Vocal in Birmingham
—Membership Put at 150

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BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept.

A small group of men and women, some of them carrying Confederate battle flags, gathered this morning in a downtown park.

Several hundred had been expected, but only 25 showed up. They were members and partisans of the National States Rights party.

They talked about last night's bombing of a Negro's home and about the closing today of three desegregated schools.

One of their leaders looked this group over and decided to cancel the proposed mass demonstration. "We don't need to demonstrate today," he told a spectator. "We got what we were asking for. The schools are closed, and we don't need to demonstrate today."

The members of the National States' Rights party, known locally as N.S.R.P., then went home, promising to picket again if the integrated schools reopened.

"We'll be back," one of them shouted to the leader. "We'll never get tired of this."

'Largest Third Party'

The N.S.R.P., which calls itself "America's largest third party," is also proud of its standing in the ranks of conservative organizations. Dr. Edward R. Fields, a 30-year-old chiropractor who directs the party's activities, refers to it as "the second largest right-wing group in America," second only to the John Birch Society.

Dr. Fields declines to reveal his party's strength, but some police sources place its active national membership at about

150.

Vocally and physically, the party was strong yesterday. About 125 members and sympathizers, carrying N.S.R.P. signs, demonstrated at the desegregated schools and engaged in bitter scuffles with police.

Waving flags and shouting insults, the demonstrators broke through police lines and fought against arrest. Some of them wore the party uniform: high boots, Sam Browne belts and white shirts with black and red collar patches.

Accuses Police

Afterward, Dr. Fields accused Birmingham police of brutality. He said the scuffle would never have taken place had police allowed his people to picket peacefully.

"They pushed us around," the curly-haired, youthful-looking chiropractor said. "That's what started the trouble. We never had violence before. It's all because of the police."

Some of his followers, however, were observed kicking and slapping at policemen. And when the police offered to allow them to picket peacefully so long as they did not interfere with integration, they refused.

The party maintains its national office here in a stone residence that resembles a military headquarters. Downstairs are the usual office machines, telephones, and filing cabinets; upstairs is a bunkroom for members of the party.

A huge Confederate battle flag hangs on the front porch. On the lawn, trees have been sawed off at ground level and their stumps painted white.

On the walls of the headquarters are black plaques bearing white crosses and thunderbolts. The jagged line of lightning is the organization's symbol.

Founded in Knoxville

The N.S.R.P. was founded several years ago in Knoxville, Tenn. Its birth represented an apparent merger with a group called the United White Party.

"We ran Gov. Orval Faubus (of Arkansas) for President in 1954," Dr. Fields said. "Now we'd like to draft [South Carolina Senator Strom] Thurmond if we can."

In addition to its political work, the party carries on a continuing campaign against Negroes and Jews. It sponsored a close-the-schools petition here last month, and one of the shouts heard most frequently yesterday at the school demonstrations was "Communist Jew."

The August issue of The Thunderbolt, tabloid publication of the party, contained articles on these subjects:

The "mongrel invasion" of America by Chinese, Puerto Ricans and Mexicans; alleged Negro cowardice in battle; interracial marriage, and "scientific proof" that Negroes are

inferior to whites.

Goldwater Called Liberal

The issue also contained an attack on Senator Barry Goldwater as a liberal and a serialized chapter from the 1920 publication "The International Jew," by Henry Ford.

Sprinkled through the issue are photographs of whites and Negroes of both sexes in friendly poses, along with drawings purporting to illustrate the brain capacities of Caucasian and Negro skulls.

Dr. Fields, who edits the Thunderbolt, has the official title of information director for the party, but he is widely acknowledged as its leader.

Other national officers are Ned Dupes of Knoxville, chairman; Mrs. E. L. Bishop of Little Rock, Ark., vice chairman, and Bernice Settle of Knoxville, secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Fields said his work with the party had forced him to drop his chiropractic practice and put in a 14-hour day at N.S.R.P. headquarters.