

Negro Sit-In Attitude Gets Praise Here

The strongest point in the "approach" of the Negro students in the recent sit-in movement was their non-violent, dignified, peaceful, Christian conduct, declared McNeil Smith, Greensboro attorney, here today.

Smith, chairman of the N. C. Civil Rights Advisory Committee, used this conduct to illustrate his talk on "The Challenge of Change in Community Relations" this morning to the Town and Rural Ministers Institute, being held this week at A&T College.

Combined with such conduct, he went on to say, the "sharing of civil responsibility as well as civil rights" will provide the Negro leadership many of the positive examples that they need to destroy the "false, stereotyped image of all Negroes" held by many whites.

The counter "false image" in the mind of many Negroes that a white man "can't be trusted," said Smith, can and must be destroyed also. Then, "gaining civil rights will be accompanied by gaining human understanding" without which the rights have little value," he added.

He asked ministers to "encourage your race to go beyond what 'will just get by' and seek to accomplish and achieve in every endeavor. This achievement, coupled with humility and the desire to serve other members of the race, will help blot out the "false image." He urged Negroes to prepare for the change, to own their own homes and take care of their homes, to go after good jobs after adequately preparing for them, to develop along with accomplishment a graciousness and human feeling for others.

Preceding Smith on today's program was Dr. C. E. Bishop, director of the department of agricultural economics at N.C. State College, who spoke on "The Challenge of Change in Agriculture."

Dr. Bishop said that the use of science, development of new technology and the efficient business organization of agriculture has revolutionized it since 1939 and that the farmers were going to have to understand and move with the change.

The tragedy in agriculture today, according to Dr. Bishop, is that those who brought about the boom in the field, can't benefit from it. The farms have become so productive that they have outgrown the market leading to falling prices and an excess of labor.

When asked what the Negro ministers could do to help halt the migration from the farm, Dr. Bishop replied, "You can help them find the best opportunity whether it is here or in some other state. However, it is our duty to provide the best opportunities here in North Carolina.

The ministers adjourned to a general assembly for a panel discussion on "My Community and Its Progress," and study groups.