

AJC STRONG PROTEST AT NYU'S APPOINTMENT OF ANTI-SEMITE

The American Jewish Congress today urged New York University to reconsider the appointment of John F. Hatchett as director of its Martin Luther King, Jr. Afro-American Student Center, asserting it would be "a tragedy" if the Center were placed under "a person who

has attacked Jews as a race."

David Haber, chairman of the New York Metropolitan Council of the Congress and professor of Law at Rutgers University, urged Dr. Allan Cartter, Chancellor of NYU, to "reconsider" the appointment in the light of Hatchett's anti-Semitic views as expressed in the November-December, 1967, issue of the Afro-American Teacher's Forum.

Mr. Hatchett, a former Harlem school teacher, wrote in his article that Negro pupils were being "mentally poisoned" by "Jews who dominate and control the educational bureaucracy of the New York City public school system and their power-starved imitators, the black Anglo-Saxons."

The American Jewish Congress condemned Hatchett's views as "black Nazism" in a joint statement with the Catholic Interracial Council and the Protestant Council of the City of New York.

Prof. Haber in his letter to Dr. Cartter enclosed a copy of Hatchett's article, noting that its interpretation of New York City's public school problem was "racist," Prof. Haber declared: "Establishment of the Martin Luther King Center has been widely hailed as a courageous and forward-looking effort to deal in a new and creative way with the devastating effects of centuries of racism. It would be a tragedy if NYU were now to place in an administrative position over the Center a person who has attacked

Jews as a race.

"The enclosed article embraces a racist interpretation of New York City's public school problem. It is one thing to criticize the faults of our public school system. It is quite another to attribute those faults to a Jewish conspiracy.

"The American Jewish Congress has supported and is supporting drastic overhaul of our educational system with a view to achieving quality, meaningful education for all. We recognize that the existing evils are so great that radical measures are necessary. We recognize also that intense dissatisfaction with our schools is bound to generate a wide variety of approaches and modes of attack. It is neither possible nor necessary

to obtain general agreement on any one.

"We are convinced, however, that those, like NYU, who have both the will and the responsibility to contribute to a solution of the school crisis must still refuse to cooperate with those who would substitute one form of racism for another.

"There is no room for racists in the struggle against racism. Those who would participate in the struggle for equality must recognize that they will accomplish nothing toward their goal if they tolerate anti-Semitism, publicly proclaimed or privately whispered."

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UNIVERSITY WILL RECONSIDER

NEW YORK (WNS) A Negro black power advocate whose writings have been called "black Nazism" has been named by New York University to a high post.

This development emerged when it was disclosed that John F. Hatchett, a Harlem teacher whose license had been revoked and who once charged that Negro pupils were being poisoned by "Jews who dominate and control the educational bureaucracy of the New York school system and their power-starved imitators, the black Anglo-Saxons," had been named director of the university's Martin Luther King Jr. Afro-American Student Center.

Hatchett in 1967 published an article in the African-American Teachers Forum which was denounced by the American Jewish Congress, the Catholic Interracial Council and the Protestant Council of the City of New York. In a joint statement the three organizations cal-

led the article "a naked appeal to racial and religious hatred."

Jewish leaders here on learning of the development said they were shocked that a great university in New York City would be so callous to Jewish sensitivities as to appoint a man who has not concealed his hostile attitude toward Jews and Israel. However, University officials were said to have claimed they had no knowledge of the facet of Hatchett's record and that they would look into the matter.

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