

# Rev. Lewis Aids Rights Efforts

The Rev. Sammy Lewis, of St. Paul Baptist Church, 4649 S. Prairie Ave., outstanding gospel singer and recording artist, for religious music, angrily denounced rumors that he is not outspoken enough on civil rights.

Rev. Lewis, who was also acclaimed the leading male gospel singer of the world some time ago, said, "I am one hundred per cent for the battle for civil rights for Negroes and have been working diligently to help them obtain better education, job opportunities, decent and adequate housing and equal accommodations in all phases of American life. I defy those who even hint that I haven't aided this great movement."

Rev. Lewis pointed out that he has been working actively with the civil rights movement since 1952, along with the NAACP and other civic groups. He said he has offered his service to the Rev. Carl Fuqua, executive secretary of Chicago Branch NAACP numerous times, but has not received any answer.

He said, "I am not a publicity seeker and I do not run over people to get my picture taken for notice in the rights movement like many others. Because of this, I am criticized. But despite this, I have been preaching the word and singing at any event where my services have been accepted."

The preaching gospel singer said he took part in the July 4th demonstration; the Oct. 22 Freedom boycott activity, Tuesday's action and was among those who questioned Superintendent Benjamin C. Willis on inferior education during a session at the Baptist Ministers Conference of Chicago and Vicinity.

He said, "My record is clear and firm on this matter and I say again, I defy those who say I am not sincere and willing to serve where I am needed."