

Negro Leader Backs Down On Statement

WINSTON-SALEM, July 17 (AP) — A field executive for the North Carolina branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People backed down today on a newspaper statement in which he was quoted as saying that the Winston-Salem NAACP branch had received more than \$6,000 to finance local sitdown demonstrations.

Charles McLean took "full responsibility" for the press statement at a meeting of more than 100 local NAACP members at Golfer Metropolitan AME Zion Church.

The membership meeting was a stormy one, marked by a heated verbal battle between the Rev. Elias S. Hardge, president of the local branch, and Carl Matthews, leader of the protest movement.

McLean, who in a statement July 10 apparently rekindled a feud between Negro youth and NAACP leadership, made these remarks today:

"I take full responsibility for the statement to the press. I spoke for the state NAACP, not the local branch. The estimated \$6,000 referred to was an estimate, not a fact.

"Neither the state NAACP or the national office has sent one penny to Winston-Salem. They will not send any money to this city for the protest movement unless a legal case is involved. This money will go to lawyers, not to protesters or the branch."