

Dr. King to Overflow Crowd: 'Segregation on Its Deathbed'

by PETER M. SLAVIN

"We have come a long, long way, but we have a long way to go" emphasized Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking on the racial problem Wednesday night. He was greeted by the overflow crowd in 105 Dartmouth with a standing ovation.

"The system of segregation is on its deathbed and the only thing doubtful about it is how costly and expensive its funeral will be," declared Dr. King.

As evidence, he pointed to the recent near-abolition of segregated

Dr. King attacked both the extreme optimists and the extreme pessimists in the field of race relations. They both agree that we should do nothing, he said, the former because they believe integration is inevitable, the latter because they believe it is impossible.

As to moderation, it is an advisable policy if it means the exercise of wisdom and restraint, went on Dr. King; but if it means slowing the drive for racial justice it is a "tragic vice."

Reverend King made it clear that racial progress demands the dissipation of two "myths." The "myth of time," he said, holds that the federal government can achieve nothing, that only time can solve the racial problem.

Dr. King insisted that "time is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively." The time, he commented, "is always ripe."

'Myth' of Education

The "myth of educational determinism" asserts that only education can solve the racial problem through its ability to change attitudes, explained the speaker. It is true that "morality cannot be legislated," he agreed, "but behavior can be regulated. The law cannot make a man love me, but it can keep him from lynching me."

Dr. King called upon President Kennedy to issue an executive order declaring all segregation unconstitutional on the basis of the Fourteenth Amendment. Such an order, he stated, would simply implement decisions already rendered by federal courts and the Supreme Court in such areas as school integration.

The act would be a "Second Emancipation Proclamation" he said. "Segregation is nothing but slavery covered up with niceties and complexities."

"Our victory shall be a double victory—we shall win our opponents in the process," he concluded.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

'We have a long, long, way to go'

—Photo by Andrew Newton

lunch counters and bus terminals in the South, an increase of 550,000 in registered Negro voters in the South since 1948, and at least token integration in the schools of fourteen Southern states.

At the same time, the Baptist minister reminded his audience that there are still close to five million unregistered Negro voters in the South and that forty-five percent of all Negro families earn less than \$2000 a year.