ALABAMA CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, INC.

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 1961

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

"THE MAN FOR BIRMINGHAM"

REV. F. L. SHUTTLESWORTH

Rev. Shuttlesworth is hailed by CBS Reporters as "The man most feared by Southern Racists, and the voice of the new militancy among Birmingham Negroes". Bombed twice, and beaten by mobsters, he is currently involved in 27 criminal and civil actions; seven of which came as a result of the Freedom Rides. He has been jailed about 8 times—four times during the Freedom Rides!

He has sentences totaling about 3½ years in time, and $5,000.00 fines. He is sued for $3,000,000 in the Times Suits, and with three other Negro Alabama Ministers has lost a car and property.

Mrs. Shuttlesworth, once stabbed in the hip during a mob, has developed a nervous stomach condition. The three older children were arrested in Gadsden and convicted on "Delinquency" charges in August-Sept., 1960, and are now under bond. His drivers license has been suspended for a whole year.

Rev. Shuttlesworth is determined to see the Birmingham struggle end in victory. Although he has accepted Pastorate of a Cincinnati Church, he will, at the unanimous request of the Movement continue to be its leader, commuting weekly, or as often as necessary to insure positive leadership.

At the requests of his other Civil Rights Compatriots, he will continue to be Secretary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, and a Board Member of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, New Orleans, La. So the South has not finished with Shuttlesworth, — nor has Shuttlesworth finished with the South.

"LET EVERY MAN REMEMBER THAT TO VIOLATE THE LAW IS TO TRAMPLE ON THE BLOOD OF HIS FATHER, AND TO TEAR THAT CHARTER OF HIS OWN CHILDREN'S LIBERTY". —ABRAHAM LINCOLN

OBJECT OF FREEDOM RIDES

By W. E. Shortridge,
ACMHR Treasurer

We, in Birmingham, more or less, inherited the Freedom Rides. The plans for the rides originated in Washington, D. C., as most of us are aware of by this time. CORE seems to have initiated the idea. Our participation was due to force of circumstances. We have been prone to cooperate with any force which has for its purpose the breaking down of Freedom Barriers. Consequently, everyone concerned looked to us for guidance, advice, assistance and cooperation. Knowing what we stand for and have pledged to do, we had to get into the act or the situations would have been much worse from a violent standpoint.

We realize that to change or make a decided improvement in laws and customs of a local nature which is in conflict with federal laws, it is necessary to demonstrate to the world what is actually happening in the South and especially in Birmingham. Therefore, we approved the Freedom Rides whole-heartedly. Federal laws have been flagrantly violatd to the distate of traveling citizens. To implement federal laws and let the world know what Negroes are subjected to, it seems it was necessary to go right into a demonstration of these inhuman atrocities by subjecting ourselves to inhuman treatments. We got it alright, and, as results, in thirty days all signs at Bus and Train stations designating "White and Colored" have been removed.

Had not such demonstrations been put on, those signs would have remained indefinitely.

SEGREGATION IS A SIN— A CANCER

Telling Negroes that they are not ready to integrate into the total American stream, is like saying it is wrong for a man to beat his wife, but she is not ready for him to stop.

I am willing to say this the world over, the problem is not in Education, Economic strength, nor Racial Conduct; it is based 98% on color.

Now, if Negroes were segregated and discriminated because they were not educated, then we could go to school. If Negroes were segregated and discriminated because of their economic strength, then perhaps each Negro would see to it that he had enough money. If it is racial conduct, then we would improve our conduct. But the sin is, that we are segregated and discriminated where we can't do anything about it. IT IS MOSTLY THE COLOR. This is a SIN against GOD and MAN.

SEGREGATION MUST DIE . . . IF AMERICA IS TO LIVE!