

STATEMENT BY REV. V. POWELL WOODWARD
FOR FIFTEEN EPISCOPAL MINISTERS

We now continue on our way to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Detroit. Two of our members will remain in jail for a time.

We intend to appeal to the United States Supreme Court, if necessary, to obtain justice. We believe that our counsel showed conclusively that there is no evidence to support our conviction by the City of Jackson on a breach-of-peace charge. We hope that Governor Barnett will take this time, proclaimed to be "Constitution Week" by President Kennedy, to consider how his authorities have repeatedly ignored the Constitutional rights of peaceable racially-mixed groups such as ours.

We do not believe that Judge James Spencer is competent to find us guilty of violating Episcopal Church law. His venture into canon law obscured the criminal issue and endangered our American heritage of separating Church and State. We hope that he has now noted Thursday's statement by our Presiding Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Arthur Lichtenberger. The bishop praised our action as "an attempt to bear witness...to the whole country what the position of the Episcopal Church is."

PRAYER FOR COURTS OF JUSTICE

"Almighty God, who sittest in the throne judging right; we humbly beseech Thee to bless the courts of justice and the magistrates in all this land; and give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of Thee alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, Thy Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ." Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, pp. 35-36.

9:18:61