

SOUTH AFRICANS TAKE PART IN M.R.A. CONFERENCE

VISITED U.S.A.

TWO Eastern Province girls travelled with the cast of SING OUT 65 to Los Angeles and Watts — recent scene of riots and pillage. They are Audrey Rubidge (ex Union High pupil) and Hermin Hoedemaker (ex-P. J. Olivier pupil).

SING OUT 65 is a Musical composed by American youth at the Summer Mackinac Conference invited early last month to Washington by Leading Congressmen and Senators and now invited to Los Angeles by leaders of the County.

For the last weeks a pall of hate and foreboding has hung over the coloured district of Watts — where 37 people were killed and millions of dollars worth of damage was done during the riots. The cast was carried by City buses through the streets still rubble strewn and fireguttled! But at Jordan High School a solid mass of clapping, waving coloured youth packed the football bleachers, and led by school cheer-leaders enthusiastically joined in the hit songs — one of which goes something like this;

“Freedom isn't free, you got to pay the price
To keep your liberty you got to sacrifice.”

A Negro teacher who had been listening enthralled exclaimed “Those faces, that spirit! Man I've never seen anything like it. That comes from something inside. That's what the country needs.” Another said “This gives you hope for tomorrow.”

VICTIM

Supervisor Warren Dorn with Supervisor Hahn (victim of splinters from a Molotoff cocktail thrown in his car during the riots) led the Moral Re-Armament force to Watts and introduced them to the schools. Said he “We have been present at the most moving and impressive occasion any of us can remember. It took great courage for the cast to come here today. There is no doubt in our minds that SING OUT 65 is the greatest weapon for good ever put into the hands of the American people and that the force it represents ought to become the foreign policy of the United States.”

Earlier the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles had met to welcome, to hear and to plan with the cast of youth led by the Colwell Brothers — known to many in the Eastern Province. Board Chair-

man Chase said “We have been injected with something this morning, I have never seen such enthusiasm and talent. We are proud to make the Hollywood Bowl available free of charge. We of an older generation have not been able to find the key of human brotherhood. I believe you have found it.”

PLAQUE

Later the Board of Supervisors passed a motion urging the use of school buses for transporting students to the show in Hollywood Bowl, issued instructions that the 49,000 County employees be notified about the Show, and ordered that a plaque be placed at the Bowl honouring the late Dr. Frank Buchman who from that platform (on July 19 1939) launched Moral Re-Armament in America.

One public official voiced what many felt “I don't know what happened to me when I heard those kids this morning, but I knew I had to do something big for my country.”