

Negro Gains Since Washington March Reviewed

"SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS" in the Negro's struggle for social justice in this country during the year that followed the celebrated March on Washington of August 28, 1963, were recently noted by Whitney M. Young Jr., national director of the Urban League.

In a statement issued on the anniversary of the gigantic demonstration that brought more than 200,000 marchers to Washington, D.C., Young cited the following major gains:

1. Passage of the Civil Rights Act and widespread compliance with its provisions.
2. Extended job and training opportunities.
3. Increased concern regarding civil rights on the part of religious denominations, labor, business and government.

Greater participation of the latter groups in the civil rights movement indicates that the necessity for eliminating racial injustice "has become an overwhelming American conviction" according to Young.

"Negroes have new faith that existing institutions can be used to effect necessary changes in our society," Young said. . . "There is ample evidence that 99.9 per cent of the Negro people have rejected the appeals of extremists. . . An overwhelming majority of them will resort to demonstrations only when local officials refuse to uphold the laws of the land."

POINTING PROUDLY to the peaceful nature of the March on Washington despite predictions that it would create violence, Young said Negroes must learn to march to the ballot box, libraries, civic meetings and institutions of higher learning with the same dignity and high purpose.

Young called for white support of the Negro's efforts to better himself because "the result will benefit all Americans everywhere."

The message was issued from the Urban League's "March to the Ballot Box" headquarters in the nation's capital, where citizenship education programs throughout the country are being coordinated.

At the same time Young was releasing his statement, Washington observer Drew Pearson, whose widely circulated column appears regularly on the editorial page of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, was revealing the behind-the-scenes maneuvers at the Democratic Convention in Atlantic City regarding what he described as "one of the most significant battles of American politics" and one that "will cut deep into the structure of the Democratic Party for years to come."

Pearson referred to the compromise on the seating of two Mississippi Freedom delegates and the requirement that "regular" Mississippi delegates take a loyalty oath. This "settlement" did not sit so well with the Freedom delegates and was widely criticized by Negro leaders elsewhere. But we feel that Pearson's revelations on how the compromise was reached throws a different light on the development and is worthy of close study and consideration.

AFTER REVEALING that the compromise was worked out in private huddles by Sen. Hubert Humphrey, Auto Workers head Walter Reuther, former Pennsylvania governor David Lawrence, Rep. Al Ullman of Oregon, and Edward Weisl, President Johnson's personal advisor, Pearson said Humphrey and Weisl cleared it with the White House; Reuther was given the job of clearing it with Negro leaders, especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and James Farmer of CORE, and that Lawrence and Weisl undertook to sell it to Southern leaders. Pearson went on to say:

"When the compromise went before some of the bigger state delegations in closed caucuses, there was trouble. Inside the California caucus Rep. Gus Hawkins, first Negro Congressman elected from west of the Mississippi River, was vigorously opposed. But Verna Camson, Negro delegate on the Credentials Committee, approved as did Rep. Jimmy Roosevelt, a longtime champion of Negro causes, and Sen. Pierre Salinger, former aide to John Kennedy. Jess Unruh, speaker of the California legislature, passed.

"The California caucus finally approved the compromise by a 114-to-44 vote.

"In the New York caucus, Joyce Austin, a member of the Credentials Committee, at first was opposed, but later accepted the compromise. Edward Dudley, president of Manhattan Borough and Earl Brown, his deputy, both Negroes, agreed with the argument of delegate Weisl that it was possible to win the battle over Mississippi dele-

gates, but lose the war. The loss of one or two big Southern states, such as Texas, it was pointed out, could tip the election away from Mr. Johnson to Mr. Goldwater.

"ONE CLOSED MEETING, held in the Atlantic City office of presidential aide Walter Jenkins, was attended by Mayor Robert Wagner of New York, Mayor Dick Daley of Chicago, Gov. John Connally of Texas, Tom Burke of Cleveland, Joe Barr, former mayor of Pittsburgh; Frank Smith of Philadelphia, and Sen. Joe Clark and former governor Lawrence, both of Pennsylvania.

"Lawrence, who presided, argued that a

floor fight must be avoided at all costs. It would be too emotional, too heart-rending, would tear everyone to pieces. It was agreed that there was no legal basis for seating the Mississippi Freedom delegation, but that a floor fight must be avoided.

"It was after this that the extremely important concession was made that future Democratic conventions would bar states which denied voting rights to minorities.

"ANOTHER IMPORTANT MEETING was called by Gov. Connally, at which eloquent pleas


(See GAINS, page 8)

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