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The past few months have been full of turmoil over civil rights in some sections of the South but significant progress in that field was being made quietly and peacefully elsewhere.

In a few Southern counties, Negroes are now, for the first time, registering to vote. In two Southern cities, airport restaurants and waiting rooms have been desegregated; other airports in other cities will soon follow. In school systems in a half dozen states, desegregation plans for the fall are moving ahead quietly.

Taken one by one, the events of the last few months seem to be small and unimportant. But when they are lined up

together, the trend they outline becomes clear.

Here is a brief summary of what officials in Washington and leaders in the South say are some of the major peaceful events of recent months:

Airports — Less than a month ago, the Justice Department attacked segregation in airport terminals for the first time. In a suit filed in New Orleans, it claimed that segregation in Moisant International Terminal there not only is unconstitutional but that it violates an agreement the city entered into with the Federal Government when the airport was built.

Just a few days after that

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Progress Seen in Rights Fight

suit was filed, airport officials in Columbus Ga., agreed to drop segregation barriers in their terminal. They had been told that they, too, would be sued if they persisted in practicing segregation.

These actions followed a court order issued last February which opened facilities in the Greenville, S. C., airport to Negroes.

Negotiations are now under way with other airport authorities. Although officials here have not yet authorized the filing of additional court suits, it is clear that their intention is to end segregation practices in all airports.

Schools—In cities from Virginia to Texas, new school districts will be desegregated this fall. Of all these, perhaps the schools in Atlanta, Ga., are of the most significance.

Atlanta officials have laid their plans carefully. School Superintendent John Letson has talked to meetings of white and Negro students to explain what is being done and why. Mayor William B. Hartsfield has issued warnings that the police will not tolerate violence. Local civic groups and the local newspapers have urged citizens to accept desegregation peacefully.

The efforts of Atlanta to avoid trouble have been more carefully worked out than any other Southern city. Yet, officials there and in Washington are still apprehensive about what will happen when the 11th and 12th grades are desegregated in September.

Dallas, Memphis Plan

In Dallas, Texas, and Memphis, Tenn., the groundwork for beginning desegregation has been laid. Dallas' school board is under court orders to desegregate this fall. The Memphis board has said it will open some white schools if Negro students apply.

In New Orleans, La., where desegregation at 2 schools last fall exploded in violence, plans are under way to register Negro children in other schools. In Knoxville, Tenn., where schools have been desegregating on a grade-a-year plan, the board has expanded the plan so that Negroes may enroll in vocational and technical training classes in white high schools.

In Virginia, Negroes have been placed in several school systems. And in Texas, at least two rural counties are planning to begin desegregation in September.

Voting—This summer, for the first time, the effect of the Civil Rights Act of 1957

is being felt in some Southern counties.

In Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Tennessee, Negroes who have been stopped from voting in the past are being registered to vote in the future. Not many Negroes have been added to the voting rolls yet. But if the present rate of registration continues or is stepped up, there will be congressional districts by 1962 with two or three thousand Negro voters—a figure which could be significant to the candidates.

Under the Eisenhower Administration, practices designed to keep Negroes from voting were attacked in eight counties in four states. Since Jan. 20, the Kennedy Administration has brought court cases in four more counties and moved into Mississippi for the first time.

So far, progress has been slow. But now most of the legal problems connected with the 1957 Act have been worked out and the Justice Department can be expected to move soon into many more counties.

Macon Enjoined

In Macon County, Ala., home of Tuskegee and its well-known Negro college, officials are under a sweeping injunction to stop discriminating. A Federal Court ordered early this spring that 68 Negroes be registered immediately. Apparently, these are now on the rolls and reports from Tuskegee are that other Negroes are slowly being registered.

In Tuskegee itself, the Federal courts struck down a gerrymandering bill passed by the Alabama legislature to keep Negroes outside of the city limits. Reports from the South are that enough Negroes may be registered by the next election to give them a majority inside the city limits.

In two other Alabama counties, voting discrimination suits have been filed. Studies of voting records either have been made or are under way in another half dozen counties.

In Terrell County, Ga., where the Justice Department filed its first voting case, a Federal Court issued an order last fall banning discrimination against Negroes who attempt to register. Since then, several dozen Negroes have been registered.

In Washington Parish, La., a court order last year put 1377 Negroes back on the voting register. They had been

purged earlier in an effort by a White Citizens' Council.

A similar suit has now been filed in Oauchita Parish, La., where more than 2700 Negroes were purged. Voting cases are also pending in Bienville and East Carroll Parishes.

Clear Victory

It was in East Carroll that the Justice Department won a clear victory over intimidation of a voter. It charged a group of businessmen with refusing to sell supplies to and to process, the cotton of Negro farmer Joe Atlas because he had told of discrimination before a Civil Rights Commission hearing.

A month after the suit was filed, the merchants signed a consent order agreeing to see that Atlas is treated fairly. Latest reports are that he is getting supplies and getting his cotton ginned without trouble.

In Haywood and Fayette counties, Tenn., where dozens of Negroes moved into a tent city last winter, many have been able to move back to their farms. Their landlords had originally refused to renew their leases because they had tried to register to vote. Two law suits and national publicity have apparently broken the back of that effort.