

# St. Augustine Fountain of Dissent

## Part 1

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### **SYNOPSIS:**

This is the first of two reports on the racial trouble in St. Augustine, Florida: the Nation's Oldest City. Includes a tour of historical sites in St. Augustine. The Blacks in the City Demonstrated against the City's Segregation Policy (the most stringent in the State) with protests and sit-ins. Judge Charles Mathis refused to release protesting Black Youths on bail, resulting in the youths being deemed delinquent and then sent to Detention. By the end of 1963, St. Augustine was becoming Florida's Birmingham. Mrs. Malcolm Peabody (mother of incumbent Governor of Massachusetts) spoke for integration and was arrested for sitting down at a local restaurant asking to be served with some Negro Friends. Dr. Robert Hayling, civil rights activist who brought Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference to St. Augustine and was instrumental in organizing student protests, was beaten and then charged with assault on the Klansmen who beat him up. Student Joanne Anderson comments on the protest that she as a student participated in for integration and equal opportunity. The older Blacks in the city don't want to alienate the Whites they live with, but they do welcome change. Paul Davis who drives tourists in a horse carriage around the city, comments on what he thinks about the protests and possible change in the city. Continuing demonstrations and unrest could jeopardize the City's tourism. AA. H Tebault, publisher of the St. Augustine RECORD Newspaper, accused of slanting news stories against Integrationists. Miami lawyer Tobias Simon, Chief Counsel for Florida Civil Liberties Union, offers solution to the Racial Problem by suggesting the forming of a Bi-Racial Committee with official status, though he has met with resistance from St. Johns County.

**WCKT Kinescope Special, May 9, 1964 Run Time 00:25:20**

**Note:** *50 years later, the City of St. Augustine has yet to form a Bi-Racial Committee to address the concerns of its Black Citizens. As of October 2014, there are still no Blacks on the City or County Commission, or in any significant positions in the County Fire Department, County Sheriff's Department, City Police Department, nor any Black St. Johns County School District Board Members. A Prominent Civil Rights Activist stated recently that, "It is a Sin and a Shame".*