

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."

Replying 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 (Please turn to page Eight)



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 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 Joe 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 to the Carolina Times.

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.

"These messages and the petition definitely indicate that Negroes of this country are not satisfied with the Celler bill in its present form," stated Rep. Martin. "We must continue to fight for a stronger bill. We cannot conceive of Congress accepting the bill in its present form with so many leading Negroes in this country opposing it."

He assured the reporter that "a more effective bill will come out than is now planned." He would not say whether he felt that such a bill would come out of this session of Congress.

Many Negroes, he said, would prefer that the measure be held over until next session if it would mean bringing out a stronger piece of legislation.

The Minority Leader had placed in the Congressional Record on the previous day copies of telegrams representing what he considered a cross section of leadership.

Beside those coming from the newspaper editors and publishers were messages from such prominent North Carolinians as William A. Clement; the Rev. R. L. Speaks, pastor of St. Marks AME Zion Church; A. J. Stanley, Sr., president of Local Union 204, TWSU; and William Clement, all of Durham.

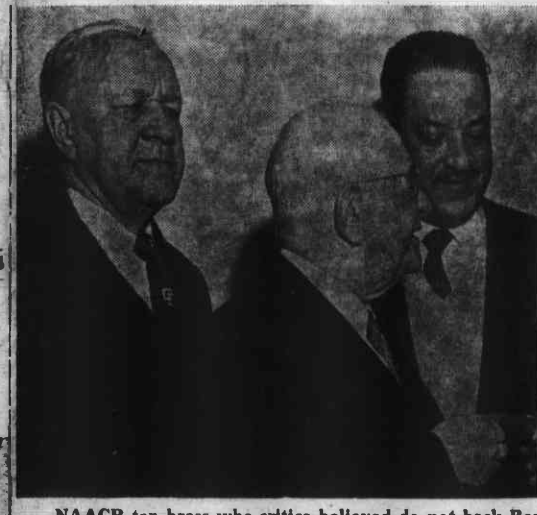
There was also a telegram from A. T. Spaulding which stated that every one of the more than 50 responsible Negroes to whom he had spoken during the past three days were opposed to the jury trial amendment. And many were opposed to the jury trial amendment. And many were members of the NAACP.

When questioned on the NAACP's stated position, Mitchell said: "It is my desire to see the jury trial amendment eliminated altogether because we want the strongest possible bill."

He pointed out, however, that the Republicans are fighting for a tougher bill and the Democrats are seeking 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 compromise in order to see the bill alive.

Since such a conflict of opinions have been expressed among Negroes themselves, Wilkins issued a memorandum 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 present time. Many people are saying that it is better to have no bill at all than to have a bill which is watered down. (Please turn to page Eight)



NAACP top brass who critics believed do not back Roy Wilkins stand on civil rights are shown here. Right to left are Thurgood Marshall, Chief Legal Counsel; Arthur B. Spingarn, President; and Dr. Channing Tobias, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

College Mourns Trustee's Death

WINSTON-SALEM The Rev. Mr. Crawford, who delivered the eulogy, spoke of Mr. Johnson "as one who had been honored by Presidents and Governors and who never lost the common touch."

Johnson was widely known for his philanthropy and for his deep interest in North Carolina College. NCC President Alfonso Elder and William Jones, (Please turn to page Eight)

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 Chautauque, predecessor of NCC.

A funeral service lasting less than 15 minutes arranged according to his last wishes 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 service. They were the Rev. Kenneth Williams, former City Councilman, who offered prayer; the Rev. William R. Crawford, City Councilman and the Rev. L. M. Mayfield, pastor.

One of Durham's leading citizens will be the speaker for this occasion. There will also be greetings from Civic Organizations. The public is cordially invited to attend this program.

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 Committee on Negro Affairs respectively.

One of Durham's leading citizens will be the speaker for this occasion. There will also be greetings from Civic Organizations. The public is cordially invited to attend this program.

Commissioner, citing "blatant and widespread violations of state laws" and requesting an immediate conference to discuss "more effective investigative and enforcement activity." While in upstate New York, he and Mr. Thomas conferred with state department of labor officials in Binghamton and Syracuse regarding "more vigorous enforcement of state laws," Hill added.

The Carolina Times

VOLUME 33 — NUMBER 33 DURHAM, N. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1957 PRICE: TEN CENTS

Influx Of Ushers For State Meet In Durham Underway



S. D. HARVEY

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 22-24.

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 denominations.

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.

Twin City Urban League Official Is Nat'l. Delegate

WINSTON-SALEM The 1957 annual conference of the National Urban League will be held Saturday, August 31st through Thursday, September 5th at the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, Michigan.

The theme of the conference, expected to attract more than 2,000 delegates and participants, is "Resolving the Racial Crisis—A Challenge to Interracial Teamwork."

Among the speakers will be Walter P. Reuther, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, AFL-CIO; John S. Coleman, president of Burroughs Corporation; Alonzo G. Moron, president of Hampton Institute; Leo Molinaro, director of Educational Program, for American Council to Improve Our Neighborhoods (ACTION); G. Mennen Williams, Governor of Michigan and Miss Roberta Church, Minority Groups Consultant, of the United States Department of Labor.

Topics of the Conference include Manpower Needs, Housing Needs, Housing and Urban (Please turn to page Eight)

Tribute Stated For Resigning Bandmaster Of Hillside School

Durham's citizenry was scheduled to gather Wednesday night to pay tribute to one of the city's most respected teachers who is leaving the system this year.

Philmore Hall, producer of

top flight high school musicians at Hillside for over a decade, was to be guest of honor at a special program arranged by the school PTA.

Hall resigned his post as bandmaster at the high school earlier this summer. He is scheduled to take up duties at a new teaching post in Fairfax, Virginia on September 1.

T. E. Lambeth, president of the Hillside PTA announced the special program which will include leading citizens and one of the bandmaster's former pupils.

F. Howard Alston, dean of men at the school, was to preside over the formal program. Others scheduled to appear were Clarke Egerton, Jr., former student of Hill and bandmaster at Lincoln high of Chapel Hill, H. M. Holmes, Hillside principal, J. S. Stewart, city councilman, and L. E. Austin. Austin is scheduled to make a presentation of a gift from the PTA.

One of Durham's leading citizens will be the speaker for this occasion. There will also be greetings from Civic Organizations. The public is cordially invited to attend this program.



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 Committee on Negro Affairs respectively.

One of Durham's leading citizens will be the speaker for this occasion. There will also be greetings from Civic Organizations. The public is cordially invited to attend this program.

At New York Migrant Camp

Workers Behind Barbed Wire

A barbed wire encampment patrolled by armed guards who did not permit the more than 100 Negroes confined within to leave the enclosure was among the abuses discovered in an investigation of migrant labor conditions in New York State, Herbert Hill, NAACP labor secretary, disclosed here this week.

Reporting on the investigation which he conducted jointly with the Rev. Latta R. Thomas, president of the Elmira, N. Y., NAACP branch, Mr. Hill announced that the work will be continued to discover possible violations of federal peonage laws.

The NAACP official reported that the study of labor camps and working conditions for migrant agricultural workers in four upstate New York counties revealed "widespread violations of the recently-enacted state laws relating to migrants, agricultural labor."

The camps investigated were in Chemung, Cayuga, Steuben and Onondago counties. The barbed wire encampment was found in Martville, N. Y.

"Among the many abuses found were labor camps consisting of abandoned farm houses, dilapidated shacks and lean-to shanties without sanitary facilities, non-payment of wages by unscrupulous crew leaders, child labor violations and lack of crew leader registration and labor camp certification as required by state laws," Mr. Hill reported.

He said the migrant farm workers are Negroes brought mainly from Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

Hill said he had telegraphed leader Lubin, state industrial