

White Moderates Must Speak Out, Says King

CHARLOTTESVILLE Va. —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Atlanta pastor and head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, urged moderate white southerners to "speak out" at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Dr. King's address, sponsored by the Virginia Council On Human Relations, marked the initial appearance of a major civil rights figure at Thomas Jefferson's school.

DR. KING told his listeners to "speak out" at the white South fail to act now, history will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people but

the appalling silence of the good people."

The integration leader asserted that the South's "native sons" can best lead the region "out of the social and economic quagmire." The voices of the white moderates are stilled because they fear "social, political and economic reprisals," he said.

IF THE white moderates face the challenge of this new day, they will permit great statesmen from the South to return to national leadership, Dr. King said. He added, "It's regrettable that severe sectionalism has made it impossible for a resident southerner to serve as

President since the Civil War."

He pointed out that of the first 12 Presidents of the United States, nine were southerners, seven of whom were Virginians.
