

Civil Rights Program Must Be Enacted, Wilkins Declares As NAACP Opens Nat'l Convention

60
12

CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAM

(Continued from Page One)

last year was, "We Wait No Longer." This year, the slogan "Now or Never" seems to be the choice.

From convention headquarters in the Morrison Hotel to the far reaches of the Southside, interest in the convention and its work has been intense.

Mr. Wilkins delivered the keynote address on the night of the opening session.

Other speakers for the six-day session include: AME Zion Bishop Stephen G. Spottswood, chairman, NAACP Board of Directors; the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, of Birmingham; James Meredith, of the University of Mississippi; Dr. Charles Wesley, president, Central State College, Wilberforce, Ohio.

Also, Harvey Gantt, of Clemson, S. C.; Cecil Poole, United States Attorney for Northern California; Eli Ginzberg, of Columbia University; and Robert L. Carter, NAACP general counsel.

The Spingarn Medal, awarded annually to a Negro American for distinguished achievement, will be awarded posthumously to Medgar

W. Evers, slain NAACP field secretary for Mississippi. The presentation will be made to Mrs. Evers.

NAACP Delegates Meet In Chicago For Convention

From Wire and News Reports

CHICAGO — (UPI) — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Monday opened a convention which could make history. The top NAACP spokesman said new mass demonstrations would result from the meetings.

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, said at the start of the 54th annual convention that President Kennedy's civil rights program "must be enacted."

But Wilkins warned Negroes could not be expected to go along with the President's request for a moratorium on demonstrations for equal rights while Kennedy's program is being debated in Congress.

"This convention will stimulate additional demonstrations because we will point out areas in which progress has not yet been made," Wilkins said.

The NAACP convention in Chicago could be the most significant in the organization's 54-year history, just as the year 1953 has been one of the most significant in the Negroes' century-long civil rights struggle.

The 1,500 to 2,000 delegates will spend six days making new plans for advancing their cause of equal rights and racial integration. They do so at a time when the issue dominates domestic politics and Congress is about to begin debate on the most sweeping civil rights program to be laid before it in modern times.

From North, South, East, and West, delegates by the hundreds had converged on the Windy City at the weekend for the convention.

The meeting is the first national gathering of a civil rights organization since the birth of the 1953 "civil rights crisis" in the streets of Birmingham and elsewhere.

Delegates are discussing and developing plans for future action in such vital areas as employment, political action, school desegregation, housing and legal action.

They are exploring ways and means of insuring enactment of pending civil rights legislation. "NOW OR NEVER"

Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the NAACP, told President Kennedy two weeks ago that the demonstration which inflamed the country could not be halted until equality for Negroes had been achieved.

The motto of the organization's 53rd annual convention is "NOW OR NEVER"

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Rights Bills May Change Loyalty Of Ga. - - Sanders

By (UPI)

Gov. Carl Sanders said Tuesday that future events in President Kennedy's civil rights campaign could put him in a "different position" about party loyalty if Georgia's interest is at stake.

"I'm a loyal Democrat," Sanders said. "I intend to stay in the party. That doesn't necessarily mean the future would not be such that couldn't be put in a different position."

"The people of Georgia are my number one interest."

Sanders discussed with a United Press International reporter the fact that Georgians, including Democrats, are angered by the

(Continued on Page 5, Col. 2)

President's civil rights program in Congress.

The governor pointed out that he himself had already denounced the so-called "public accommodations" proposal as an invasion of private property rights.

"My position will be, I'm going to find some way to present the views of Georgia Democrats to the national party," Sanders said.

"I hope I can convince them that what they're trying to do is not in the best interest of the party."

Sanders added he will "certainly be firm and fight within the party for what the Georgia Democrats believe and come up with a proposition that the people of Georgia can live with."

"I think I can't think the national Democratic Party can push all the civil rights legislation through without some compromise."