

Negro Plumbers Pass Union Test Presbyterian Group Urges Universal Racial Equality

NEW YORK CITY PLUMBER'S UNION Local 2, which was involved in a dispute last spring over alleged racial discrimination, has announced that four Negroes and a Puerto Rican have passed practical tests for admittance to the union and are now qualified to become

members. The five men and four others took the test last week before the local's examining board at a Brooklyn trade school. All nine had previously passed written examinations. Jack Cohen, president of the local, disclosed the results of the tests during tes-

timony at a hearing before an examiner of the National Labor Relations Board. He cited passage of the tests by the Negroes and the Puerto Rican as evidence that the local was open to qualified journeymen, regardless of race or nationality. Local 2 is charged

in the N.L.R.B. proceeding with causing a plumbing employer to discriminate against four of his employees because they were not members of the union. No racial issue is involved in the case, but it grew out of the controversy last Spring in which about 40 plumbers walked off the job at the Bronx Terminal Market construction site.

THE WALKOUT CAME after Astrove Plumbing and Heating Corporation had hired three Puerto Ricans and a Negro, all non-union, at the direction of the City Commission on Human Rights. All four were subsequently discharged by Astrove Plumbing.

None of the four in the Bronx Terminal dispute was among those who passed the practical test, consisting of "wiping a joint" connecting a pipe to a toilet. Two of those in the Bronx dispute refused to take a second written test last month unless an impartial observer were present. The two and a third man also involved in the Bronx case had failed a written test in May.

FRANKFURT, West Germany--A strong appeal for racial equality throughout the world marked the final session of the 19th general council of the World Presbyterian Alliance here last week.

By a show of hands an overwhelming majority of the 453 delegates from 64 countries adopted a resolution urging all 96 member churches to fight racial inequality "not only in words but in action."

Observers reported that about two-thirds of the South African delegates endorsed the resolution.


The session ended almost two weeks of meetings at which the council debated world and church issues.



BAPTIST CONCLAVE--Shown at recent 17th annual session of Interstate Baptist Convention at Second Baptist Church here are (seated from left) Mrs. B. T. Mayfield, women's department president; Dr. V. C. L. Coleman, president, and Mrs. L. A. Thomas, women's department vice president; (standing from left) Rev. Joseph O'Neal, Rev. C. L. Dotson, Rev. E. M. Gray, Rev. T. K. Simpson; Rev. D. A. McBride, vice president; Bro. L. W. Mosley, secretary; Rev. J. L. Kemp, treasurer; Rev. Clifton Powell, Rev. W. C. Webb, Rev. S. E. Harris, and Rev. Mary Carroll.

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