

NAACP Head Says Ike's Idea Late

DURHAM, March 17 (AP)—Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, praised President Eisenhower's suggestion to set up bi-racial committees to solve racial issues in the South, here tonight, but said the suggestion came six years too late.

Here to address an NAACP membership drive rally, Wilkins said if Eisenhower's suggestion had come in 1954 with the Supreme Court's decision, "a great deal of what has happened since then might not have happened."

The top NAACP official said the bi-racial committees would have to be composed of "ones the colored people can trust," and added that they must be honest and not ultra-conservatives.

Wilkins held a press conference tonight just before addressing a membership rally at St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church on South Roxboro Street.

Turning to the boycotting of segregated lunch counter facilities by Negro students, Wilkins said withholding patronage is a move made "out of frustration and out of desperation."

"The South was proceeding on the assumption that Negroes didn't want integration and these protests prove this is wrong," Wilkins said.

Wilkins labeled the arrest of 400

Negro demonstrators at Orangeburg, S.C., "a shameful misuse of the public power" and called "unconscionable" the turning of "hoses and tear gas on kids."

"This has done more to create tension than any other single act in years," Wilkins said.

The NAACP official said colored people throughout the country were watching Congress "closely during the civil rights debate." To them it is no joking matter although Sen. Sam Ervin (D-N.C.) jokes about it all the time.