

DILEMMA IN THE SOUTH

Negroes, Liberals Go To Aid Of Threatened Press

By ENOC P. WATERS, JR.

Several advertisers in the Arkansas State Press remained, however, in spite of the threats, and one which explained it feared the consequences of a threatened boycott donated its space to charitable promotions, but paid full rates to the papers.

The struggle of the Press awakened many Negroes to the value of the publication. The city's seven Negro doctors began to buy space in the papers. Negro organizations throughout the country placed paid ads commending the Press for its job.

In the December 12, 1958 issue the following ad appears:

"The most great work to accomplish is this: — that ye must strive so that the believers in America may rise to union and concord . . . Abdu'l Baha The Baha'i World Faith."

OTHER ADS

Other ads in the same issue are signed Mrs. E. M. Bevilacqua, Allendale, N. J.; Les Dames Elite, Birmingham, Ala., and the Citizens of Dermott, Ark.

Altogether Bates estimates he has received more than \$3,000 through support ads. Organizations throughout the country are also soliciting subscriptions to help keep the paper alive.

"The future looks much brighter," Bates reported.

Little Rock's veteran attorney, Robert Booker, whose brother and law partner is William Booker, assistant state's attorney for Cook County, (Chicago) Ill., is engaged in a legal battle to save the NAACP in the state.

SUIT FILED

Representing 10 members of the Arkansas Christian Movement, Booker has filed suit challenging the constitutionality of acts 83 and 85 passed by the state legislature in 1957.

Act 83 set up the state spectacular in its staging against eighty commission which has been conducting a witch hunt in its quest for a scapegoat in the school fight.

A special legislative council committee after a recent farcial bearing came to the solema conclusion that the Central high school crisis was the outgrowth of a Communist plot hatched in 1928.

Daisey Bates, the NAACP, former Vice President Henry Wallace and a number of other organizations and individuals were

linked to the nefarious scheme which had as its purpose, according to the probers, the overthrow of one of the basic philosophies of the South — racial segregation.

Act 85, aimed directly at the

NAACP and other civil rights groups, provides that these organizations must register their membership with the commission.

335 CLERGYMEN

The Arkansas Christian Movement which is bringing the action is made up of 335 Negro ministers throughout the state. Its president is the Rev. Roland Smith, pastor of Little Rock's First Baptist church.

Associated with Booker are Atty. James Nebrit of Howard university; Thaddeus Williams and Harold B. Anderson of Little Rock and U. Simpson Tate of Dallas.

An insight into the type lawyers in Little Rock is the fact that the local bar association maintains a ban against Negro attorneys as members. It is the only professional organization with such a ban. The doctors, social workers and nurses have integrated organizations.

Booker, asked for his opinion why the attorneys are so backward in this regard, explained that most Lawyers have political aspirations and feel their chances might be impaired by advocating desegregation of their organization.