

U.S. Envoy To Finland Sees 'New Negro' In Racial Fight

By ERNEST H. FURGURSON
(Sun Staff Correspondent)

Helsinki, May 21—An American Negro began his ambassadorial career today by predicting many more racial incidents in the United States because "a new Negro" is now waging the desegregation struggle.

Carl T. Rowan, former deputy assistant secretary of state and prize-winning newspaperman, presented his credentials to Finnish President Urho K. Kekkonen this morning, then spoke to Finnish and foreign reporters this afternoon.

Official Position

He said the "new Negro" is far better educated, has far more money and far more political power than ever before—and "he is determined to use all these assets to attain first-class citizenship."

The "political power" possessed by today's Negro includes far more support from top officials of the United States Government, he added.

Rowan did not initiate the con-



CARL T. ROWAN
"I am proud of the struggle"

versation about the racial situation in America, but responded readily to a reporter's question about the conflict in Birmingham.

He offered to explain first the

official Government position — one of firm support for equality and opposition to segregation by the President, Attorney General and Federal courts.

As examples, he cited yesterday's Supreme Court decision upholding the rights of sit-in demonstrators in privately owned establishments, and said:

"I'm glad we have an Administration in Washington ready to use whatever force is necessary to deal with those people trying to preserve the past, the injustices of the past."

"As long as the country has people who do not want to see change, we have a situation of conflict," Rowan said.

"But together these factors create in the United States a situation unique in the world—a country with a large, easily identifiable minority group trying to prove it possible to form a society where people of different backgrounds can live together with mutual respect," the new Ambassador went on.

Rowan said he himself had traveled enough to know that prejudice exists everywhere stupidity exists, "and every country has its share."

"When the whole picture is put together, I am proud of the struggle in my country and the progress made in this struggle despite the ugliness around the edges," he told his press conference.

Press Relations

Rowan was chosen for the top diplomatic post in this sensitively located nation on the outside edge of the Iron Curtain after serving the Kennedy Administration as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs—that is press relations.

His appointment broke a long line of career foreign service officers in the Finnish embassy job. His immediate predecessor was Bernard Guller.

The Ambassador told reporters that he believed America was a land which was truly governed by its people, and that its people could never awake to find that the Government had turned away from their direction.

Economic Ties

"A nation that has freedom today but does not work to preserve it may wake up tomorrow and find it has disappeared," he said.

This obviously was intended to refer to little Finland, which is closely linked to Russia economically but tries hard to retain its independence from Soviet domination in politics.

Someone asked Rowan how he would adjust to the cold here in the land of the white nights. He reminded the questioner that his home town of Minneapolis had an average temperature 10 degrees lower than that in Helsinki.