

# 'Absolute Conflict' Seen

► THE STRUGGLE for Negro rights may be taking on the character of an "absolute conflict," in which the outcome can only be total defeat or total victory." Translated, that means total oppression or total equality.

Dr. Lewis M. Killian of Florida State University told the American Sociological Association national convention meeting in Miami that his grim conclusion was based on two facts: the unrelenting demands of the Negro revolution and the seeming unwillingness of the white population to approve civil rights measures.

The Negro revolution is caught on the horns of a dilemma, Dr. Killian said, and he cannot see a solution. On one hand is evidence that when protest slackens, reform stops. On the other is the possibility, even probability, that continuing protest will bring the much-feared white backlash, producing a Federal Administration much less responsive to Negro demands than is the present regime.

The Negro revolution, like all revolutions, is relying on power to win its goals. But this was not always true, Dr. Killian said.

Before 1963, there was a "persistent faith," he said, that desegregation imposed through legal means would lead to integration, that contact would lead to friendliness.

The faith in change through legal means, however, was destroyed by white resistance. And "as Negroes blocked the counters, the doors and the sidewalks of southern business districts with their bodies, the reliance of the movement on power became evident."

Dr. Killian believes the Birmingham demonstrations in 1963 constituted a turning point. At that time, the Negro

message to the nation changed from a plea to a warning—"a warning that Negroes had the power to disrupt the operation of the whole social order and to embarrass the nation in the eyes of the world." The strategy worked, then.

The spontaneous riots that followed in Watts, Harlem, Rochester and Philadelphia were an outgrowth of the power strategy, but were never designed to be a part of it, Dr. Killian stated. The power protest had simply spread from leaders to the masses, and leaders could no longer control it.

Now the movement is speared on the horns of a dilemma. Though there are signs a way out is being sought through politics and the Negro vote, Dr. Killian thinks this may not work.

Negroes are in a minority, he said, and where the majority has voted on civil rights, it has shown its opposition. Rejection of the Fair Housing laws by California voters was a case in point.

Besides, the practice of politics as the art of the possible "does not seem to be congenial with the prevailing Negro mood."

"If a white liberal administration cannot meet the demands of the Negro revolution, where then does the movement turn," he asked.

## MEDICINE

### Consent Required For Drug Experiments

► A REQUIREMENT for physicians to obtain the written consent of patients for the use of investigational drugs has been spelled out in guidelines published in the Federal Register of Aug. 30.

Dr. James L. Goddard, Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, said information given by doctors must include the purpose of the drug, the duration and method of use, hazards expected, alternative therapy available, if any, and possible effects on the patient's health.

Consent provisions have been a matter of law since 1962 when the Kefauver-Harris Drug Amendments were passed. The guidelines explain exceptions that may not be "feasible" as being limited to cases in which the patient cannot communicate or is otherwise unable to give his informed consent, has no available representative and is in need of the drug without delay. Also included is the situation in the doctor's judgment in which the information would seriously affect the sick person's condition.

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