

P.D. 3/9/65

## 3 St. Louis Religious Leaders Urge Johnson to Act in Selma

A telegram signed by three St. Louis religious leaders was sent to President Lyndon B. Johnson today urging him "to act at once in behalf of justice" in Selma, Ala.

The telegram was signed by Episcopal Bishop George Leslie Cadigan, president of the Metropolitan Church Federation of Greater St. Louis; Rabbi Julius J. Nodel, president of the St. Louis Rabbinical Association, and Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter of the Catholic Archdiocese.

The telegram said:

"There are times when we know we speak for our people. Such a time is now. Our religious communities—the Roman Catholic parishes, the Protestant churches, the Jewish synagogues, unite with us to urge you to act at once in behalf of justice in Selma.

"We urge you to use the resources of the Government to insure the rights of the minority in Selma. The appalling brutality and disregard to human rights in Selma make your intervention imperative. We trust you will act now."

Eleven professors at the St. Louis University School of Law yesterday sent telegrams to President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

and Gov. George C. Wallace protesting against the actions of Alabama state police Sunday as a "blatant denial of fundamental human rights guaranteed by our constitution."

"That the exercise of freedom of expression may arouse emotions and prejudices, even deep anger, is no ground for its denial," the 400-word telegrams said.

In the message to President Johnson, the professors urged a quick statement outlining the President's position on the issue.

The 11 professors who sent the messages are Donald B. King, John E. Dunsford, Leo Kanowitz, Richard J. Childress, Howard S. Levie, Richard W. Power, J. Norman McDonough, Sanford E. Sarasohn, Eileen H. Searls, Oval Phipps and the Rev. Joseph A. McCallin S.J.

### Students Picket

Yesterday evening about 25 persons, most of them students, picketed for an hour in front of the New Federal Building, 1520 Market street, in protest against the actions of the Alabama law officials.

Signs carried by the pickets charged "legalized violence" and "police brutality" and said that "Selma freedom is our freedom."