National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice

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Date 3/25/65
To Matt
From Tom

Subject Response to Archbishop Toolen

SCLC cannot find copy of Dearden's telegram to King. I will try to obtain a copy through Father Sheehan.

Father Doyle has just prepared a statement on behalf of the clergy of St. Louis, signed by himself, to be given to the press at such time as they ask for a reply to Toolen. He says that the Cardinal will not make any personal reply or statement as he does not want to engage in any inter-episcopal warfare. After reading Toolen's statement, Ritter said that his priests and nuns were mature enough to make their own decisions on involvement in Selma, and he admired them for going.

Date March 29, 1965

To Matt From Jack

Subject Cardinal Sheehan and Archbishop Toolen statements at the Investiture of

the pallium, March 23, in New Orleans

I relayed to Bob Olmstead the gist of Cardinal Sheehan's statement that direct action

was the right and privilege of the younger clergy and quite in keeping with the call of the Vatican Council for religious to become involved in the

affairs of the world.

We also noted, as was reported in the States-Item that the reception for Cody and the dignitaries was picketed by 10 Xavier students demanding that the church become more active in civil rights.

You can expect to see a Reporter article on this in the coming week, I believe.