

King, who was arrested while in the coffee shop of the Jefferson Davis Hotel while attempting to have lunch together, was placed in jail after the conviction.

☆ ☆ ☆ Minister Chops Wood, Cuts Grass For City

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A young northern minister, given hard labor for his second segregated luncheon attempt, returned chopping wood and cutting grass today "morally strengthened" by his personal attack on the "idol of segregation."

The Rev. Ralph Edwin King, an ordained Methodist minister studying at the Boston University School of Theology, told United Press International in an exclusive interview Wednesday night he was dedicated to civil disobedience "when the law is evil."

Rubbing his sore hands and feeling his two-day growth of beard, King said "when laws are evil as these in Montgomery, one has the right—the moral obligation—to disobey them. We must take the situation in our own hands."

The 23-year-old Mississippi native denied he was trying to make a martyr of himself. "I can see why there is talk about my being a martyr, but I'm not enjoying it here. I'm tired. I'm not used to hard labor and I'm not trying to be a martyr."

King was sentenced to 10 days hard labor and given \$200 in fines in Recorder's Court Wednesday for leading Ebroy Embry, 33-

year-old Negro student, recently expelled from Alabama State College here for participating in protests against Southern segregation, into the all-white coffee shop of a downtown hotel. The two demanded to be served and refused to leave when ordered to do so by the hotel manager, C. A. Dione.

The two men were fined \$100 each on a charge of failing to obey an officer and given a \$100 fine and hard labor on a charge of trespassing.

The pair tried to integrate the dining room of the Hotel (Dinkler-owned) Jefferson Davis Tuesday, less than two hours after they were fined \$100 and \$48 costs in Montgomery County Circuit Court for participating in an integrated luncheon with a sociology professor, his wife and 10 students from McMurtry College at Jacksonville, Ill. March 31. Spacial circuit Judge Sam Baker found King and Embry, along with six other Negroes, including two ministers, guilty of "conduct calculated to make a breach of the peace"—the same verdict returned against them in Recorder's Court.

"The attempt to be served at the coffee shop was all my idea," King said as he rubbed his dirty hands on his blue and white nylon garb. He appeared to miss a black clergy attire. "I was a rest at the hotel and Embry as my guest. I didn't think there as anything illegal about our thing together. In fact, the manager told me if I would go to my room he would serve both of us there."

King admitted, however, he thought "something would happen" if he tried to integrate the all-white dining room. "But a restaurant serving a Negro and a white together would be something good here."

The Methodist minister said he would try to raise bond money. "I can get the money in Boston but the guards won't let me call. The people around here (city jail guards) are not too friendly. The guards have cursed me and they told the other prisoners I am a nigger-lover."

With solemnity, the Boston student said "I consider myself in approximately the same situation as early Christian martyrs who were put to death for refusing to put incense on the statue of the emperor. We refused to put a pinch of incense on the idol of segregation."

King paused for a minute, then added, "I'm getting along all right with the other prisoners and, call it irony if you will, Embry and I cut grass together Wednesday and we probably will again today."