

Hopewell, Lynchburgh, Prince Edward

Rev. King Heads 'Crusade' In Virginia's 4th District

RICHMOND — The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and four members of the headquarters staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which he heads, this week are touring Virginia's sprawling Fourth Congressional District in support of a voter registration drive and to lend active support to a general campaign for civil rights.

The Fourth District embraces such segregation trouble-spots as Hopewell and Lynchburg, as well as Prince Edward county — only county in America where public schools are padlocked to avoid the Supreme Court's desegregation orders.

DR. KING arrived Tuesday for a three-day crusade for voting and human rights, visiting several localities—including a special address at Lynchburg. On Thursday and Friday Dr. King led a delegation of ministers and laymen to Hopewell where the contempt trial of the Rev. Curtis W. Harris was scheduled to be heard.

Dr. King joined with Dr.

Milton A. Reid, head of the Virginia SCLC affiliate, in calling on Virginia ministers and laymen to journey to Hopewell for the trial on Mar. 29 and 30.

THE CONTEMPT action against Rev. Mr. Harris arose out of his refusal to give names and other information about activities to secure integration to the Virginia Legislative Committee to the Committee on Offenses against the Administration of Justice in September of last year.

At the preliminary hearing of this contempt action against Rev. Mr. Harris on Jan. 19 in the Circuit Court of Hopewell, more than 100 ministers and laymen rallied in support of the protest leader. For the trial this week the townspeople have opened their homes to accommodate overnight those who are expected to come from great distances.

Dr. King, in endorsing the protest pilgrimage commented: "The strongest resource that is possessed by those of us desiring to see an America free

of racism, is our strength in numbers.

"WHENEVER a fighter for freedom, such as Rev. Mr. Harris, is under attack, every available person ought to witness with his person two fundamental concepts: His opposition to the persecution of those who believe segregation is an intolerable evil, and his unqualified support of those whose lives are a living embodiment of the necessity of striving toward freedom."