Talk by Gov. Clement in Virginia Canceled

By Associated Press

ALTAVISTA, Va., Aug. 3—An invitation to Gov. Frank Clement of Tennessee to speak at a religious service here Aug. 18 has been rescinded "in the interest of harmony and public safety."

The decision to cancel the invitation was made last night after a segregationist protest against Clement's appearance because he called out the National Guard to quell disturbances when Clinton High School was integrated last year.

R. B. Carpenter, who had issued the invitation, said there had been no direct threats of violence but "there had been suggestions of threats of demonstrations."

"In Interest of Harmony"

Carpenter, as special events chairman of the Altavista Golden Jubilee scheduled for Aug. 17-24, had invited Clement as a lay speaker for the Aug. 18 Sunday religious observance.

The executive committee of the Altavista Golden Jubilee Association canceled the invitation at a special meeting last night. It said the action was taken because "the possible consequences should Clement appear and "in the interest of harmony and public safety in Campbell County."

Altavista, with a population of about 4000, is 23 miles south of Lynchburg in an area of high Negro population.

The first hint of possible trouble came yesterday when L. Randolph Thompson, treasurer of a manufacturing firm here, said he and a number of other residents were opposed to the Tennessee Chief Executive's presence at the town's 50th birthday anniversary.

Thompson said pressure was being exerted on town and jubilee officials to have the invitation canceled "because we are opposed to his efforts to enforce integration, which we feel is bad for both races."

"Definitely a Minority"

Carpenter spoke to one of Clement's aides by telephone yesterday and reported he was told Clement would be willing to accept the committee's decision.

He said that it was "definitely a minority" which was protesting Clement's appearance but that "some are very important people."

Clement is on a Cuban hunting trip.

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