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—Photo by The Gazette and Daily

WHAT CAN YOUTH DO? Former York High basketball star Hal Brown, seated on the desk, poses the question at a meeting last night to bring together young people under 21 in the current civil rights movement in York. Brown is president of the San Diego, Calif., CORE chapter.

Color Bars Many Doors To Opportunity, Negro Youngsters Recount At Rally

"There are so many places in York I'd like to go but people won't allow it. And I want to go there before I get too old—that's why I demonstrated."

Negro youths recounted personal experiences of being discriminated against in local lunch counters, department stores and schools last night in a meeting at Crispus Attucks Community center.

They said those were the reasons they had participated in the non-violent demonstration before city hall Wednesday night.

About 75 youths—both Negro and white—attended the informal discussion, led by Harold (Hal) Brown, former All-State basketball star at William Penn Senior High school and now active in the Congress on Racial Equality in San Diego, Calif., and James Higgins. Another meeting was tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the center.

A Long Wait

A girl said she and some friends had gone to a local store to be served at the fountain. After waiting at the counter for several minutes without being served, they got up to leave. Then a woman behind the counter called to them to come back, but they continued on out the door.

Another girl had applied for the position of a sales clerk in a local store. She was refused that job but was told she could become employed as a maid.

Two boys said they were protesting mistreatment by the city police—one on behalf of his brother and the other for himself. The latter boy said he was called a slanderous name by a policeman from a police car as he was crossing George and Market streets. He had reported the incident to police headquarters, but nothing happened.

Discrimination in school were experienced by two girls. One said that when she was in the seventh grade she was caught chewing on her locker key one day by the teacher, who said "That's why colored people shouldn't have an education."

Another girl said that when she was in the ninth grade, a male teacher had fought with her girl friend—punching her down the hall and following her into the girl's room. When the incident was reported to the principal, the teacher said "a colored girl" was "picking" on him, the girl recounted.

"You young people . . . are the ones who will carry the ball in the struggle for civil rights," Brown told the group. "Ten years ago people your age were not even consulted about this problem. What do you think the youth of York should be doing?" he asked them.

Suggestions Heard

Some of the answers were:

—"Try to get people on the sidelines into the group."

—"Don't let it stop. We've gone out once and demonstrated— it shouldn't stop now." (About 25 of the youths indicated they had participated in the demonstration.)

—"By having more demonstrations more people will think about what we're demonstrating about."

—"Consult other Negro youths in the community—get them to respect themselves."

—Make people aware there is a problem. Show them we want things changed."

—Make the best of our education—now while we're in school or take extra courses if we're out."

Brown told them that in their movement for equal rights they are "trying to make people grow—not just breaking down barriers."

Adults in the audience suggested that they should have a youth freedom chorus or tutoring group, set up a research committee to find out why scholarships are not available to them and ask Crispus Attucks to carry on leadership training center.

Negro youths as well as adults should inform themselves about laws that protect equal opportunities, a woman said, and they should "try every door."

At the end of the hour, Higgins told the group, "We're together now. You have a group that will continue—you've been building up an agenda for action."

He suggested they help develop their goals politically by getting their parents registered to vote and to register themselves as soon as they were old enough.

"You now have a feeling of unity and solidarity," he told them—"and that is your strength and power."

Mrs. Lois Lambert Reeves led the group in singing several freedom songs. She had led the singing for Wednesday night's demonstration.