

# City Fathers Ask 'Sensible' Negroes To Halt Integration, Cleric Replies

BIRMINGHAM—(AP)—Pub-lic Safety Commissioner Eugene Connor recently made an appeal to "responsible Negro leaders" to block efforts of those seeking to make the city an improved and civically enlightened city for "both races."

In his appeal, Connor not only singled out the Rev. F. L. Shuttleworth as one who would "disrupt the community," but said the minister "is using desegregation . . . as a stepping stone to make himself, in the eyes of the North, another Martin Luther King."

Rev. Shuttleworth, pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, is also president of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was one of 16 ministers who on Oct. 19, filed a petition asking that local public recreation facilities be opened to all citizens. This action has led to his being called a "tool for the Communists."

Connor, in denouncing the minister and the latest desegregation move, asked local Negroes to "stand up and be heard" against desegregation. He added:

"The decent thoughtful Negro leadership . . . can do all of us . . . Negro and white, a great service if it will call for a halt in this continuing effort to disrupt. I appeal to 'responsible' Negroes to use common sense. This community could easily rebel at the recurring agitation of actions that carry the banner of Negro rights, but which in reality bring about tensions and ill will in our community."

**MINISTER TALKS BACK**  
Rev. Shuttleworth in rebuttal reminded the commissioner that the "good responsible" Negroes had time and time again tried to get the city fathers to at least lis-

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I	N	T	O	E	N	I	E	S	T	S			
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ten to their side of the story. He noted that less than a year ago 200 "responsible, brown" citizens signed a petition asking that the city's public parks be opened to both races; and the request was not only ignored but the city commission refused even to consider giving them a courteous reply.

"The commissioner seeks to place the blame on Negroes for his indented future actions as regards public facilities. The hard fact is, not one Negro today has the power to close the parks. . . . Negroes, having less, and having been conditioned by you to such conditions over the years, would suffer far less in such a situation. . . . Instead of reminding the citizens that the city government is not required by state or even federal law to provide such facilities, the commissioner should pray for moral courage and integrity to keep the park facilities open."

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—VERSUS—

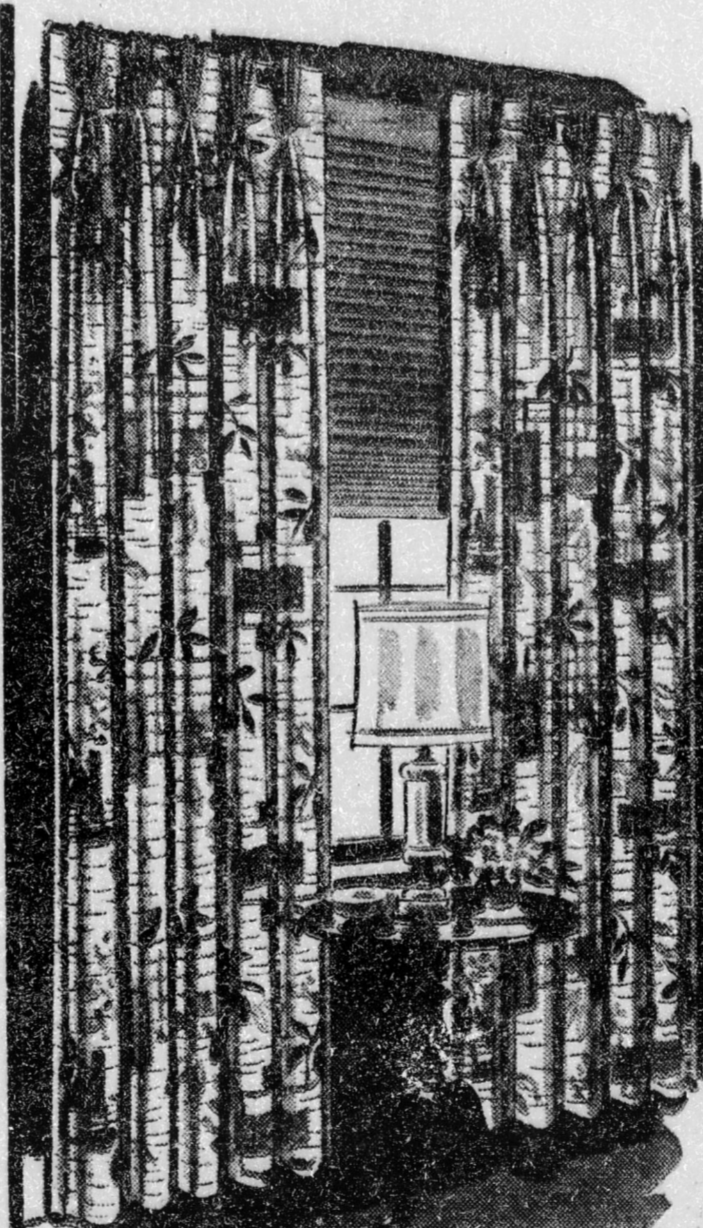
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