

# Kellum hits racial bias in Baha'i talk

BATAVIA, Ill. —“Achieving the unity of mankind is the most critical challenge facing America today,” declared David W. Kellum as he addressed an interracial group of citizens here last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Woods, 403 Walnut st.

The program marked the annual observance of Race Unity Day and was sponsored by the Local Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is of Batavia. Sharing the speaker's stand was Stig Karlberg of Sweden, now a resident of Rockford, Ill. ..

“The violence and destruction inflicted upon this nation as a result of its failure to remove the various forms of discrimination and unjust restriction against persons of minority and racial groups is an outward sign of a grave spiritual sickness.”

Continuing, Kellum said “Recent riots in Chattanooga, New York, Washington and other cities that have marred our social landscape, are a living testimony of the hopeless spirit of the black people who must live in the ghetto.

“Fights between black and white members of the armed

forces, black and white students, and the senseless murder of a black high school student in Drew, Miss. is an indication that man no longer follows the teaching of Moses who says in the Ten Commandments ‘Thou Shall Not Kill’ and Jesus who reminds us to love thy neighbor as thyself,” Kellum pointed out.

Baha u llah, spiritual leader of the Baha'i Faith, proclaims that all nations should become one in faith and all men as brothers; that the bonds of affection and unity between the sons

of men should be strengthened; that diversity of religion should cease and differences of race annulled. He further stated that we should close our eyes to racial differences and welcome all with the light of oneness.

The Baha'i Faith which began in 1844 in Iran, is the youngest of the world religions.

Kellum, a former city editor of the Chicago Defender and founder of the Defender's Bud Billiken Day parade and picnic, is a member of the Chicago Baha'i Community.