



HELP ENTERTAIN — Among the prominent members of the Wolverine Bar Association that played host to the National Bar Association which met in convention here last week were George Crockett, recent

nominee for Recorder's Court, Louis Simmons, Wolverine president; S. Alleh Early, nominee for Recorder and Judge, and Circuit Court Judge Charles Farmer.

Martin Luther King Caught In "Black Power" Struggle

An Editorial

Responsible leadership in every large city of the nation has an important stake in the outcome of the "test case" brought about by Martin Luther King's demands on city officials of Chicago. Certainly the future course of the struggle for human rights will be influenced by it.

The current conflict over the violent use of "black power" as a weapon has split the civil rights movement sharply between those who would continue to seek progress through the orderly processes of the courts and the ballot boxes, and those openly advocating violence. The Nobel Prize-winning civil rights leader is caught squarely in the middle of that conflict.

It is an ironical fact of the shifting civil rights scene which permits SNCC and CORE, who pioneered in non-violent tactics, to be viewed now as the radical left of the movement, while that once nasty old NAACP is seen as the "conservative right." We are not convinced that such a drastic shift in organizational roles is called for at this time.

Nor are we convinced that the NAACP is as conservative as the Reverend King labeled it when he said recently that the NAACP could not not achieve the "militant thrust forward" which is demanded by widespread poverty and unrest among Negroes.

But, however, we label the differing civil rights organizations, there can be no denial of the split in their thinking about effective strategies. It is a split in the civil rights fence which must be mended sufficiently well to permit a constant reminder of militance as a pressure on bigoted white individuals and institutions, while preserving a necessary discipline and unity of purpose in the rights struggle.

Dr. King's current fence-mending strategy has been referred to as "militant non-violence." His threat to "fill up Chicago's jails if necessary" should have been sweet music to the "activists" for whom

being arrested is like receiving a red badge of courage. On the other hand, his insistence that it all be done without violence was intended to reassure moderates.

If Dr. King's strategy proved successful in winning major concessions for Chicago Negroes he would be in an excellent position to pull together the divided elements of Negro leadership. His non-violent approach again could become a common civil rights front, blanketing in all but the most extreme differences of opinion.

The trouble is that things don't seem to be working out that way. The conflicting philosophies of black power and non-violence have been dramatized by rioting in Chicago, Cleveland and elsewhere. If the rioting continues and gains concessions not heretofore achieved by non-violent methods. Dr. King and his vital leadership role are sure to be counted among the casualties.

Furthermore, all of the major civil rights organizations show a recent decline in financial support from the white community. It is understandable that CORE and SNCC would suffer in this respect since their new "do it alone" philosophy practically rejects the assistance of whites.

But the NAACP and Dr. King's own Southern Christian Leadership Conference also have been hit by a withdrawal of white financial assistance, due to the indignation and fear produced by the spectre of violent black power. The militant activists who pride themselves on being jailed without the help of white liberals would do well to remember whence comes the money used by SCLC and the NAACP to bail them out.

One way or another the civil rights struggle will be won on the side of human freedom and dignity. White America must face up to this simple but inevitable truth.

This presumably would include city officials like those in Chicago who refused to negotiate with non-violent Dr. King only to be forced into making concessions however limited—to rioters.