

Chaos Seen In Mixing Of Races

[Lake enters governor's race.
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NEW YORK, March 1 (UPI)—If Southern restaurants were integrated, a former North Carolina assistant attorney general said today, "you would have chaos and confusion in eating establishments all over the Tar Heel state."

Dr. I. Beverly Lake, an outspoken segregationist who entered the North Carolina governor's race today, appeared on a panel discussion on a television show.

"I can't speak for any other part of the country," he added. "But I'm sure many of the very well-established restaurants and cafes would go out of business" if the racial barrier was crushed.

Lake said he doubted the U.S. Supreme Court would ever overturn a 1948 ruling that the 14th Amendment could not be applied to private citizens such as restaurant owners.

But another panelist disagreed. Marion A. Wright of Linville Falls, N.C., vice president of the Interracial Southern Regional Council, predicted the court would in the future hold that a business "which affects a substantial number of people . . . and operates by virtue of a state charter or license . . . is bound by the terms of the amendment."

The 14th Amendment requires that no state deny any person equal protection of the law.

Other members of the hour-long discussion were Mayor George B. Herndon of Fayetteville, N.C.; President Carl Bear of the Montgomery, Ala., Chamber of Commerce; Betty Johnson, 19, a Negro student at Virginia Union College; and Lacey Street-er, a 24-year-old junior at North Carolina College for Negroes and a leader in the Durham, N.C., sitdown demonstrations.

Lake noted that North Carolina had no law requiring restaurant segregation but added an eating place owner had the right to select his customers.

Exercising Right

Wright countered, saying "There are times when (even) if you have a clear, naked legal right, it is unwise or immoral to exercise it."

Herndon said there had been no trouble during two Fayetteville sitdown protests because "we had our police force to be on the alert and keep anybody from bothering the people—that were doing the sitdown striking and carrying the placards.

"There's where your trouble comes in," he added. "The white teen-agers mixing with the young Negro students."

Herndon said the Negroes had made more progress in the past 50 years than any race in the world . . . "And I think they are going toward integration. But it will take time."