

Struggle For Basic Rights Seen

Negroes must be willing to go on struggling for their basic rights, the National Unity Association was told last night. Otherwise the rights are not deserved.

Speaking to more than 125 persons at the association's seventh annual banquet in Chatham, James Turner, director of fair practices, United Rubber Workers, Akron, Ohio, said:

"Those basic rights were given to us by the government. When you don't have them you have a fight. That's the situation in the South now. The situation is tense; it's explosive."

"For over a hundred years the South never stirred until it was prodded," Mr. Turner said. "So to those who talk of gradualism I say unless you're willing to be slapped down and rise again then you don't deserve those rights."

"It's everyone's right to have these basic rights," he pointed out, "as long as they don't infringe on other's rights. But only by concerted effort will we get those rights."

FRANKENSTEIN

The whites are realizing for the first time this 'Frankenstein' they created is getting away from them," Mr. Turner said, adding that so-called citizens' councils being formed in the South are being taken over by groups, "who don't much care if they get violent," in attempting to slow the rise of the Negro.

He urged his Canadian audience to "try to do something about your problems before they get to the stage they are in the south."

Referring to what he called "the problem of the church," Mr. Turner said he thought the church could have taken a more active part but he thought there was guilt on "both sides."

"We must welcome the men in the church first," he said. "We will never achieve the brotherhood of man until we achieve the fatherhood of God."

REPORT

Mr. Turner's talk followed a report by secretary Hugh Burnette of Dresden who said, "I think we can say in the very near future there will be an educational program sponsored by the Ontario government. We should have it by next year at this time."

In his address Mr. Turner said, "Education is a wonderful thing, but without legislation it's useless. An educated person is a dissatisfied person. In the South they're trying to get the kind of freedom they've been taught they have. Our only hope is that we can get men of good will from both sides who will talk over their problems calmly."

There are several facets to the discrimination problem, he said. There is the social, the moral, and — "one overlooked too long" — the economic.

He quoted American analyst Elmer Roper as estimating the cost of discrimination at \$30 billion a year in the U.S. "Then it begins to dawn on us what this wasteful, silly, foolish 'luxury' is costing us in wasted manpower, in the potential scientist who turns out to be a skid row addict."

A study made of a half-mile skid row in Cleveland showed that area accounted for 21 per cent of the murders and 12 per cent of the tuberculosis of the city, he said.

"It was costing \$1,350,000 to maintain Cleveland's horrible half mile. Then they rehabilitated a four-block area and, inside of one year, the tuberculosis was cut 50 percent, fire runs were cut in half, major crime was reduced 47 percent, \$60,000 was saved."

SKID ROW

"I don't know whether you have a skid row," he said, "Even to a lesser degree. But you can see the need for cleaning it up because TB spills out, crime spills out into the decent areas of the town, and you and I have to bear the cost."

It is even more important to reclaim this wasted manpower now, Mr. Turner said, because "we're in a struggle of ideologies, a struggle where we dare not lose any manpower."

"Canada and the U.S. have been chosen by the democratic countries of the world to lead the fight. And there is a terrific battle waged for the minds of men."

"Of the two billion, 300 million people in the world, one billion are neutral. The way they swing will determine the future course of the world. And they're most of the colored people of the world. Unless we clean house at home,

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