

Sitdown Protests In State Praised By Frank Graham

BY CONRAD PAYSOUR
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Dr. Frank Porter Graham, a United Nations mediator, said yesterday he is proud that the sitdown demonstrations against segregated lunch counters "had their origins in North Carolina."

Dr. Graham, former University of North Carolina president, made the statement in speaking at Bennett College's 87th commencement exercises.

While the college itself is not connected with the demonstrations, individual Bennett students have played an active part in the movement which began here and has since spread throughout the South.

In mentioning the demonstrations, Dr. Graham called it a movement "with the lawful petition that stores selling to the public should provide the same quality and quantity of service to all people."

Memorial Day Noted

Noting that yesterday was Memorial Day, Dr. Graham called on the graduating students to do their part to strengthen the principles on which this country was founded.

He also urged them to do their part towards making the United Nations a stronger body.

Dr. Graham said the collapse of the Summit Conference has "caused us to remember that the United Nations . . . is not to be by-passed by the great nations of the world."

As an aftermath of the summit break-up, the U.N. has once again become a world forum "where delegates shout at each other instead of millions of youths shooting at each other," he said.

Calls On Graduates

He called on the graduates to do their part in helping the U.N. toward accomplishing disarmament, a worldwide police force, new economic development and the establishment of jurisdiction over outer space and ocean beds beyond continental shores.

Dr. Graham, a former U. S. Senator from North Carolina, said he is proud of the progress the South has made.

He said he believed he was the first to dig up the fact that while only one-tenth of the Negroes of the world are in this country, there are more Negroes in college here than in the rest of the world combined.

He called states rights and political monopolies two great barriers toward complete human equality.

State Rights Abused

Dr. Graham said that while he himself believes states rights are a good thing as they were conceived in the early days of this country, they have now been abused.

"States rights have been used as excuses for slavery in the South, corporate privilege in the North . . . and in our days as massive resistance to the U.S. Supreme Court decisions which are now the law of the land," he said.

Dr. Graham said the second stumbling block to complete human equality has been political monopolies. He recalled there have been times in this country when people could not vote or hold office because they were Jews, Catholics, or Negroes.

After awarding degrees to 67 graduates, president of the college Dr. Willa B. Payer said, "I hope you have received a sense of personal adequacy."

She said she hoped too, that their study at Bennett would help them to "stand on their own two feet and be articulate about the world's problems."

Blanche Laura Adesina Tuboku-Metzgar of Freetown, Sierra Leone in West Africa was valedictorian of the class. Marie Solomon Moore of Winston-Salem was salutatorian.

Honors Announced

Other recipients of honors were:

Nancy Joanne Kirby of Haddonfield, N.J., John Hay Whitney Fellowship; Carolyn Lee Wright of Shelby, Belle Tobias Scholarship; Ann Dod Florance of Greensboro, Lula Donnell prize; Doris Ann Luck of Asheboro, Class of 1921 prize; Jo Ann Martin of Leaksville, Irma Graham prize; Carolyn Lee Cotten of Tarboro, Goode prize for home economics; Ida Theresa Kearney of Greensboro and Clifford Anne Claye of Houston, Tex., Omicron Eta Chi Awards; Nancy Joanne Kirby, David D. Jones leadership award; Jean Ferrell Hayes of Winston-Salem, faculty scholarship award and Gloria Eugenia Brown of Bronx, N.Y., Florence Turverey Reeves award.