

League May Protest Labor Minister's Ruling

DRESDEN (Staff) — An executive meeting of the National Unity Association is planned for Chatham tonight to discuss possibilities of protesting the decision of Labor Minister Charles Daley on discrimination.

Mr. Daley declined Wednesday to prosecute two Dresden restaurant-keepers after a one-man commission heard evidence in September that the two men had violated terms of the Fair Accommodations Practices Act by refusing to serve Negroes.

PROSECUTE

Hugh Burnette, secretary of the National Unity Association emphasized yesterday that "those people are guilty and they admit they're guilty. We're certainly not going to back down now. Daley is going to have to prosecute and then start educating."

Mr. Burnette pointed out that "we shoulder all the responsibilities of a democracy; we only want to be treated equally with everyone else."

The chief question in the minds of Dresdenites is — will the restaurant-keepers obey the law, or face prosecution? Another question also crops up at every turn — do the majority of Dresden Negroes favor forcing prosecution, or is it a minority move?

OWNERS

The first question was answered yesterday by the two men concerned. Morley McKay, proprietor of Kay's restaurant said yesterday: "The day I start serving colored people, five girls and two men on my staff will walk out. I can't replace them with other good workers." Mr. McKay added that many of his white customers have said they would not patronize him if he served Negroes.

"But if I refuse, Mr. Daley jumps down my throat," Mr. McKay said. "Either way, they're choking me to death." He said that his relations with most of the colored population of Dresden had always been, and still were "very friendly."

The other restaurant owner, Matthew Emerson, said: "I'm beginning to wonder who's being discriminated against."

TROUBLE MAKERS

"I've a list of over 100 white people I won't serve because they're trouble-makers. But now, under the new law, if I refuse a colored man, he can go down to the police station and lay a complaint. Then I have to prove in court I didn't refuse him because he was colored. So then I say it was because he was a no-good bum — and he sues me for defamation of character."

the right to refuse to serve undesirables." Mr. Emerson added.

Both men denied having agreed Tuesday to abide by the terms of the act as a radio report stated. They said they had not been contacted by the Department of Labor or Mr. Daley had promised to visit Dresden to observe the situation, Mr. McKay said.

YOUNGER MEMBERS

Two of the younger members of the colored colony felt that Labor Minister Daley's idea of "education not prosecution" was a bit late. Clark Wallace and Charles Handsor, who work with white employees in a local printing shop, still go to Chatham for their entertainment and haircuts. "This thing has been going on for a hun-

dred years," Wallace said. "If you can teach them surely they'd be taught by now."

Both boys said that they had no strong urge to patronize either McKay's or Emerson's cafes; in fact, they would not use them if they could. However, not being able to go where they wished made them feel they belonged to a different — and lower-class.

CITIZEN

One prominent Negro citizen, referring to the discrimination issue, said: "I have probably sacrificed more than anyone else on this matter." He is Rev. George Simmons, pastor of Negro congregation at the Prince Albert Baptist church, about six miles from Dresden. Mr. Simmons was formerly pastor of the Queen street Baptist church in Dresden as well, but resigned recently.

"I would not be at the beck and call of the National Unity Association," Mr. Simmons said. "I did not approve of turning the discrimination problem into a forceful issue. You cannot grab a man who is doing wrong by the neck and say 'You must do right.'"

Agreeing with Mr. Simmons was Rev. Grant Mills, of Dresden United church. "From a Christian point of view, neither side is right," he said. "If I opened a restaurant here I would serve everybody, it's true. But Christian doctrine is clearly opposed to claiming rights by resources to the law."

NEWCOMER

A comparative newcomer to Dresden Vic Hodgson, editor and publisher of the weekly Dresden "Times", took a firm stand on the issue. "Most people feel that Morley McKay is not discriminating when he refuses to serve a colored person," he said. "There are age-old idiosyncracies in these people here that no law is going to change overnight. Dresden is a good place to live. I've found there's none better in Canada. I can remember a time not long ago when Martin Anderson and Paul Robeson couldn't get served in Toronto hotels, and I do feel that all the bad publicity is unwarranted."

SERVES EVERYONE

Mrs. Gordon Hodgson, who works in Martin's restaurant, which does accept Negro patrons stated no opinion. "We serve everybody," she said, "and we have never had any trouble with Negroes."

"But what the other restaurant keepers do is their own business. We don't interfere, and have no

Church Observes 68th Anniversary

Celebration of the 68th anniversary, marking founding of The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Chatham will be held this Sunday. The day will also mark 51st anniversary of the present church building.

Guest speaker for the morning service will be Evangelist J. Charles May of Independence, Missouri; home of the church's international headquarters. A minister of 45 years service, he spent 18 years in missions in the Society Islands, and his mother was a native of Prairie Stiding.

Three young men will be ordained to various orders of the Aaronic Priesthood at a Sunday evening service at seven o'clock. Guest minister will be Elder C. W. Badger of Wabash.

An anniversary turkey dinner will be held in connection with the events Monday night between five and eight o'clock. Proceeds will go toward the church building fund.

NO PRICE SET

SIMCOE, Ont. (CP)—The market appraisal committee adjourned Thursday without setting a price on fine-cured tobacco. Negotiation