

\$2 Wage Floor Law Is Urged by Parrish

RICHARD PARRISH, only Negro running for Councilman-at-large in Manhattan in the special election Nov. 5, called for a \$2 an hour minimum wage, in a partial program announced last week.

- A Public Works Program to put New York back to work.
- Increased aid to public schools.
- Job opportunities for minority groups.
- Strict enforcement of building and rent control.

Parrish, who is a vice-president of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, and treasurer of the Negro American Labor Council, is a candidate of the Socialist Party. However, a broad Citizens Committee has been formed, headed by Norman Thomas and A Philip Randolph. Two offices have been set up: 312 W. 125 St. and 1182 Broadway Room 402.

In another development, Paul O'Wyer, Democratic candidate

for councilman-at-large in Manhattan, criticized Robert Moses for refusing to reduce admission prices to the World's Fair for children. The Board of Education had asked for a special price of 25 cents a pupil in class groups as part of an extensive program to teach children on the basis of studying many of the exhibits. The regular price of \$2 for all over 12 and \$1 for children under 12, would greatly cut down the number of school kids who would be able to afford to visit the World's Fair. The high admission price will particularly hit hard at Negro and Puerto Rican school children.

O'Dwyer, who was originally designated for the Councilman-at-large for Manhattan at a convention of Reform Democratic clubs, stated that "it can hardly be argued that the financial success or failure of this huge undertaking can depend on charging children over 12, \$2 or tots \$1 each."

He urged that the "request of the Board of Education should be put on the agenda of the board of directors of the fair."

Senate Told of 4 Youths Who Face Death in Georgia

WASHINGTON — Don Harris, 22-year old civil rights worker, faces the death penalty in Americus, Ga., because he made "the mistake of believing that people have a right to vote in Americus." Senator Harrison Williams (D-N. J.) told the Senate last week.

Senator Williams described the situation in Americus as one of "fear and hatred, of mass arrests, police brutality, incredible legal proceedings, and intimidation."

Harris is one of four facing the death penalty. The others are Ralph Allen, John Perdue, like Harris, representatives of the Southern Non-violent Coordinating Committee, and Zev Alton, of the Congress of Racial Equality. All were arrested after anti-segregation demonstrations in Americus.

Williams said he had urged the Department of Justice to "explore every possibility for lending assistance in this case," but he was given a brushoff, being informed that "the powers of the Justice Department are exceedingly limited under present law in situations of this kind."

Williams told the Senate of the demonstration on Aug. 8 when Harris was arrested, and other demonstrations of Negro young people in July and August, as a result of which some 200 young people have been arrested in Americus, and he gave a graphic description of the brutal jail conditions there.

Williams pointed out that of the 5,000 persons who are registered to vote in Sumner County, in which Americus is located,

Congressmen Ask Investigation

WASHINGTON — Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.) has asked Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and the Civil Rights Commission to investigate the case of the four youths in Americus, Ga. who are charged with attempting to "incite insurrection," for which the penalty in Georgia is death.

The SNCC said that similar requests have been made by three members of Congress from Colorado, Senators Peter Domenick and Gordon Allot, and by two members of Congress from N. Y. State, Sen. Jacob Javits and Rep. William Pflits Ryan.

only 483 were Negroes, although "Negroes represent about 50 percent of the population."

Following the Aug. 8 demonstration, Harris was "charged with an attempt to incite insurrection," for which he faces a possible death penalty," Williams added.

He recalled that "this is a charge which, according to the Georgia law books, has been used only once before, in a case involving an Atlanta Communist during the 1930's."

This was the case of Angelo Herndon, a young Negro, who led a demonstration of unemployed to the welfare office in Atlanta. He was defended by Benjamin Davis, then an attorney, and now a national spokesman for the Communist Party.

"Ever since this case was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in a manner that, to say the least, casts a serious cloud on the constitutionality of the statute," Williams said.

"And yet the authorities of Americus had no compunction in applying this grave but unused and perhaps unconstitutional charge against this young man (Harris) for merely engaging in a peaceful civil rights demonstration."

Harris has been denied bail. "Under the insurrection charge," Williams said, "no bail need be set under Georgia law."

In addition, Harris has been put under "eight peace bonds," to total \$140,000, Williams said.

Under Georgia law, a judicial officer may issue what is called a peace bond against any person who repeatedly threatens life and property.

Although application for bail for Harris was made more than two weeks ago, and the local circuit court had promised a decision by Sept. 20, no action has been taken yet.

If Harris is indicted by a grand

jury in November, Williams said, "he can expect to remain in jail for some six months awaiting his trial, which is expected some time in January."

He is allowed no visitors, except his lawyers, and is not allowed to meet any members of the press, Williams added.

The Harris case, he added, "deserves national attention. The gravity of the charges in this case point to what seems to be a growing trend in the South—the leveling of charges that carry a penalty of death or long imprisonment and thus steep bail as a way of cutting the heart of the civil rights movement. The Americus incident is by no means an isolated one."

Williams warned that Harris cannot be "even completely sure of his safety pending his trial," and expressed doubt that he would have a fair trial.

BRUTALITY

Williams condemned the brutal conditions in which the hundreds of jailed Negro youths are being held. Many are clubbed and beaten before being arrested, he said.

"The authorities have placed many youngsters in an old abandoned building without furnishings, without bedding, without working toilet facilities, and without adequate ventilation. One shower tap provides the only drinking and bathing water. The stench throughout is unbearable."

"For food the youngsters are given four hamburgers daily, for which they are privileged to pay \$2 a day, as a result of a local ordinance passed Aug. 9."

Williams invited his Senate colleagues to examine photographs he had of the jail facilities in Americus.

The photographs were secretly taken, and smuggled out, he said. "They really make you wonder," he commented, "whether they could have been taken in the United States of America at this point in the 20th century."

Williams recounted Harris' activities.

Harris spent the summer of 1961 helping to build a dam in Rhodesia under operation "Crossroads of Africa." He worked, also, with a group providing tutorial programs in Harlem and Philadelphia.

After graduating from Rutgers University, New Jersey, where he had been selected by the university for inclusion in who's who among students in American universities and colleges, Harris went to Americus as a field secretary with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee "to help do something about the glaring inequity" in voting rights there.

Youths Indicted For Visiting Cuba

ON THE FLEEMY pretext that the U.S. is in a period of national emergency" with regard to Cuba, the Justice Department has obtained the indictment of four youths in connection with a trip to Cuba.

Three of the four actually made the trip while the fourth was indicted as part of the "conspiracy."

The indictments were handed down by a grand jury in Brooklyn last Friday. These named in the seven-count indictment were:

- Leo Levi Laub, 24, of 217 Haven Ave.; Phillip Abbott Luce, 26, of 504 West 55th St.; Stefan Martinov, 24, of 414 W. 121 St., all of Manhattan. Anatole Schlosser, 26, of 535 W. 110 St., was indicted though he did not make the trip.

The indictment was announced in Washington by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and in N. Y. at the office of U.S. Attorney Joseph P. Hoey in Brooklyn.

The Department of State issued regulations on Jan. 19, 1961, requiring a specially validated passport for travel to Cuba by Americans. The indictment charges that the three who went to Cuba did so without such passports.

Two others were named as co-conspirators but not as defendants. They were Salvatore Cucchiari, 19, and Miss Ellen Irene Shultz, 29.

William Worthy, journalist,

had previously been indicted, on April 24, 1962, and convicted on Aug. 2, 1962, for traveling to Cuba without a proper passport. His case is being appealed.

Mrs. Helen Maxine Levi Travis of Los Angeles was charged with making two trips to Cuba in 1962. Her indictment was handed down on June 26, 1963, and she is now awaiting trial.

Cuba's Peace Policy Described by Castro

HAVANA (Tass)—At a meeting held to mark the third anniversary of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, a speech on the problems of Cuba's internal and international position was made by Fidel Castro, first secretary of the national leadership of the United Party of the Socialist Revolution and Prime Minister of Cuba.

Castro stressed plans to use Cuba's resources more rationally, with due consideration for international distribution of labor.

He also stressed the aid to Cuba by socialist countries.

Then he said: "Imperialists are trying to bring a steadily increasing pressure to bear on us. They are trying to tighten the ring around Cuba, to tighten the blockade. In

recent months this policy was stepped up. We cannot watch calmly how tension is aggravating here while it is relaxing in other places. No, we do not want aggravation of tension in the world. We are glad that it is diminishing instead of growing. But we cannot regard ourselves at peace with imperialism, which is exerting increasing efforts to stifle us.

"This situation will determine our position in the international arena. This is not a policy of war but a policy of peace. But we are not responsible for the war which is being waged against us. We are not responsible for the cruel blockade established against us.

"We are a small nation subject-

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America's 'All-Black' Line Crews Backs Racist

By GEORGE MORRIS

THE LUXURY liner America remains in dock and may not sail any more. That is the talk as her owner, United States Lines, grabbed a flimsy excuse to beach her, and the leaders of the Paul Hall-dominated Marine Engineers Beneficial Association blocked the

sailing of the America with 950 passengers was held up some hours before departure Sept. 11 when her crew of 550 unlicensed seamen, members of the National Maritime Union, refused to sail unless Neurohr was removed. After nine months of appeals to the company to dump Neurohr because of his racist attitude—like locking a toilet to Negroes and Puerto Ricans, refusing to let Negroes and Puerto Ricans on his watch, insults to Jewish crew members and molesting women crew members—the workers took recourse to this only action left.

The stoppage beached the ship. But her next scheduled voyage on Oct. 4, was also cancelled because the MEBA's head, Jesse Calhoun, a feeling-struck because he has the factional alliance of Paul Hall's Seafarers International Union and the backing of the AFL-CIO's Maritime Council (also headed by Hall) warned that his 33 licensed men on the America would walk off if the racist was removed or transferred to another ship. As U.S. Lines agreed to do.

That Neurohr is hardly a candidate for a man of civil rights was well demonstrated in the three-day hearing by Theodore Kheel, arbitrator in the NMU's contract with the shipowners. Kheel said he heard "proof of serious charges against Mr. Neurohr." But Kheel said he couldn't fix the guilt because Neurohr, advised by Calhoun, did not appear to defend himself.

COMPANY'S LINE

Calhoun, whose union is almost all white and shows no interest in civil rights, takes no interest in the company that the NMU members "mutilated" and "violated their contract." He further said his union of licensed men would pay attention to the union of unlicensed seamen—a crew, incidentally, that is about half Negro and Puerto Rican.

DANGEROUS SITUATION

Kheel did, however, find a dangerous situation on the America in the evidence that was before him and directed the company to in effect remove Neurohr to "take whatever action may be necessary to make certain that the type of interference with the members of the unlicensed personnel started to have taken place... will not take place in the future." The company promptly issued a statement it planned to shift Neurohr to another ship unless the MEBA would back the racist.

Earlier the NMU crew members held a special meeting and voted unanimously to sail, but without Neurohr. The meeting heard Joseph Curran, president of the NMU, charge the company used the disposition of Neurohr as an excuse for docking the 23-year old 26,000-ton vessel. He noted that the company had been planning for some time to lay up the vessel permanently. It was known the company sought to sell the liner for about two years, but was not permitted to do so by the government from whose coffers the vessel is substantially subsidized.

The October 4 voyage was the last scheduled this season. The America was to make several pleasure sailings. But the months ahead are definitely not the

profitable ones. The likelihood is that the company saves money by not operating the America until next spring. The company also seemed in haste to unload her ballast and oil and shift to her permanent pier.

"They have been looking for some time for a way to lay up the vessel and their responsibility elsewhere than with the company," Curran told the crew members.

The union is now pressing for 30 days wages for the men while in layup and severance pay if the vessel is permanently beached.

The issue runs more deeply than some like to see it. The newspapers make an effort to blame the long-standing dispute between the group of unions headed by Curran and the group headed by Hall. The issue was not Neurohr's racist feelings or opinions. There were probably others on the vessel who shared his views. But Neurohr practiced his racism to the disgust

and indignation of the crew members.

An atmosphere was developing that made an America voyage dangerous because the seamen were running out of patience.

The NMU itself has a record of distinction on the issue of discrimination. Since its birth in the mid-thirties under left wing leadership (when even Curran was in the left) the union had an unequivocal stand against all forms of discrimination. Its first secretary was a Negro—the late Ferdinand Smith who was deported to Jamaica as a Communist.

The Neurohr case also directed the spotlight on Hall's SIU and his anti-Calhoun and anti-MEBA policy for their reconciliation with racism at a time when the country is in the midst of a civil rights revolution. The jurisdictional warfare on the waterfront, with George Meany known to side with the Hall-Calhoun force, may have little meaning to the

Cuba's Peace Policy Described by Castro

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our own, because we have sufficient allies for this, sufficient dignity, sufficient gallantry, heroism and spirit of self-sacrifice. "We shall win because now is the time of the peoples, the time of people's uprisings, when the peoples of all continents are throwing off the imperialist yoke. "It is an accident that Cuba plays an important part in the contemporary world. This role belongs to it because it is capable of fulfilling it thanks to the outstanding qualities of the Cuban people who have come to be a model of courage, heroism and self-sacrifice for the whole world, the people who are building a modern Cuba known to the whole world, the Cuba that has chosen the slogan, "Homeland or death." We shall win."

"This situation will determine our policy on the international arena, at the UN, everywhere. And we shall be able to stand on

general public. But the lineup on civil rights does.

The dispute draws attention to the fact that the licensed, higher paid crafts in maritime are almost all white, and that it is time to get some integration into that field.

Also, that Hall's SIU is even today under charges of operating a hiring hall setup on the West Coast for referral of men to "white jobs" and "Negro jobs." And this is some years after the 1957 State Committee Against Discrimination (Now the Human Rights Committee) forced Hall to integrate his hiring hall in N.Y.

TRADING stamps can be used to purchase valuable merchandise for the Worker Bazaar. Send your stamps to B. Linton, Bazaar Committee, The Worker, 23 W. 26 St., New York 10.

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What's Behind Costikyan's Slap to Reformers?

By MIKE DAVIDOW

Edward N. Costikyan, Democratic leader of N.Y. County, last week gave a rather forceful illustration of the "harmony" he is seeking to impose on the Democratic organization. Absent from the "chorus" members of the County Executive Committee which elected him N.Y. County leader "unanimously" were Reform Democrats who were at a meeting discussing when the vote took place.

Admittedly, messengers had been sent to the Reform caucus to inform them, voting would soon begin, although some Reform leaders are understood to have interpreted this as information that the meeting not the actual voting was about to commence. But, misunderstandings aside, the fact is that Costikyan did not wait.

No one can accuse Costikyan, who is highly regarded for his intellectual capacity, of stupidity. He was certainly aware of the opposition to his reelection that was particularly strong in the ranks of the Reformers.

What else therefore but a calculated, public slap to Reform leaders, could this "unanimous" vote be considered?

This estimate of Costikyan's action is reinforced by a series of other rebuffs administered to the Reform forces at last week's meetings of the huge County Committee and the County Executive Committee.

Of five vice chairmen of the executive committee, only one—Leonard Cohen, leader of the 5th Assembly District, is a reformer.

Previously there was an additional reformer leader, Allen Finberg, on the administrative committee.

It was this reduction in reform strength on this committee that among other things was being considered by the reform caucus.

Perhaps the most serious blow was the cut in the size of the 355 member County Committee by some 600, about 50% of whom will be reform delegates, that

will take place two years from now.

Along strict old-line machine voting, questions on rules changes and on five contests for lesser posts, reformers were also set back.

Thus, it is clear that there was a hard line in operation against reform forces at the County Committee and County Executive committee meetings.

It was hardly a matter of misunderstanding.

It takes a good deal of organization to achieve such "misunderstandings."

What is behind this "tough" policy against the reform forces?

The key words are "Democratic party harmony."

HARMONY

No sooner was Carmine De Sapio defeated and Mayor Wagner once again secure in City Hall two years ago, than the cry for party harmony was raised. Behind this demand for party unity was the aim of reforming the reformers. In the eyes of most Democratic party leaders and that includes those in the White House, the Reform movement had achieved its purpose.

It had played the role of gadfly, some democratic procedural reforms had been achieved and De Sapio was defeated.

This was time to get to practical politics and for reformers to act like normal politicians.

This of course would mean deals with old-line machine groups who still were in power in most of the Democratic party, and a halt to further efforts to democratize the Democratic party.

In effect, the aim was to swallow up and assimilate this vital, grass-roots movement into the machine.

This was the "harmony" Costikyan set to achieve when he replaced De Sapio two years ago. Although the young reform movement was beset by pressures to "harmonize," it continued basically to play its reforming role. It confounded political forecasters from the right as well as some from the left who predicted that it would either be stifled by the soft

cushion of patronage or dry up in ideological "purity."

In the recent primaries when it defeated De Sapio's desperate effort at a comeback, strengthened itself in almost all the positions it held, advanced in the important 13th AD and increased its vote in the County Committee, the reform forces served notice that they are not only a stable but a growing movement.

Even more important were the signs that the Reform movement, which too long had concentrated on internal issues, particularly the issue of "bussism," was now beginning to concentrate on the vital mass issues.

It held a convention of reform clubs where for the first time a city-wide program on such issues as housing, schools, civil rights was adopted.

It sent a train-lead to the historic march on Washington, Aug. 28.

A number of its clubs took part in picketing of the White Castle drive-in in the Bronx and a club on the east side exposed the discriminatory price policy of the A & P in Negro and Puerto Rican neighborhoods.

Costikyan's public rebuke seems to herald a new tough policy toward the reform forces. Since they insist on remaining a reform movement within the Democratic party and refuse to be swallowed, they must be punished and fought.

How this is to be done was forcefully demonstrated last week.

The question is: What is Mayor Wagner's attitude toward this declaration of war against the reformers? Costikyan was the Mayor's choice two years ago and it was the Mayor's support which largely was responsible for Costikyan's reelection last week. The Mayor who has a public as well as an inner party role to play, has shown himself quite adept at playing both sides of the street. But, it will take some skillful explaining to convince anyone of City Hall's innocence of the happenings last week.

The reformers are no doubt taking a stock of these stingy rebuffs.

The actions by the courts and

particularly by the Board of Elections on De Sapio's challenge to the election of Edward Koch as district leader in the First AD South, likewise point to a toughening attitude toward the reform forces by old-line politicians of both parties.

After all, they may encourage a similar movement in the Republican party.

The answer to this new challenge can only be met in one way — by growth.

Not just numerically, but among the basic sections of the population where the reform movement is still very weak—labor, Negro and Puerto Rican communities.

MIDDLE CLASS

The reform movement as has been frequently pointed out, is still largely concentrated among articulate middle class, and professional and white collar elements.

Paul O'Dwyer, Democratic nominee for City Councilman-at-Large stressed that the reform movement had to direct its attention to labor, and minority groups.

But, it is clear that it is no longer a matter of emphasis.

The Civil Rights Revolution has set in motion a vast section of our population in quest of a political movement that will give to the more reliable vehicle for the achievement of its goals.

While, it has shown an increased awareness of this upheaval in the primary life, the reform forces have not yet caught up with this development.

An indication of this is shown by the fact that reformers failed to fight for the nomination of a Negro candidate for Councilman-at-Large in the recent Democratic primary's life.

It is not hard to imagine what an alliance of the Civil Rights movement, labor and the reform forces would do for New York politics.

If Costikyan's slap stimulates some thinking, and even more, some action along these lines, together with other setbacks in history, it will be responsible for a great deal of progress.