

SOAPBOX • by Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

[On Monday, June 19th, at Town Hall, the Editor-in-Chief of "The People's Voice" received the Doris Miller and Meyer Levine award for being the Negro who has done the most for better relations between the Negroes and Jews in 1943. This award was presented by the American Committee of Jewish Writers, Artists and Scientists of which Albert Einstein is chairman. The following is the acceptance speech of Dr. Powell]:



POWELL

THE NEGRO AND THE JEW have for the past centuries held the unenviable and dubious honor of being the scapegoats of Western Civilization. Whenever the crackpots of humanity have looked for some victim upon which to vent their inhuman and unjustifiable wrath, they have inevitably chosen the Jew and Negro. This has been true whether the Hitlers were of the old continent or of this continent. We have been consistently victimized, exploited, mocked and murdered by the same barbaric minds and bestial hearts. In the old world and in the new, the common burden has been placed upon our weary backs. We have been forced to live in ghettos, denied civil liberties, considered 20th century serfs, our customs ridiculed, our religious beliefs mocked, our racial ambitions misunderstood. We have been condemned to the category of second-class citizens. But today there is a new spirit coming into the earth from out of the ghettos of the old world—a fighting Jew. From out of the ghettos of America there has arisen a New Negro—a fighting Negro. Today the fighting New Negro salutes the fighting New Jew.

This fighting New Negro was among the first to go ashore and breach the Atlantic wall, to float from the

skies as a paratrooper, to sweep into Rome as an engineer. Somewhere in the Old World at some God-forsaken crossroad, the fighting black man of the United States will keep his rendezvous and meet face to face the fighting guerrilla Jew.

Not only abroad but here on the home front we will fight by your side. Our destiny is common. You may have been beaten on the streets of Dorchester yesterday. We are being beaten on the streets of Cambridge today. You may have been beaten on Washington Heights yesterday. We are being beaten on the streets of Louisiana today.

We cannot divorce anti-Semitism and jimcroism. Both are dark spots on the red, white and blue of this nation. The American conscience must know no peace until these blots have been removed.

Whenever and wherever the challenge has come or will come, I will answer it. I have fought anti-Semitism as an Editor and Publisher of the "People's Voice," as a member of the City Council of this town and as a Christian minister. I have not only preached in synagogues and given up my pulpit to Rabbis, but around the Communion Table during the month of May in my church, Jews and Negroes took communion together. I refused to let people call Jews Christ killers, because I know that Jews were Christ creators.

Finally, I plead with you that, just as I don't judge your entire race by the deeds or words of any group or individual, so do not mine.

We are fighting a peoples' war. We are going to win a peoples' peace. We are going to live in a peoples' world. May we forge ever closer bonds of brotherhood.

Bruce Workers Rebel Openly; Seek Direction from Powell

Smoldering revolt against 12th Assembly District Leader Herbert L. Bruce flared into open blaze Sunday afternoon when some 200 Bruce political workers met with Adam Clayton Powell, candidate for Congress, at the Witcka Club, 222 W 145 st, and agreed upon a bill of particulars which loosed a barrage of criticism against Bruce and his leadership of the 12th A.D.

The meeting had been called by Powell at the request of former Bruce workers who are displeased with the district leader's refusal to go along with the Democratic party. Powell stressed his part in calling the political workers together—"I am serving as spearhead of this meeting because of my desire to work with anyone who sincerely wants to go forward and accomplish things. My role in this new move is fulfilled today, I have called you together here today. I have aided in helping you set forth your program of action. From now on, you are on your own, except that I will be available for any future assistance I may give."

Powell told the group that his intention has always been to work with all groups who show that they have the welfare of the community at heart. He invited all former Bruce workers and supporters to join in the revolt movement, again expressing his desire to work with all groups.

The meeting developed into an insurgent protest against Bruce and his handling of the duties of district leader. Chief action taken was the naming of a steering com-

mittee—Daisie Y. Anderson, Dr. Hudson Oliver, Joseph Ford—which drew up a Bill of Particulars which outlined the complaints against Bruce and his leadership.

The group called for unseating of Bruce, the electing of a new leader and co-leader, support of Roosevelt for a fourth term, the election of Powell to Congress, the election of Harry C. Bragg as Assemblyman from the new 12th Assembly District.

Powell presided over the meeting, sharing chairmanship with Bragg. In his brief remarks, Powell stressed the fact that the 12th A.D. has no "regular Democratic organization," due to Bruce's refusal to go along with the party in its designation of Powell as Congressional candidate. The remainder of the meeting was given over to remarks from the floor by the persons present, with many critical of Bruce and his tactics.

Candidate Bragg spoke briefly, acknowledging the expressions of support for his candidacy, bespeaking his appreciation of this assistance and outlining his program for the district when elected. Bragg was formerly assistant attorney-general for New York State and has a long record of active

Council To Consider Compensation Bill

The State, County and Municipal Workers of America, New York District, announced Tuesday that there would be introduced into the City Council a local law which will bring all city employees within the coverage of the Workmen's Compensation Law. In a statement issued by the union, Mr. James V. King, New York District President, said:

"Our organization has long been endeavoring to have legislation passed which will provide adequate protection against injury and accident to all city workers. We feel that there is no justification for the present discrimination against such protection which prevails. For the last several years, we have been attempting to get such a bill adopted by the New York State Legislature. We have been working along the same lines as Councilman Stanley M. Isaacs and we are extremely happy to announce that he is to introduce such a measure."

civic and political work in Harlem. In his talk, he said:

Bruce received another jolt Tuesday noon when a steering committee of three persons met with Edward Loughlin, NY County Democratic chairman, who said: "The Democratic Party still stands solidly behind Adam C. Powell, jr. and will not countenance any defections in the ranks."

Missouri White Students For Admission of Negroes

COLUMBIA, Mo.—White students of the University of Missouri last week voiced their approval of the admission of Negroes to the state-financed institution through a poll conducted under the sponsorship of the minorities commission of the Mortor Board Postwar Planning committee.

Of the total of 360 expressing an opinion, 61.6 per cent favored the admission of Negroes as regular students, 22.5 per cent were opposed, 6.6 per cent favored admission to professional schools only, 3.18 per cent favored admission of Negroes to graduate school only, and 5.5 per cent favored admission of Negroes to both professional and graduate schools.

Formed only a month ago, the

commission is composed of students in the university and has sponsored several educational activities on the racial problem since then. It distributed copies of "The Races of Mankind," a book written by two Columbia University anthropologists and sponsored the showing of the "Negro Soldier" a War Department film.

Virgin Islands Stirred

Editors of the two leading Virgin Islands newspapers have been jailed and the inhabitants of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, are threatening a general uprising because of dissatisfaction over the local administration's handling of a recent murder trial, according to a cablegram received in New York by Ashley L. Totten, president of the American Virgin Islands Civic Association.

The trouble is said to have started about May 31 when Andrew Thompson, 60, a poor native was allegedly shot and killed by Harry Beatty, a member of the upper classes, who was tried without a jury and acquitted by Federal Judge Herman E. Moore, Totten states.

Editors Canute Brodhurst of the ST. CROIX AVIS and Paul E. Joseph of the WEST END NEWS protested the trial procedure as contrary to American standards of justice and were sent to jail for these statements, Totten declared.

The various Virgin Islands organizations of this city met last week to demand intervention and investigation by the Departments of Justice and Interior.