

500 ASK FOR STRONGER BILL

Wilkins' Stand Receives Cool Reception

Roy Wilkins, whose publicly announced acceptance of the admittedly weak Senate civil rights bill has drawn an unprecedented amount of fire from many sources, both in and out of the NAACP, told this reporter Wednesday that he expected sharp criticism of his position.

The NAACP executive secretary put his grudging stamp of approval on the Senate version of the measure earlier this month in a signed release to the press. He conceded that the bill was far weaker than the one the organization had hoped for, but pointed out that even it would be better than no bill.

Wilkins' position has been described by critics in terms ranging all the way from "surprising" to "doublecross."

Relying to the mounting wave of criticism heaped upon him because of the statement, Wil-

kins told the TIMES by telephone Wednesday that he expected disagreement from many quarters on the issue.

"I'm not surprised nor do I quarrel with people who feel that our judgement in this case is faulty. I am not upset because I expected disagreement. But we had to steer a course between a situation fraught with political consequences to obtain the best result for the people the organization serves."

Much of the criticism of Wilkins' stand stems more from the nature of the timing of the statement than the actual content or reasons for the statement.

It is generally felt among those most critical of Wilkins' position that his actions took on too much the flavor of partisan politics. It is held that his urging acceptance of the measure while

the Republicans were still apparently fighting for a stronger bill would result in a net gain for the Democrats and take some of the political play away from the Republicans.

Wilkins' announcement was feared to have precipitated a policy crisis within the organization. Several observers, pointing to the fact that the statements to the press were signed by Wilkins and that his position was not in accord with opinions expressed by influential persons, inside and outside of the organization, hinted that the statement might cause a split within the organization.

Jackie Robinson, chairman of a special fund raising committee of the NAACP, has been a most vocal opponent of the policy of accepting the Senate version of the bill. He has been widely quoted

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ROY WILKINS
...unpopular...

Leading Citizens Wire Congressman

Bunche, Jackie, Murphy Among Those Protesting Weaker Measure

By ALICE A. DUNNIGAN
(Special To The TIMES)

WASHINGTON, D. C.

House Minority Leader, Joseph Martin, stepped spryly from the House Chamber and pulled from his coat pocket a great bulk of folded paper. Unfolding the many sheets he said with a smile: "This is a petition which I received yesterday from a group of North Carolina citizens expressing their opposition to the Senate-passed civil rights bill with the jury trial amendment."

As he continued unfolding the pages in an effort to get an estimate of the number of signatures he noticed that the names appeared on both the front and back of many pages. "There's no telling how many names are here," he stated. "There must be at least 500."

He went on to state that he had received in addition to this petition many telegrams, letters and cards from prominent Negro citizens from all over the country opposing the jury trial amendment.

DURHAMITES JOIN PROTEST

More than 500 Durhamites petitioned the House Republican leadership to stand pat on the elimination jury trial provision in the civil rights legislation.

The petitions were circulated last week-end and forwarded to House Republican leader Joseph Martin of Mass.

Signers of the petition included persons from many and

varied occupations, ranging from business and professional classes to factory workers.

The text of the petition read:

"We, the undersigned Negro citizens of Durham, N. C., are opposed to a crippling jury trial amendment in the Civil Rights bill now under consideration and urge you not to accept this legislation with such an amendment therein."

"Among them was a wire from the publisher of the oldest Negro newspaper in either of the Carolinas," he added.

Cong. Martin was referring

Austin, publisher of The Carolina Times. Mr. Austin told the Republican leader that he believed he voiced the sentiment of Negroes of both states when I say they are bitterly opposed to a civil rights bill with a jury trial amendment." He urged Congress to pass "a stronger civil rights bill or no bill."

The civil rights leader stated that he received similar telegrams from some other newspaper executives including Mrs. Robert Vann, President-Treasurer of the Pittsburgh Courier; Carl Murphy, President of the Afro-American newspapers, and William Fowkes, Managing Editor of the Atlanta Daily World.

Clarence Mitchell, director of the Washington Bureau, NAACP, denied that such telegrams were any indication that the local branches had taken a position contrary to that stated by the National.

"I don't see how any local branch can take an opposite view and stay within the framework of the Association's policy," said Mitchell.

The NAACP has been char-

ged with willingness to ac-

cept a compromise on the Se-

nate version of the bill. This as-

sessment was based on a state-

ment signed jointly by

Roy Wilkins, Executive Sec-

retary of NAACP, and leaders

of 15 other national organiza-

tions. The statement, issued

immediately after the Senate

had passed the bill, said it

does "contain some potential

good." This leadership group

urged for complete legisla-

tive action this year.

When questioned on the

NAACP's stated position,

Mitchell said: "It is my desire

to see the jury trial amend-

ment eliminated altogether

because we want the strong-

est possible bill."

He pointed out, however,

that the Republicans are

fighting for a tougher bill

and the Democrats are seek-

ing a weak one. So they feel

that the best they can get out

would be a compromise bill

with a modified jury trial

amendment.

They would accept such a compro-

mise in order to keep the bill alive.

Since such a conflict of

opinions have been expressed

among Negroes themselves,

Wilkins issued a memoran-

dum stating that the watered

down bill "will constitute a

start toward our goal, and a

start is better than standing

still."

He admitted that this is not

a popular position at the pre-

sent time. Many people are

saying that it is better to

have no bill at all than to

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The Carolina Times

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PRICE: TEN CENTS

Influx Of Ushers For State Meet In Durham Underway

Officials Expect 500 To Attend Three-Day Annual Convention

From all over the state ushers started gathering in Durham early Thursday morning for the 33rd annual session of the Interdenominational Ushers Association of North Carolina which is convening at St. Joseph's AME Church on Fayetteville Street August 22-25.

The vanguard of the delegation started arriving in the city around eight o'clock in the morning when the principal officers of the organization put in their appearance for a ten o'clock session which will mark the opening program. The influx is not expected to peak until Saturday afternoon, by which time organization spokesmen say the number of incoming delegates is expected to

reach 500.

Sunday at eleven o'clock the convention is expected to reach its climax when the annual sermon will be preached by the Rev. W. L. Mason, pastor of St. James Baptist Church of Rocky Mount. Rev. Mason, a former resident of Durham, is regarded as a preacher of great power and force. A large gathering of local people are expected to hear him.

The Ushers Association is the largest interdenominational organization in the state. It recently purchased the abandoned Franklin Christian College property near Franklinton where it proposes to establish in the near future a home for aged and indigent ministers of all de-

nominations.

During the annual session several musical groups and prominent individuals will appear on the various programs, all of which are open to the public. On Sunday the music for the morning will be rendered by St. Joseph's Choir No. 2 and the Ushers Choir of Kinston.

Winston-Salem, Ernest B. Johnson, prominent local businessman and trustee of North Carolina College, who was honored here Saturday, received a glowing tribute from the NCC trustee group.

Secretary of the trustees, Dr. J. M. Hubbard, who attended funeral services for Johnson, said, "North Carolina College has lost a loyal alumnus and a distinguished member of the trustees' building and legislative committee. Mr. Johnson will be greatly missed."

The college and its trustees

memorialized Johnson in a resolution praising his "unselfish

devotion to the cause of uplifting youth" and for his "contributions to the business, civic and religious life of the state and nation."

NCC President Alfonso Elder lauded Johnson's services as a businessman, churchman and a friend of education.

Johnson died early last Wednesday following complications after an abdominal operation.

He was a native of Winston-Salem and attended Kittrell College before transferring to the old National Religious Training School and Chautauqua, predecessor of NCC.

A funeral service lasting less than 15 minutes was arranged according to his last wishes.

He was held at St. Paul Methodist Church. He had been a trustee there for many years.

Three prominent Winston-Salem ministers, all close friends,

participated in the church ser-

vice. They were the Rev. Ken-

neth Williams, former City

Councilman, who offered pray-

er; the Rev. William R. Craw-

ford, City Councilman and the

Rev. L. M. Mayfield, pastor.

One of Durham's leading citi-

zens will be the speaker for this

occasion. There will also be

greetings from Civic Organiza-

tions. The public is cordially

invited to attend this program.

PHILLMORE HALL

REV. W. L. MASON

HONORS ON TAP FOR COUNCILMEN

According to the Chairman of the Civic Committee of the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs, L. B. Frasier, plans have just been completed for a Testimonial Celebration for R. N. Harris and J. S. Stewart, Thursday night, September 12, at the Mt. Gilead Baptist Church at 7:30 o'clock.

The Committee is honoring

Harris and Stewart for their

outstanding contribution to the

City of Durham as a member of

the Durham City Council and

Chairman of the Durham Com-

mittee on Negro Affairs respec-

tively.

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PHILLMORE HALL

E. B. JOHNSON

PROMINENT N. C.

MORTICIAN DIES IN

D. C. HOSPITAL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Death came to Russell A.

Woodard, prominent Funeral

Director and Smithfield, N. C.

citizen, on Thursday, August 15, in Freedman's Hospital

here. Mr. Woodard had come to

the city a few months ago and

was connected with one of the

funeral establishments up to

the time of his final illness and

hospitalization.

He was born in 1910 in Wil-

son County, the son of the late

Isaac Woodard and Mrs. Susie

Woodard.

The elder Woodard was a

well-known mortician and Mrs.