

# NEGRO RALLY SEEN AS THREAT TO BILL

Celler Says Capital March Could Cost Rights Votes

The proposed march on Washington by Negro demonstrators slated for Aug. 28 might cause uncommitted legislators to turn against the President's civil bill, Representative Emanuel L. Celler, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, declared yesterday.

The Brooklyn Democrat appeared on "Direct Line," an NBC television program.

Mr. Celler said the demonstration would not affect his own vote for the measure. However, he said he hoped integration leaders would recognize that there were neutrals in Congress who resented what they consider "pressure, bludgeoning and coercion."

In effect, he continued, the demonstration might actually cause the loss of favorable votes.

For example, he said, one Western Senator has told him, "I'm for civil rights — but if they stage it [the march] I'm going to vote against it [the bill]."

Mr. Celler said he hoped "better counsel will prevail" to cause the leaders to reconsider holding the march.

## Riot Is Feared

WASHINGTON, July 14 (AP)

— Representative James A. Haley expressed concern today that the march on Washington "could be the spark which could touch off an ugly, blood-letting riot, accompanied perhaps by killings."

# Civil Rights in the City

Despite Its Efforts to Help Minorities, New York Is Under Growing Pressure

By CLAYTON KNOWLES

No city government in the country has exceeded New York's in efforts to be sympathetic and helpful on the problems of Negroes, Puerto Ricans and other minorities.

In spite of this record, the Wagner administration is beset on all sides with rising demands to do even more to assure equality. These pressures, capped by many demonstrations, focus on furthering integration in the schools,

opening jobs—particularly in the construction field—sharpening civil rights machinery and winning more policy-making posts in government.

Demonstrations have been sponsored by organizations ranging from long-established groups such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Urban League, which had become almost sedate in their march forward, to newer, brasher groups like the Congress of Racial Equality.

The emergence of CORE, with its aggressive leadership, meant from the outset to the informed that the N.A.A.C.P. and the Urban League would "either be pushed into the background or be pushed to the forefront." Developments took the second course.

## Caught by Surprise

The Wagner administration was caught by surprise. It had felt secure because its record was good and because year after year it had the overwhelming support of Negroes and Puerto Ricans at the polls.

The feeling was that it couldn't happen here. In Birmingham, yes, but not here.

But it did happen here, and the administration, stunned at first, is still floundering.

Picketing used to be sharply restricted at City Hall and elsewhere whether unions, taxpayer or minority groups were involved. Many had to be content with marching within barricades around the park outside City Hall Plaza.

Yet for nearly a week now there has been a sit-in inside City Hall, at the very gate to the Mayor's executive offices. The demonstrators brought pillows, blankets, radios—even a guitar—and the sit-in has gone on around the clock.

When it began, even the Mayor was shaken; he entered City Hall by a side door.

An action panel set up by the Mayor proposed 15 steps to get more jobs in the construction field for qualified Negroes and Puerto Ricans. But work has yet to be resumed on the Har-

lem Hospital annex; construction has been halted for weeks on just this issue.

The application of a Negro couple to have their son transferred to a high school out of his neighborhood was denied by school authorities, who later reversed themselves on the basis of a medical report showing the boy had bronchial asthma. It was said the boy would be less subject to emotional stress in a school with fewer Negroes.

With the Mayor away, charges of discrimination made against Deputy Commerce Commissioner Anne M. Kelly were ordered heard by a retired Federal judge. When the Mayor returned, the order was countermanded and the case was turned over to the City Commission on Human Rights.

A call for an overhaul and strengthening of the City Commission on Human Rights came shortly after its staff was cut and the remaining employees were given raises.

Council President Paul R. Screvane has proposed barring the investment of city pension funds, totaling more than \$3,400,000,000 in securities of companies that practice discrimination. Both the Mayor and Controller Abraham D. Beame, concede the goal is laudable but they question whether the proposal is administratively feasible.

The one steady hand at the tiller amid this uncertainty and confusion seems to be that of the Mayor. A first-generation American, Mr. Wagner identifies with minorities both in their problems and in their aspirations.

## Mayor Has Guided City

More than any individual, he has shaped the city's approach to civil rights issues whether it was striking at discrimination in housing through the pioneering Sharkey-Brown-Isaacs Act or seeking to open job opportunities in city government for Negroes and Puerto Ricans.

The excesses of some of the demonstrations may have alienated support for the minority cause among both whites and Negroes. Yet the Mayor's calm, deliberate approach, while suggestive to some of coddling, has averted tragic incidents and clashes that often attend racial unrest.

Administratively, it is a headache for Mr. Wagner.

Politically it could be an asset when President Kennedy, viewed by Negroes as "standing 10 feet high on civil rights," looks for a New York running mate for the Senate with a record that backs his views.