

Rea

4 Dec 1963

NYTW

12/4/63

Ex-Governor of Florida Urges Southerners to Muffle Bigots

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3—Leroy Collins, former Governor of Florida, urged Southerners tonight to tell "the bloody-shirt wavers to climb down off the buckboards of bigotry."

Mr. Collins, president of the National Association of Broadcasters, said the South must become a full partner in a nation in which racial justice is recognized as "a national commitment and a national necessity."

He also said that non-Southerners should cease to reject leadership in the South automatically. Instead, he said, his leadership should be regarded "as a valuable resource in the role America must play in meeting the challenge of history."

His remarks were made in a speech prepared for delivery to the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce in Columbia, S. C., and released by the association's headquarters here.

Asks National Unity

Mr. Collins sounded the theme of national unity that has been heard frequently in the South since the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas. He said he had recast his remarks in light of that tragedy "because my conscience grew heavy with the long promise of history."

Mr. Collins said he did not like it when others spoke of Southerners "as if they are not human parts of the United States."

"But the prime reason they do this," he declared, "is that for too long we have permitted the South's own worst enemies to speak for it."

"We have allowed the extremists to speak for the South—the very ones whom we in the South have had to struggle in our towns and in our state capitals for much of the progress we have made."

"How long are the majority of Southerners going to allow themselves to be caricatured before the nation by these Claghorns?" he asked.

"How many Sunday school children have to be dynamited to death? How many Negro leaders have to be shot in the back? How many Governors

have to be shot in the chest? How many Presidents have to be assassinated?"

Mr. Collins said the establishment of racial justice in the South and the North was not easy, but was nevertheless a necessity.

He declared:

"The advancement of all rights of national citizenship, as we well know, will occur with the overt aid of the national Government if local citizens and local and state governments do not move effectively to accomplish this on their own."

People Are Misled

"Yet, too many politicians down our way have been hoodwinking the people on the civil rights issue. They have been trying to pretend, for their own personal and political advantage, that the changes which are coming over the hill really are not there."

"They talk defensively of 'states' rights' when they and we well know that there can be no such thing as a state's right to default on a national duty."

Mr. Collins said the principle "that all men are created equal" was not an empty cliché.

"It is a mighty idea that is the keystone of our nation's whole meaning and perpetual commitments," he asserted. "It is the basic idea which supports the dignity of man as an individual. It is an idea that can never be stopped—not by custom, not by prejudice, not by hate, not by murder, not by armies, not by any mortal force."

"It may be thwarted, it may be delayed, its triumph may be at great cost and sacrifice, but it will keep coming on and on, for it has the invincibility of simple truth, justice and right."

Mr. Collins continued:

"I say to you tonight that above all else it is the moral duty of our generation to plow under racial injustices everywhere in the United States, and to plant new opportunities for the generations which will come along after us and reside in this green part of our old planet."

S.F. Chron

8000 Visitors to Oswald's Grave ---Still Guarded

Fort Worth, Tex.

An estimated 8000 people have visited the grave of Lee Harvey Oswald on a hillside in Rose Hill cemetery but the number of visitors appears to be decreasing, cemetery officials reported yesterday. Some have left flowers.

Jack Ruby, a night club operator, killed the accused assassin of President Kennedy November 24, and the body was buried the next day in a pine coffin in a hastily dug grave.

Police still guard the grave, to prevent its desecration.

United Press