Deacon's president offers talk:  
Civil Rights group explains cause

By Richard Sims
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Mr. Sims was quick to define the objectives of the Deacons, an organization that is often denounced as a "black Klu Klux Klan." He emphasized that the purpose of the Deacons is to teach citizens to defend themselves. Although the Deacons' charter also provides for teaching the responsi-

bilities of citizenship, the value of the ballot, and proper use of

spending power and leadership, he explained, Southerners often respect nothing short of the gun. The Deacons, nevertheless, have to teach defense by brute force.

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Sims says he and the Deacons have no use for tear tactics or night riders, black or white. "If I do not like to talk about using a gun, we are not teaching potential killers; the Deacons are only trying to teach people to defend themselves. Sri has never been a leader for the Klan even though he claims to be the target of many assassination attempts and to have been shot several times.

The Deacons, nevertheless, are well armed and close knit. They worked hard in the recent march from Mississippi to Kansas City to receive the award. They are an in-

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