

This project investigates the role of state officials in hostilities in St. Augustine, Florida surrounding desegregation in 1964. Local blacks, assisted by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, protested throughout 1964 for the integration of private businesses. Local whites, including local officials and the Ku Klux Klan, actively worked to maintain segregation. The ensuing racial crisis reached its peak in the summer of 1964. Florida state officials played significant roles in the St. Augustine racial crisis. Local officials worked against integration and federal officials would not intervene, leaving state officials to offer solutions. Florida Governor Farris Bryant and State Attorney Dan Warren played large decision-making roles in crisis. This project looks at the role these men and others played in seeking solutions to the crisis. It also analyzes their motivations and highlights the disparity in the treatment of peaceful civil rights protestors and white segregationist counterdemonstrators.

