

MORE EFFRONTERY

Another conference among "civil rights" spokesmen and representatives of Chicago business, politics, and religion has come and gone. It was as unproductive as most of these parleys are and was distinguished [if that is the word] by the effrontery of the "rights" leaders in voicing their demands and stating their price for civic peace.

Mayor Daley had hoped for a pledge that the marches which daily tax the resources of the police and keep feelings at a boil would be terminated. The Rev. Martin Luther King said in his lordly way that there would be no soap on that subject.

King also laid down a condition that the Chicago Real Estate board drop its suit before the Illinois Supreme court challenging the constitutionality of the city "open occupancy" ordinance. He further demanded that the board urge real estate dealers to comply with Gov. Kerner's recent executive order forbidding real estate dealers from discriminating racially in transactions. Still another demand was that suburban real estate boards accept Kerner's order, which has been enjoined in the courts of Sangamon county.

First, real estate men have just as much right to have access to the courts and the law as have King and his backers, who have contributed a large budget of cases to the courts in many states. If there is a legal or constitutional shadow over any law, ordinance, or executive order, citizens have a clear right to seek a legal ruling. Real estate men are just as fully citizens as is King.

The president of the real estate board tried to bring King down to earth by saying that decisions in disposing or renting property were up to the owners involved, and that real estate men could not shove down their throats something which they regarded as distasteful.

Rights in this city and country are not wholly one-sided, even tho it may sometimes seem so. If King and his marchers have a right to take to the streets in provocative demonstrations, other citizens have the right to resort to the law and the courts, and they also have the power of decision over their own concerns. Brotherhood and peace cannot be contrived by ukase, and it is about time that that elementary notion penetrated a few heads.